

FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME

2018 ACTIVITY REPORT - HAITI

Founded by His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie Kozik, Fraternite Notre Dame is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization headquartered in the United States. Fraternite Notre Dame is made up of Priest, Brothers and Nuns who do not receive a salary, but who support all those suffering in their heart or in their body.

Fraternite Notre Dame's mission is to carry out charitable, educational, social and medical works in the world, with no distinction of class, sex, race or religious creed, but taking to heart the care of the poor. It is operational in North America, Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and most especially in Haiti. Since 1996, Fraternite Notre Dame is recognized as an NGO in Haiti.

In Haiti, the year 2018 was marked by a terrible socio-economic situation, putting the country under stress at a political level. Statistics show that 70% of the population do not earn two dollars a day to survive. As the

Ambassador of Europe in Haiti recently said, one out of nine persons suffer from hunger on this planet. But as regards to Haiti, half of the population is concerned by the plague of malnutrition.

The economic situation does not cease to decline, the cost of living is always rising up and starvation is present every day. Let us add that the country went through riots, natural disasters with floods, earthquakes, and insecurity becoming omnipresent in the country.

Since 1996, Fraternite Notre Dame works in the second and sixth Section of Petion Ville, more especially in Jacquot and operates over the "Aux Cadets" area. The mountain population is highly vulnerable, living without any electricity or drinkable water.

His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, Founder of Fraternite Notre Dame decided to implement a plan based on education, health, nutrition and children protection. We have to know



that in Haitian urban zones, the public health system is very deficient and only a small percentage of the population has access to quality medical care in private hospitals. Therefore, the needs are tremendous and after the example of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, the Religious of Fraternite Notre Dame dedicate themselves wholly without any personal interest to save, comfort, feed and clothe the needy.



In these remote mountains, devoid of everything, Fraternite Notre Dame, under the leadership of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, set up an educational program for the children with a canteen service, a soccer class, a nutrition program benefitting more than 500 children, a support program for the poorest families and the intervention of numerous health mobile clinics.

His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie wants to give thanks to all the representatives of international institutions,

NGOs and local and international benefactors, for their collaboration with Fraternite Notre Dame. We thank most especially for their support: "Food for the Poor", "Love a Child", "Bomberos Unidos Sin Fronteras", the "Athletic Foundation of Madrid », « Aviation Sans Frontiere », the German Embassy, « Dinasa », as well as the Foundation « Vorbe ».

On the educational level, after the request of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, Fraternite Notre Dame opened schools in rural and mountain areas where the children are fully supported by receiving for free schoolbags, uniforms, books and school supplies, thanks to the assistance of the Foundation "Vorbe".



This year, the « Dinasa » Company just offered the installation of gas in the canteen's kitchen where we feed more than 250 children every day. Indeed, in order to guarantee a nutritional balance, we serve a breakfast and a meal which helps the children to get better grades and give them strength, since half of them have to walk a minimum

of two hours to go back home. We want to thank the “Bomberos Unidos Sin Fronteras”, the NGO “Love a Child” and “Food for the Poor” for their monthly support granted to our food program.



Every afternoon after class, the children participate in various programs such as sewing class, gardening, sports and soccer competition, which encourages the children to be diligent in attending the school-system. When these activities are over, the children go back home where they have to face great destitution. They have to hurry to do their homework before dusk and do the chores, one of which is to walk very far to get their water at the water-spring.

In these mountains, very far from the city, one of the problems is to remedy the school level of the children. 50% of these families are illiterate, only a few good

teachers agree to work in these rural areas, deprived of everything. The children are disadvantaged by the lack of a strong family environment, which leads to bad school results. In addition, because of a transportation deficiency, the children have to walk hours to get to school and during the rainy season, it is difficult for them to be on time.

The life-level of these families is appalling. The majority of them get a living from very archaic agriculture. The women have to walk from two am with their little vegetables to be ready to sell them at dawn. They go back to the mountain at the end of the day after long hours of walking under an oppressive heat.

In order to solve some of these problems, His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie set up kindergarten and primary schools. Therefore, the schools of Fraternite Notre Dame generate the school attendance of many children of the mountain and prove to them that education is not only reserved for the elite.





