

Spiritans

The Congregation of the Holy Ghost



Provincial Bursar's Office, 121 Victoria Park Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M4E 3S2
Tel. (416) 691-9319 x. 23; Fax (416) 691-8760
E-Mail: bursar@spiritans.com

Spiritans Aid to Haiti *(January 18, 2010)*

We have all been following the events since January 12th, 2010, when Haiti was hit with a 7.0 magnitude earthquake followed by numerous very substantial aftershocks. To the already impoverished country, this is a heartbreaking catastrophe. The Spiritans have been ministering in Haiti and with Haitians living abroad for many years. There are 43 Spiritans connected with our Haitian Foundation - 12 ministering within Haiti, 12 ministering outside the country and 19 Haitian seminarians studying for the priesthood.

One of our many ministries in Haiti is the *Petit Séminaire Collège St Martial (PSCSM)* in the heart of Port-au-Prince. Collège St. Martial is a Catholic school established in 1865 by the Spiritans. Originally it was a minor seminary (*petit séminaire*) for candidates to the priesthood, but since 1872 it has operated as an open school where generations of Haitians have acquired a good quality education. From 1865 to the present more than 300 Spiritans missionaries (priests and brothers) have proudly worked and ministered at this school.

Before the earthquake, it operated as a kindergarten (200 students), primary school (760 students) and secondary school (800 students). It also served as our Spiritan administrative headquarters for Haiti as well as the Spiritan formation centre for our young seminarians.

The painful news we have received is that Collège St. Martial has been badly damaged by the quake. One half of the school (the primary section) has collapsed. The huge chapel, which also serves as a parish church, is severely damaged along with the Spiritan residence. The structures that remain may or may not be salvageable.

Haiti needs our help. For many years, the Spiritans of TransCanada have had a special relationship with Haiti and particularly our school there, Collège St. Martial. Shortly after the news of the quake, the Spiritans of TransCanada set up a fund, the *St. Martial Fund*, in the hopes that monies will be raised to help rebuild this wonderful school and continue the Spiritan education apostolate. In solidarity with the Spiritans and their students in Haiti, our own school in Toronto, [Neil McNeil High School](#), is at the forefront of this fundraising campaign for Collège St. Martial. Cheques can be made out to **The Spiritans** (memo *St. Martial Fund*). Canadian residents will receive a tax receipt*.

Donations can be sent to:

The Spiritans (Aid to Haiti)
121 Victoria Park Ave.
Toronto, ON
Canada
M4E 3S2

For more on the Spiritans in Haiti:

- Haiti and Spiritan Collège St. Martial <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Khjcg8camk>
- Haiti and Fondwa <http://www.spiritans.com/August 2006.PDF>
- The Spiritans in Haiti <http://www.spiritans.com/March1995.PDF>

Fr. Paul McAuley, CSSp
Provincial Bursar
Spiritans, TransCanada Province
bursar@spiritans.com

*The Spiritans are a registered Canadian charity; SPIRITANS THE CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY GHOST (Registration Number 107999393RR0001)