

St. John the Baptist Catholic Community
12319 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

October 1, 2020

Dear SJB Parishioners,

It is that time of year when we focus our thoughts and actions on our Sister Parish, St. Pierre, in Haiti where we support 1,800 elementary and 330 secondary school students, and 98 teachers. Traditionally the pastor, Fr. Noemi, visits in October but due to the pandemic, he will not be able to come. In March the schools were closed in Haiti because of Covid. They reopened August through October to complete the last months of the 2019-20 school year. The 2020-21 school year will begin at the end of October.

On March 3, we wired \$31,680 dollars to Fr. Noemi. He used the funds to pay teacher salaries while the schools were closed March through May and to provide hot lunch for the students and faculty members once school reopened in August. Since we were unable to run our annual Spring Secondary School fund drive in March, we currently have an account balance of only \$24,000, 60% less than in past years. Fr. Noemi submitted a budget request for the 2020-21 school year of \$152,400 of which we usually fund 50%.

We know that many are struggling during this pandemic because of lost wages, medical bills, and economic hardship. We continue to lean on the Lord during these times. At the same time, some of us have much to be thankful for. Please consider sharing your blessings with our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Every contribution helps, no matter how small or large. There are many convenient ways to give:

- Mail your contribution in the enclosed envelop.
- Bring the envelop to Mass on Sunday and put it into the special basket at the back of church.
- Drop it off at the Kazista Center weekdays.
- Use the link to Faith Direct <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/MD300/19724>
- Contact Faith Direct to add a one-time contribution for our Haiti Sister Parish.

Please make all checks payable to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and include Haiti on the memo line to ensure it goes to the correct account. If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Norris at 301-622-1122, Monday through Wednesdays or by email at socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org.

Thank you as always for your continued prayers & support for our brothers and sister in Baradères. They remain sincerely grateful for all that we can do on their behalf.

God bless you always.

Cynthia C. Norris
Social Concerns
Cc: Fr. Y. David Brault