As regards to health, we intervene at the “Aux Cadets” zone, although the road infrastructure hardly exists. Fraternite Notre Dame works more especially on the first part of the second Section of Petion Ville in Jacquot. Every other two weeks, the organization also operates on the second part of the second Section of Petion Ville.

Over the last months, in order to cope with the tremendous medical needs of these mountains, Fraternite Notre Dame started to operate in the third part of the sixth Section of Petion Ville which is located more than five walking hours from our mission and forces us to cross dangerous cliffs. This zone is so far-off that we must walk six hours to reach the first village. For several months, Fraternite Notre Dame has been supporting them with a nutrition program to the children. Since there are no roads, the access is only possible by foot, by horse, or in Polaris. The sick persons come from everywhere, some of them, are carried on a plank of wood to have a chance to be seen by a doctor. However, Fraternite

Notre Dame organizes mobile health clinics on a regular basis and follow up with all these people by creating a medical file for each of them. Each mobile health clinic allows us to provide for about 200 to 300 patients, where all kinds of diseases are taken care of. The most frequent diseases

are high blood pressure and dermatosis. Of course, we give medicine for free according to the prescriptions and for the period prescribed by the doctor. Since we have been coming, strokes and eclampsia are in reduction, thanks to the assiduous medical follow-up.

In recent months, we have diagnosed many cases of infectious diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis. We intervened with the help of the Geskio hospital.



Considering that drinkable water and economic income are missing, the children suffer from parasites, skin

infections and malnutrition. As for the elderly, they are often abandoned by their family because they are considered as a useless expense and an extra mouth to feed. Thus, we offer them medical consultations in their home and we respond to their needs for food and hygiene.

This year, after the request of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, we emphasized on nutrition by opening a special program for all the children who could not attend school or be fed every day in our canteens. These children walk for hours with their parents to come to our mission, so that we can weigh these little ones, measure them and respond to their personal needs.



One of the main reasons for malnutrition is the mother's bad nutrition. Maternal breast milk is too weak and does not benefit the babies who suffer from

great anemia or malnutrition, which causes them to swell.



The second reason for malnutrition comes from the frequency of pregnancies, then maternal nursing stops and the child does not have time enough to benefit from maternal milk. Therefore, the health problems the children will suffer will come from the sudden failure of breast-feeding.

Regarding nutrition, we work in a close partnership with the organization "Food for the Poor" who set up a flour called AK1000, very beneficial for the infants, pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers.

The organization « Feed my Starving Children » allows us to respond to the great problems of malnutrition by giving rice meals to children, which is strong in proteins and iron. The organization "Aviation Sans Frontiere" regularly

sends us food supplements and milk for the malnourished children. To improve the working conditions, the German Embassy built a Nutrition Center for us, where we will be able to host about one hundred children at the same time. This will allow us to respond to more needs. We take advantage here to thank the Ambassador, Mr Manfred Auster.



As His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie taught us, we operate a weekly social program to destitute families. This consists of material, moral and spiritual support. We provide them with food, hygienic supplies, vitamins and clothing. We give them Hygiene training in order to save them from cholera, which is more or less still present in Haiti.

This social program allows us to meet families, always more and more destitute and we discover great destitution. We

can observe the mistreatment of children and young girls. The saddest part is that prostitution is present in these mountainous areas and the AIDS problem is on the rise. We provide them with moral standards but the lack of education causes people not to understand what AIDS means.

Finally, each week Fraternite Notre Dame visits an orphanage to bring food, hygiene kits and give the children medical basic care.

During the rainy season, floods unceasingly devastate the whole area and, since half of the population live under provisory shelters, everything is deteriorated by the rain. Without talking about landslides which carry away the little they have.

In Haiti, in recent months, we worked in partnership with NGOs, associations and private national benefactors against the plague of malnutrition, the lack of education and the absence of health care.



In conclusion, Fraternite Notre Dame has been established in Haiti for so many years and we can notice that the youth education and health condition are improving little by little in our mountains, thanks to the advice, mindful care and extraordinary action of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie.



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