

The Twinning News

Most Holy Trinity Parish, Huntingdon, PA & St. Joseph Parish, Lalomas, Haiti
Winter 2009

Fund Raising

By Helen Wright

With the generous help of Most Holy Trinity Church parishioners, the Social Concerns Committee held fundraisers last fall to help with teachers' salaries and to "Help Haitians Help Themselves" by contributing to the microcredit program and the Lalomas co-operative. The following were some of the activities:

Hoagies for Haiti Helpers

By Nan Rodgers

The October sale of hoagies and baked goods as well as generous donations brought \$1293 to help pay for teachers' salaries. Special thanks go to students in the religious education program. With Sr. Kate O'Neil's encouragement, many students sold hoagies or made donations. The top sellers were from left to right, **Samantha Ochs**, 7th grade; **Madeline Suba**, 6th grade; **Nicholas Goodman**, Kindergarten; **Catherine Miller**, 3rd grade; **Josh Safko**, 5th grade; **Danielle Ochs**, 5th grade; and **Emily Mills**, 9th grade (missing from the photo).



Other students came to make sandwiches; some arriving at 7:00 am on a foggy Sunday morning. They included: **Bobby Colton**, **Pat Colton**, **Ally Culp**, **Joe Huntsman**, **Lydia Jenkins**, **Lindsey Mason**, **Megan McMannamon**, **Meg Miller**, **Jessica Mills**, **Greg Yelnosky**, and **Emily Yocum**.

Spaghetti Dinner/Raffle

By Penny Nester

The Social Concerns Committee had two wonderfully successful new fund-raisers this past fall.

With a cedar chest hand-crafted by our parishioner, Ed Hammers; a knit afghan donated by an out-of-state family member; and a gift basket assembled by the committee, we held a raffle. A month of raffle ticket sales led to a profit of \$1,048.00 that was put into our general Haiti project fund.

Approximately 150 people attended our Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser held November 23rd. Top Chef, Mike Martinez, with the help of volunteers, prepared and served a delicious meal. Our committee member, George Lightner did the food purchasing and delivery. Despite three other dinners in town, we were pleasantly surprised by the turn out and made \$800.00 that will be shared between the Lalomas Cooperative and our micro-credit efforts in Lalomas.

The raffle drawing was held at the close of the dinner and the three winners were: Anna Phillips (cedar-chest); Sally Kaylor (afghan); and Elma Boyce (basket).

We are receptive to new fund-raising ideas. Please contact a SCC member.



To Market...To Market

By Caroline Wright

The sign that welcomes visitors to Most Holy Trinity Church during the Healthy Harvest Festival reads "Haitian Market." The festival is like a true Haitian market with food and miscellaneous household goods for sale. But the differences are immense. The Haiti markets were like nothing I have experienced. Markets were everywhere...from the streets of Port-au-Prince to its outskirts...to the local markets of San Michel and Lalomas. People had food, livestock, and other products, and they were looking for money. As I saw it, the resources were plentiful. It was the cash flow that was lacking.

Our first hand experience of the markets came on day 5 of our trip. We walked ¾ mile from the St. Josephs rectory to see a market up close and personal. The walk was pleasant. Polite "bon-jours" along the way as Haitians with their goods were traveling to the markets as well. But, once there, what a sight to see! Poor, destitute people were lined up with baskets of rice, beans, breads, plantain, candies, and gum. Some had buckets of kerosene. Others had live chickens, roosters and goats. A young man was trying to sell his bull. Some were cooking with charcoal under the most unsanitary conditions, and attempting to sell their

