

Humanitarian Aid for Haiti

We have all been following the Haitian events in the aftermath of heartbreaking earthquake catastrophe. Many of our school communities have already organized fundraisers to contribute to aid for the victims. We, as a Catholic community, continue to act as role models of Gospel values and Christian doctrines by embracing this opportunity to give to those in need.

We have a story to share that is closer to home for us. The Spiritans, founders of Neil McNeil High School, have been ministering in Haiti and with Haitians living abroad for many years. Petit Séminaire College St Martial, which runs a Kindergarten to Grade 12 program for over 1,700 students, is run by the Spiritan Order of priests. The school was badly damaged along with the parish church, administrative headquarters and the Spiritan formation centre for young seminarians.

Neil McNeil Catholic High School, staff and students, are spearheading a short-term and long-term commitment to the re-build of College St. Martial and support for the victims of the earthquake. We know that the Spiritans have lost a seminarian and students at this site. Many are still missing and feared dead by their families. This is an opportunity for us to come together to support Neil McNeil staff and students in their commitment to send our funds directly to the St. Martial Fund for aid to Haiti. Many families will benefit directly in the short-term from your support and in the long term with the rebuilding of the school and attached Administration Mission House that serves the larger community.

Please accept my personal challenge to contribute to this worthwhile effort. If you were planning on doing fundraising, this is a great way to engage our students.

Donations can be sent to: **The Spiritans (Aid to Haiti), 121 Victoria Park Ave., Toronto, ON M4E 3S2**

The Board encourages the entire community to give generously to those in need. Other fundraising efforts have been undertaken by L'Arche and ShareLife. The L'Arche house was left standing and, as a result, has become a haven for survivors. Donations can be made on-line through L'Arche Canada Foundation at <http://larchehaiti.org> or by mail with a note designating the donation "for Haiti" mailed to: The L'Arche Canada Foundation, 10265 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 2B9 .

ShareLife donations: www.sharelife.org

Thank you,

Ann Perron

Director of Education