

Fraternite Notre Dame in Haiti

- Activity Report for 2016 -

Fraternite Notre Dame is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation which was founded by His Excellency, Bishop Jean Marie Roger Kozik, and its headquarters are located in the United States.

Fraternite Notre Dame Congregation is made of Religious Friars, Nuns and Priests who do not receive any salary and whose aim is to come and help all those who suffer in their heart or in their body.

Fraternite Notre Dame has several missions around the world and performs various charitable, humanitarian, educative, social, sanitary and cultural actions.

On the moral, physical and spiritual plane, it comes to the help, of any person in trouble, with no distinction of race, social status, gender or creed.

The Religious of Fraternite Notre Dame work

in North America, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean, including Haiti.

Since 1996, Fraternite Notre Dame has been working in the 6th western section of Petion Ville and in Cadets (Jacquot), in remote, mountainous areas where people are particularly destitute.



Sister Marie of the Cross with Destitute Children

In Haiti, misery can be seen everywhere for populations living in the mountains, with different levels of gravity from one Departement to another. The populations are very vulnerable, as they live without running water nor electricity.

Additionally, Haiti, which has been ruled by a temporary Government from February 2016, has experienced growing insecurity since then, following conflicts caused by the elections and an increasing rate of abductions and crime.

Most Reverend Bishop Jean Marie, Founder of Fraternite Notre Dame, has laid a number of priorities when it comes to education, healthcare and access to medical treatment, the protection of Haitian children, development and emergency aid, in response to the many catastrophies that have plagued the island for the past few years.



Fraternite Notre Dame and Education
Fraternite Notre Dame has opened some schools there, upon request from Bishop Jean Marie, because education should be available to all, boys and girls.

On a daily basis, we are called upon to help with medical emergencies or save the very poor who are about to succumb to their destitution.

Each day, Fraternite Notre Dame's Religious ready themselves to go out and save, assist, console, feed and clothe these unfortunate, without any personal interest, other than serving God and taking care of those who suffer.



Nobody should be left aside, in order to get an opportunity to prepare his or her future life, thanks to the required knowledge.

During the week, our three schools are open 8am to 1:30pm and educate over 600 pupils, serving two neighbor mountains, called Chacha and Jacquot, and the third one serves the plain of Dumay.

On a daily basis, before they leave the schools, we serve them a hot meal, because the children in these mountains have to walk for 1 to 2 hours to return home.

Their house consists of a miserable shack where it proves very difficult for a child to do his homework after the school day. Let us recall here that the education level and literacy rate in those mountains is very low.

However, these children are motivated to learn at school, and we show them the importance of education towards a better future.



Their parents are farmers working very hard, and walking several miles down and up the mountains daily, for 3 to 4 hours, in order to sell their poor harvest.

food, clothing and hygiene aids on a weekly basis, without forgetting education and a spiritual assistance that we strive to provide, for these children live in great want, at all levels.



Fraternite Notre Dame and Orphans

We pay visits to orphanages, where we bring

For instance, we came upon an orphanage housing 60 orphans, where the children would only receive a hot meal every three days. This only meal was made of white rice with some peas. The children were severely malnourished, dirty and sick, and received hygiene care only once a week.

They were afflicted with all kinds of infections. They all ranged between 18 months and 16 years of age, and half of them were lacking clothes.

Today, Fraternite Notre Dame offers them a better life, and a smile has returned on everyone's face.

Fraternite Notre Dame and Populations in the Mountains

On a montly basis, we visit about fifty families isolated and at risk, that have no access to the roads or city, and are cut off from any dispensary or hospital.

We bring them food, hygiene aids and some vitamins, to meet their basic needs. They are always very appreciative and they thank His Excellency, Bishop Jean Marie, Founder of Fraternite Notre Dame, who is sending them what they need.

Scarce are those who venture in those remote areas, which the Religious Friars, Nuns and Priests of Fraternite Notre Dame have travelled to help the most abandoned.

These unfortunate people are left alone in their plight, and for most, they live under metal sheet roofs, at the mercy of the elements.

You cannot get to such remote areas by car,

only on foot following goat trails, to lead again teams of volunteer medical staff, especially doctors from the MINUSTAH, serving in Haiti from various countries.

Our Nuns have attempted to reach these remote areas by car some time ago, to bring the doctors and medicine. But one of our Sisters who was driving, because the visibility was very limited, had to open the driver's door but was hardly able to cling to the car door not to be hurled down into a deep abyss close to which she was driving.

Our Religious Missionaries work there for no salary, and donate their time, always putting their very lives at stake.



On December 23rd, a feast was organized in one of the schools, for 162 children. Santa Klaus came, riding a horse, and every child received presents. Each family was given some food, including a chicken, rice, oil, etc. They were also given a small Christmas tree

and some clothing. Similarly, other Christmas events were scheduled for the other schools.

to the most forsaken sick of Port au Prince's General Hospital. Be aware that a sick person with no family member nor financial resources is immediately repelled to the back of the hospital, and abandoned on the entrance steps.



Those who are fortunate enough to have someone that brings them at least one meal per week, can then be set up on a makeshift mattress inside one of the rooms, without running water no sanitary installation, and stacked by the dozen, regardless whether they are men or women.

