

THE HAITIAN APOSTOLATE MINISTRY

Mission and Goals

The Diocese of Worcester has an established covenant relationship with the Diocese of Les Cayes, Haiti. The Haitian Apostolate Ministry works through Twinning Covenants between parishes in both countries to establish relationships of friendship and prayer, and to enrich the lives and the faith of our people. Through collaboration, education and channeling of resources and talents, the Haitian Apostolate works to alleviate the burdens of poverty and create opportunities for a self-sufficient future for the Haitian people. The joyful, faith-filled people of Haiti inspire those involved with our ministry. Serving people and sharing our gifts with others has opened the hearts of many parishioners in Worcester and beyond. The work of this ministry has transformed lives, often changing the way we see our world, inspiring gratitude, and engendering a desire to continue to serve. The work of this ministry renews the faith of those involved and reminds us what it means to be truly Christian.

Programs

Through our **Parish Twinning Program**, fourteen parishes from the Diocese of Worcester commit to providing ongoing spiritual, material and financial support to fourteen parishes in the Diocese of Les Cayes, Haiti.

- For most Haitian parishes, support from the Worcester Parish helps with the most basic of needs, including providing food and assistance to the pastor and funds to maintain the churches, and pay salaries for teachers and staff.
- Many projects have been successfully implemented including building schools, churches, community canteens (kitchens), purchasing food grinders, providing agricultural education, and building repair.

Through **our Education/Adopt-A-Student Program**, benefactors sponsor tuition, uniform and a daily meal for over 850 impoverished Haitian students.

- Students PK- 3 through Secondary school are sponsored and some continue to trade school or University level. In addition to traditional academics the program offers educational workshops to develop teaching skills and provides agricultural education.
- Benefactors provide backpacks with school supplies and personal items, and an annual Christmas party is held distributing shoes, t-shirts and dresses for the children.

The Haitian Apostolate Ministry accompanies groups of parishioners **on Mission Trips** to visit their twinned Parishes, build relationships and work side-by-side on various projects.