

Sister Parish in Haiti Needs Your Help

Thanks to the generosity of our Cathedral Parishioners over the years we have been able to help support the lunch program of St. Therese, the parish school of our sister parish, Cathedral St. Louis.



The Sister Parish Committee believes we should expand our efforts a bit by assisting educational aspects of the school.

Fr. Marc-Arthur, Pastor of Cathedral St. Louis, has expressed concerns about the education children are receiving at St. Therese. Basic reading levels are well below standard. St. Therese hosts one of the laptop training classrooms used by Tek4Kids teachers to help bring technology education to 5th and 6th grade students.

St. John Bosco is another Tek4Kids partner school with a laptop classroom for elementary school computer-oriented instruction. The overseer, Fr. John, recently received a grant from the Haitian Government to help address basic education. The grant provided an interactive projector that is similar to Smart Boards you may have seen. The grant also provided teaching materials and teacher training to provide typical elementary education for grades 1 through 4. The teaching materials include pictures and video clips with audio. Fr. John is very positive on the impact the technology is having on his students, many of whom live on the margins in Jeremie. In late January, Gary and Cathy Boice accompanied Fr. Marc-Arthur on a visit to St. John Bosco, to observe teachers using the interactive projector and materials. Fr. Marc-Arthur was very excited about the possibilities of doing something similar at St. Therese. St. Therese has not been able to receive the projector grant from the Haitian Government.

Our Sister Parish Committee feels we need to go beyond the St. Therese lunch program supported through your green envelope contributions. We have worked with Tek4Kids to

purchase a projector and a laptop for St. Therese. Tek4Kids personnel have installed the projector, screen, additional battery capacity and supportive electrical wiring. We are considering reimbursing Tek4Kids \$5000 related to that effort.

In early April, Maryse King of Tek4Kids reported that Fr. Marc-Arthur was teaching classes himself while looking for a person who can take over the role. At present, the literacy program is offered after regular school hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Kids are excited and anxious to stay every day for the program. Fr. Marc-Arthur has also purchased a moveable library (books in a box) to add additional material for grades 1 through 4. Other teachers of 5th and 6th grade students are expressing interest in using the equipment as well, an encouraging sign.

As we know, it is difficult for kids to learn on an empty stomach and more difficult to learn without the proper teaching aids. That is why we are reaching out for help and your continued generosity in funding this project. Please contribute via the Cathedral website at <http://www.cathedraloftheassumption.org>. Select **Donate** to reach **WeShare**, and then select **“Haiti Sister Parish”**. Or you may put an envelope in the collection noting Haiti Sister Parish. Thank you for whatever you can do.



Tek4Kids Technical School students are using the interactive projector at St. John Bosco for a presentation.