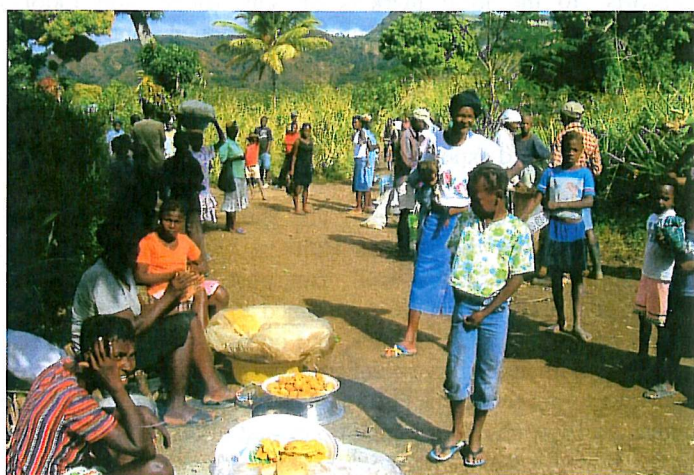
baked goods. In the distance, a cock fight was occurring and Haitian men gathered around the "sport." A horse lay dying on the road, apparently from exhaustion and lack of food and water.



I made a 360 turn and stared in disbelief. There was a lot to take in and I had a lot of questions which Fr. Eveneau answered. The markets are the livelihood of most Haitians. They travel by foot, sometimes hours, on a daily basis to sell their goods. Women appear to do most of the work. They carry their heavy loads, set up market, clean and cook, and tend to their children. The men are on the sidelines. Some are smoking their hand-made cigarettes, watching cock fights, and chatting among themselves. This is not a criticism but an observation. Something that is obviously cultural; taught and learned.

The lack of education is evident in the way the Haitians take care of their best machine...their horses and donkeys. That dying horse on the road wasn't the only sad sight we witnessed. Others were saddle sore with their hides rubbed to the bone. Fr. Eveneau made it a point to instruct Haitians on the importance of caring for their animals, as they are needed for transportation and hauling of goods.

But, the most obvious was a sad reality. No one was buying. If they were, it was not evident. The lack of money was apparent so when Americans visited their markets the excitement could not be contained. When we purchased from one vendor (candy), others vendors would press us to purchase from them...to the point where an uncomfortable feeling of claustrophobia would set in. As we said to one another repeatedly throughout the trip...if only we had a million dollars, we could solve a lot of problems in Lalomas.



But, we didn't have a million dollars and we returned home with our reports of the progress St. Joseph is making, due to the work and generosity of the Social Concerns Committee and the people of Most Holy Trinity. Our support of the local teachers to educate the next generation is paramount. Our support of the micro-credit program to assist in the growth and vitality of small businesses is life-saving. Go to Haiti my friends and witness first hand the impoverished conditions and see how Most Holy Trinity is making a difference.

Financial Report

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|---------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Opening Balance, 7/1/08 | | 9,088.95 |
| Income | | |
| Haiti Fund | 5,551.25 | |
| Water Campaign | 958.00 | |
| Phillippe Fund | 30.00 | |
| Teachers' Salaries | 3,312.8 | |
| Other Charities | 0.00 | |
| Interest | 18.13 | |
| Total Income | | 9,870.18 |
| Expenses | | |
| Saint Joseph Parish | | |
| Teachers' Salaries | 2,500.00 | |
| Sub Total St. Joseph Parish | | 2,500.00 |
| Well-Drilling Rig | | |
| Tools | 978.97 | |
| Drill Bit | 528.66 | |
| Sub Total Well-Drilling Rig | | 1,507.63 |
| Misc. | | |
| Microcredit | 1,000.00 | |
| Fonkoze Fees | 30.00 | |
| Misc. | 100.00 | |
| Other Charities | 100.00 | |
| Sub Total Misc. | | 1,230.00 |
| Total Expenses | | 5,237.63 |
| Closing Balance, 1/31/09 | | 13,721.50 |

Next Trip to Haiti

By Kevin Nester

Kevin Nester and Jim Pandolfino will be traveling to Lalomas, Haiti from March 17 to 23. The trip will include:

- Further preparation for well drilling.
- Identification of Lalomas teams for solar dehydration of food.
- Visiting with members of the cooperative & microcredit borrowers.
- Visiting with the teachers we support.
- Celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph. March 19, 2009.