

FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME

2017 ACTIVITY REPORT - HAITI

Fraternite Notre Dame gives her sincere thanks to the MINUSTHA (*United Nations' Mission for Stabilization in Haiti*), for their help through the intervention of the Chilean Air Force Contingent, which supported our mission through its various in kind donations and assistance.

Founded by **His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie Roger Kozik**, Fraternite Notre Dame is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization headquartered in the United States.

Fraternite Notre Dame performs charitable and social activities, and she has initiated a number of educational, medical care and cultural initiatives in various countries and continents, thus, this organization is active in the following:

North America:
Chicago, IL, San Francisco, CA and New York, NY with support programs for the most destitute, the homeless, people

affected with HIV, and vulnerable children through soup kitchens, after school programs, meals on wheels, visits to patients in hospitals...



In Africa: Niger with support programs for vulnerable children and families as well as educational and health care programs.

In Europe: notably in France with a welcome center for people in quest of spiritual support. **In the United Kingdom** with the opening of a soup kitchen for poor people, refugees and the neglected who need assistance.

In the Caribbean: more especially in Haiti, in the 6th district of Pétion Ville, in the Cadets area, more commonly called: Montagne Jacquot.

After the example of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, and taking to heart his concern for peace, the religious friars and nuns of Fraternite Notre Dame come to the help of every person in distress,

whether morally, physically or spiritually, and this without distinction of race, class, age, gender or creed.



Even though the social and economic situation in Haiti is generally poor, the situation is even worse in remote mountainous areas, with variations from one village to the next.

There, the population has no access to running water nor electricity, and even less to basic medical care. It must be said that

the overall health system in Haiti is deficient; it is therefore understandable that health care infrastructures are virtually non-existent in these mountainous regions, thus making the people's condition there even more deplorable.

To cope with the absence of such basic essentials, under the wing of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, Fraternite Notre Dame has established:

- An educational program for children in these areas;
- A food assistance program;
- A support program for vulnerable families.

one of the main goals of this program is to tackle child abandonment by their families; as a matter of fact, a study realized by a NGO called Lumos, in collaboration with Ibers and the Ministry of social affairs, has shown that 80% of children placed in institutions (*orphanages or welcome centers*) could be re-integrated in their families, under the condition that the latter would receive sizable financial aid and support.

As a matter of fact, it must also be mentioned that numerous abuses have been recorded in many Haitian orphanages.

A system of free access to basic medical care

Overall, these programs are consistent with the priority areas determined by Most Reverend Bishop Jean Marie, which are:

- **health care and nutrition;**
- **education; and**
- **the protection of children,** so as to provide a holistic response to the victims of the various catastrophes which struck the island over the past few years.

To that effect, His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie addresses his deepest thanks to State authorities, members of international Institutions, international and local NGOs, donors and private partners for their collaboration and partnership. Our special thanks go to the following NGOs: Lumos; Save the Children; Operation Blessings; Food for the Poor; Love a Child; as well as the Vorbe Foundation, for their support and encouragements.

As explained above, the religious friars and nuns of Fraternite Notre Dame, following the example of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, strive to be at the service of the most destitute, the sick, children and the rejected. They perform their activities without receiving any salary nor material or financial compensation, working for the love of God and of the poor.



During the year 2017, Fraternite Notre Dame has intervened closely to relieve the Haitian population by setting up

humanitarian and development projects in order to improve the life condition of the most destitute. Following is a break down of the initiatives undertaken:

1 - Education:

At the request of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, Fraternite Notre Dame has opened schools outside of the cities and in rural areas in order to facilitate all children's access to education.

Let us recall here that His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie insists on the importance of education for all and more especially for girls because education is a privileged means to develop a country.

In Fraternite Notre Dame's schools, the children benefit from a complete coverage, including their uniform, backpacks, textbooks and school furniture, which are free of charge.



Similarly, to fight against malnutrition, every morning and at noon, the students are served breakfast and lunch, to compensate the lack of vitamins from which these children suffer.

Actually, these children have to walk several hours to get to school; and these meals are the only ones that they will have in the day; coming from very needy families, eating one's fill is part of a daily struggle for survival.

In addition to academic classes, the children follow manual training classes:

sewing and cooking for the girls; carpentry and gardening for the boys; and sports activities for all, including soccer tournaments.

Such a comprehensive curriculum allows children to remain assiduous in the school system and look forward to a better future.

One of the main challenges worth mentioning is the school level of children, which is much lower in mountainous, remote areas than it is in the city. This is due to several factors, including:

- the illiteracy of families;
- a lack of teachers willing to go and teach in these remote areas;

- an absence of children's backing from the families and schools: the children are left to themselves, which leads to truancy and dropping out;

- an absence of close-to-home school facilities: the children have to walk a long way to get to school, which leads to increased fatigue and discouragement;

- the very modest social status of families: 95% of them live on their plot of land and the sale of some vegetables which does not provide for solid revenues, they are insufficient to provide for a family;

- a dilapidated state of repair: family homes made up from sheet metal and wood plank

bits and pieces, and

- an impossibility to access and reach these regions, due to a lack of roads and related infrastructure.