Medical care there being dispensed too late, most of them suffer from very serious infections. They

Fraternite Notre Dame and Health Care

In Port au Prince

On a regular basis, we pay voluntary visits

cannot heal and they become victims of amputation, if they have not died from the lack of treatment. Fraternite Notre Dame's Religious dedicate themselves to take some of these





organize a mobile clinic where we provide basic health care to hundreds of people, both adults and children. There, we come across all kinds of diseases and conditions.

Most of the time, we leave the place with a dozen of sick persons that require emergency medical assistance ; therefore, we have to get them admitted in a hospital.

patients to the American Hospital of Mirebalais, about 1 hour from the capital, so these people may undergo their amputation under more human conditions.

The Nuns are usually able to bring an average of 40 patients every year. However, lacking all basic essentials, some of them just wait for death to come by. We attempt to provide them free health care to alleviate their suffering. They are nicknamed “the abandoned”.

In the Mountains

At least once a month, in the Mountains of Chacha, that is, three hours from the City, we



Around our mission which is located on Jacquot Mountain, Fraternite Notre Dame comes to the help of about 500 families from the area, and about 1,500 people live in even more remote areas.

In addition to education, we have to provide some medical care for the children and adults. Quite often, elderly persons are left unattended, their near and dear are no longer

tending their needs, and they finally get seriously ill.

Our duty is to save their lives, but when it becomes too difficult to do so, we manage to have them admitted in a medical facility where their are given nutritious and balanced meals, and good sanitary care.

In the mountains, we are confronted with cases where some women have child delivery issues and we are compelled to come down to the city in an emergency, because of preeclamptic conditions or difficult deliveries.

We have also come across a dozen of cases with children born with hydrocephaly disease. Some of them benefited from a surgical intervention at Bernard Meuse Hospital in Port au Prince, but a 100% successful outcome does not exist, because the liquid returns again and floods their brain anew.



police and taken to an orphanage, without any medical care.

We were approached to take care of the child, and were finally able to have him admitted at an orphanage specialized for disabled children, where he henceforth received care and love. Soon, he will travel to Canada, to undergo surgery with highly skilled and specialized physicians.



Among them, an 18-month-old boy was abandoned in a church, and then brought to the

Fraternite Notre Dame & Natural Catastrophes Aid in Emergency Situations

In October 2016, the Haitian population was shaken by hurricane Matthew, when more than 500 families in the mountains lost part of, or their entire house.

Adding up to the disaster, their vegetable garden was damaged, the fruit trees uprooted, and these unfortunate people cried as they had also lost their cattle, a source of work and subsistence for their family.

His Excellency, Bishop Jean Marie has asked us to intervene right away, by distributing drinkable water, bleach, food and clothing.

Then, as many residents were without shelter, we tried our best to procure them some tents, and proceed with the repair of their houses. Currently, we are working on a project to rebuild their homes.

Following the hurricane, in the mountains not far from our own, the cholera rate has jumped by 50%, unlike in the year 2015.

We had to intervene on numerous occasions in very critical situations, because people wait to be severely dehydrated, before appealing for emergency help, and quite often they are ashamed of themselves.

The lack of sanitary installations leads to water contamination, but also a lack of hygiene, such as not washing one's hands or eating vegetables from the garden without washing them properly, because they do not have any water supply readily available.

Then, Cholera spreads very quickly, plunging the entire country into a situation of extreme poverty and drastic sanitary conditions.

Lately, on the path of the mountain under a pouring rain, we met with the father of a family, who had crafted a makeshift stretcher and

was carrying his little 6-year-old girl who had just died from Cholera; he was returning home, a 7-hour walk.

That same day, in the afternoon, we met his wife, carrying in her arms her 3-month-old baby, who also had just died from the same illness, a few hours after his older sister. What a suffering for this family with 3 children.

Here are some examples with which we come across on a daily basis.



Fraternite Notre Dame and the MINUSTAH Its Volunteers and Partnership

Bishop Jean Marie Roger Kozik, Founder of Fraternite Notre Dame, thanks Deputy

Force Commander General Fuente Alba, from Chile, who always makes sure that the Chilean troops help us, because having visited our mission personally, he knows the needs of our mountain populations, which are fairly destitute.

Thus, the Air Contingent from Chile helped us throughout 2016, by performing free medical consultations to the less-fortunate in our mountains, and have offered much energy and dedication after hurricane Matthew.

The Religious Friars, Nuns and Priests of Fraternite Notre Dame have always had very good relationship with the MINUSTAH

personnel, who also volunteer their time to help us assist people living in difficult areas, when it comes to health care, potable water, fixing roads and paths and many other similar initiatives.

We also thank the Red Cross for having worked with us to help assist the victims of hurricane Matthew and tackle the spectre of cholera which is constantly present.

The presence of **Fraternite Notre Dame**, established in Haiti thanks to Most Reverend Bishop Jean Marie, represents a positive impact on the country and brings much hope to the populations who feel forsaken by all.

We have solicited many volunteers from various organizations to sensitize them to the problems of these poor people, and this leads them to much reflection because they come

to realize the extent of their huge needs. This contributes to motivating people, who are not informed of such difficulties, often overwhelming, experienced by these less-favored populations.

Again, **Fraternite Notre Dame** works for the poor in partnership with other local relief organizations, on punctual actions, and we work together because we all have a common aim, with complementary charisms, such as food assistance; medicine; subsidies towards construction; medical care; and agreements with health centers where the poor can be given the special care they need.

Certainly, by ourselves, we can perform faster, but together, as a united group, we can tremendously further the mission!

