

## Minutes of January 26, 2021 HHH Members meeting

An HHH member meeting was held on January 26, 2021 to review the new organization structure and receive updates on key items. Ray Freas led the meeting.

Kay Schumacher opened the meeting with a prayer.

Ray Freas reviewed the new organization structure which will involve quarterly meetings of the HHH members and the establishment of a three-person Steering Committee. The initial members of the Steering Committee will be Ray Freas, Lois Gracyalny and Barth Wolf. The Steering Committee is not a decision-making body as much as a small group who will help with communications and providing oversight between the quarterly meetings. All HHH members will be part of major decisions and part of regular communication activities so that we ensure all members have a seat at the table. HHH will provide funding, oversight and stewardship of all HHH activities in Haiti. Father Romel will provide direction, guidance and stewardship of HHH activities and resources in Haiti.

Ray indicated that future quarterly HHH meetings for the year 2021 will be April 26, July 26 and October 26.

One other new part of the organization is putting Jean Maurisett in the role of the HHH Facilitator. Without having anyone to step into the role of HHH Chair after Mary Van's term ended it was felt we needed someone to fill some of the roles she used to fill. His duties were reviewed and will include helping with communication with Haiti and coordination of HHH activities. He will also lead the quarterly meeting and budget preparation processes.

Father Romel welcomed Jean in his new role and Jean said he felt privileged to serve in this role. He pledged to foster teamwork among all the HHH members and our Haitian friends.

Mary Van indicated that Karen Denny will be stepping down as Wisconsin Treasurer, but that she (Mary Van) will take over Karen's role as Treasurer. Mary Van's extensive knowledge of the budget process and her long history of active involvement with HHH will be a great asset in this role.

Father Romel introduced the two new associate priests at St. Louis King of France. They are:

- **Pere Edius Servil:** he is the principal of Ecole Notre Dame de la Deliverance of Noyau and College Mgr. Remy Augustin in Mirebalais. He has lots of experience in education as an ordained priest.
- **Pere Woodnel Georges:** He is the discipline coordinator at the College and also the Principal of the kindergarten section at Mgr. Remy. He has a master in Philosophy of education and is recently ordained.

Updates were provided on key items as follows:

- The U.S. shipment from the Salvadorian Mission Warehouse has arrived in Haiti. Efforts are in process to get everything cleared and ready for delivery to Mirebalais after we offload the Parish Twinning Program and Friends of Haiti materials that were also in the shipment. Many thanks to Hilarie Rath and Mary Van for their efforts on this.
- Two members have covered half the cost of a container of food with Food for the Poor as part of a matching program offered by FFP who will be covering the other half of the

cost. The food will consist of “baskets” that will provide enough to feed a family of 5 for a month. FFP is procuring the food now and hope to ship it in mid-February assuming trucking it from Port-au-Prince is safe at that time. Father Romel will have local volunteers assemble the “baskets” after the shipment arrives.

- Father Romel advised that the Food for the Poor Community Development Project for Noyau has been approved and that recipients of houses are being selected. He said he will have some pictures to share. Barth Wolf said that FFP also sent him their fundraising materials for the project as they are now starting to raise funds for it.
- Father Romel said the COVID-19 has slowed down in Haiti and there are few people hospitalized with it. Political unrest and kidnapping continue to be big issues and February is a key month as the opposition is calling for the resignation of the President on what they say is the end of his current term.
- Mary Zenczak and Mary Van provided an update on financials. Giving is down this year due to COVID-19 impacts on fundraising efforts. HHH has been spending down its reserves from the school fundraising efforts and maintaining current level of financial support could prove challenging.
- Fr. Romel provided updates on the following:
  - Fr. Romel has been tasked with establishing three new chapel communities in Zilia, Plotier and Meye. People there currently to travel to Mirebalais if they want to attend church and receive sacraments. Father Romel was supposed to start up these chapels in January, but due to delays in getting the land and required surveys and documentation they cannot start with building the temporary chapels yet.
  - The \$10,000 that was to be used to buy land for the proposed new vocational school has been returned to Father Romel and he plans to use it to help with renovating the Msr. Remy School. He has two plans to do so. One involves contacting the Kellogg foundation for funding to completely renovate College Mgr. Remy. The second involves the Rotary Club in Mirebalais at that would renovate the school over a three-year period.
  - Several computers at Our Lady of Deliverance School were stolen when someone broke into a window in the computer room. Reinforcing the windows at the school is a project Father Romel believes is needed.
  - Apparently, food is not being provided by FFP for Our Lady of Deliverance School. Some food is coming through Caritas but as part of another program, not FFP. Barth will follow up on this with FFP. Subsequent to the meeting Father Romel made contact with the Haiti FFP food coordinator and Barth contacted FFP Florida staff. It appears that FFP will be providing food going forward now for Our Lady of Deliverance although the timing is now subject to being able to move food shipments due to current strikes and unrest.
  - The value of the Haitian Gourde versus the U.S. dollar is causing a decrease in the buying power of funds we send to Haiti.

Fr. Romel closed the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes prepared by Barth Wolf