To offer solutions to the situation, His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie has opened:

2 - Medical Care:

As far as medical care is concerned, our main interventions take place in Cadets, Montagne Jacquot; there, Fraternite Notre Dame provides medical care to 2,500 families, so about 15,000 people spread out as follows: 500 families in Cadets and 2,000 in the remote areas.



On a weekly basis, with the help of a general practitioner, we provide free medical consultations with medicine and treatment given to the sick on site.

In the same way, 200 people, adults and children come for

consultations in our clinic. The most frequent pathologies are: High blood pressure, gastric illnesses, skin diseases, cholera, HIV, tuberculosis... The children suffer from parasitic diseases, influenza and fevers which are the after-effects of poor nutrition without vitamins.

- Kindergarten facilities;
- Primary schools, and
- Secondary Schools.

He has initiated and supported social and cultural activities designed to motivate the youth when it comes to building their country and their future.

These schools opened by Fraternite Notre Dame have enabled many children from the mountains to receive an education, thus giving them new and numerous opportunities to oppose prevailing fatalism and show them that school is not reserved only for a selected few.



For people who cannot or are no longer able to move around, such as the disabled or elderly, we offer home consultations and we follow up on their medicine.

We also offer support to persons suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and we distribute meals and medicine to these rejected people.

For patients who cannot be treated at home, we take them to a specialized center with which we work in partnership.

There, the patients are given medical assistance and provided with appropriate meals to reinforce their immune system. One challenge that we often have to face is the urgent care of pregnant women.

Thanks to our ambulance, we can rapidly evacuate pregnant women to a maternity, as they are prone to eclampsia fits or need a Caesarian. Thus, very often saving both, the life of the mother and her child.

Fraternite Notre Dame's Mobile Clinics

The mobile clinics are a Fraternite Notre Dame innovation. Namely, they include organizing medical consultations, and dispensing treatment by nurses for populations in remote areas where car access is impossible. These areas can only be reached on foot or using an ATV with the help of a horse carrying loads of medicine, vitamins and hygiene kits.

Each session, we treat about 100 people with all sorts of pathologies. The doctors open a file for every patient, thus keeping a history of every case; medicine are given as prescribed and for the time indicated by the doctor. This allowed for people with high blood pressure to receive treatment, thus preventing a stroke or CVA.

Showing solidarity in the face of adversity, people there do not hesitate to carry those with a serious illness on a makeshift

stretcher. It is important for these people living in social exclusion to be able to see a doctor, this represents for them hope and encouragement.

Vulnerable families :

As it was recommended to us by Most Reverend Bishop Jean Marie, each week, we visit 50 very vulnerable

families who live very far, with no access to doctors.

During these visits, we provide them with food supplies; vitamins and hygiene products. Very often during these consultations, we discover the ravages of children's malnutrition.

These families live in the utmost poverty, some of them have 8 to 10 children and the head of the family, father or mother is handicapped, following a stroke or CVA.

To reach those villages, we have to use rocky trails, damaged by the various hurricanes which have struck the island over the past few years.

These encounters also allow us to educate





all family members about hygiene, cleanliness and how to care for the children.

Finally, also on a weekly basis, Fraternite Notre Dame visits one of the orphanages to bring food as well as hygiene and health kits.

Negligence by those in charge of these centers has caused these children to live in dreadful conditions and sick children are not being properly attended.

This is how we were able to hospitalize a little girl suffering from meningitis who had fallen into a coma with no one to take care of her. With these children we organize games and discussions so that they feel loved and included in society, thus preventing them from sinking into a fruitless isolation.

Managing Natural Catastrophes:

After Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in October of 2016, most roadways were partially destroyed. The great dam built by USAID gave way, thus flooding many areas and causing the swelling of many rivers, and until now it has not yet been repaired.

The torrential rainfalls of 2017 have made the situation worse and we have asked the Haitian Government to build two roads in order to resolve this accessibility issue. Actually, both of these roads were originally built by Fraternite Notre Dame, following the earthquake of 2010.

In 2017, we also went to remote areas and took care of people afflicted with cholera.

We provided them with Chlorine and Aquatable. Thus we were able to provide classes on how to warn people about cholera and how to protect oneself against the disease.

Ever since 1996, when Fraternite Notre Dame arrived in Haiti, the work has been accomplished under the impulse of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, and has had a positive impact on the most forgotten and neglected rural populations.

Over the past few months, we have requested and obtained the support of numerous organizations to come to the help of the youth in the mountains. It is now very important to set up means to educate and support the youth, since the youth are, in theory, the future of a country.



In association and partnership with government authorities,



international institutions, associations as well as local and international NGOs, we join our forces to fight against and eradicate these plagues which are malnutrition, the lack of education or hygiene, the absence of health care...

United, we share a common charisma: working to improve people's living conditions and to restore the dignity of our brothers and sisters in Haiti, thanks to the dedication of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie and His religious nuns, friars and priests.



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