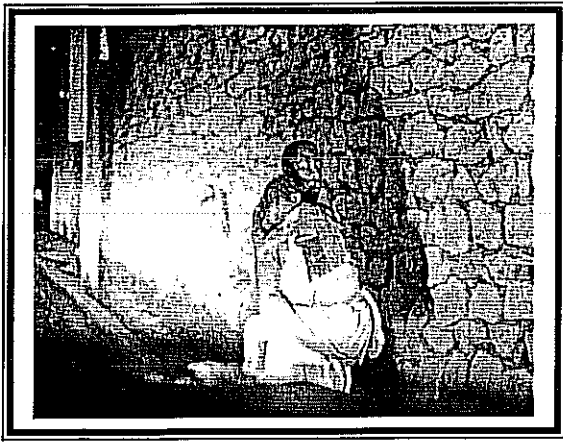


AN UNIMAGINABLE REALITY:



- *Getting by on \$1.00 per day...*
- *Roaming aimlessly through rubble-filled streets longing for a drink of water or a morsel of food...*
- *Using debris to dig a shallow grave for the common burial of your own family member...*
- *Praying for daylight because electricity to provide light after sundown is no longer an option...*

While Americans have undoubtedly experienced their share of economic hardships in the past two years, we can't help but reevaluate what it means to "do without." Maybe the recent Haitian earthquake is a test of faith... Could it be that God wants us to take a closer look at the countless blessings in our lives? Is He testing our ability to abide by His instruction to "love thy neighbor?"

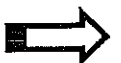
The bottom line: HAITI NEEDS OUR SUPPORT! Participate in this rare opportunity to "PAY IT FORWARD" to our neighbors in need. Let's demonstrate that Haiti's motto is more than words printed on a flag: "L'Union fait la force"- In unity there is strength!

Please join other Incarnate Word families in sharing monetary resources with both the Sisters of the Humility of Mary and Assumption's Haiti Outreach. Send your cash donations or checks to either homeroom #105 or #214 in an envelope clearly marked "IWA's Love Thy Neighbor Fund." Checks can be made out to Incarnate Word Academy with a note on the memo line for "Haiti"; at the end of our collection, one total check from I.W.A will be sent to each organization.

*"Real generosity is
doing something nice
for someone who will
never find out."
- Robert A. Clark -*



Our two-week collection is from February 2nd to February 11th!



EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Incarnate Word's VERY OWN MARY STOUT "learns, loves, and serves" in Haiti with Assumption Parish!

This excerpt is from last week's *Sun Star*, the article can be read in its entirety on-line.

HAITI

From A1

education, clean water, and economic development. We also supported a school and a lunch program for 500 students since 2002."

The mission has received confirmation that structures in Thomazeau sustained damage, but not the devastation experienced in Port-au-Prince.

According to a statement read by Church of the Assumption pastor, the Rev. Justin Dyrwal, the rural town of Thomazeau is expected to receive many migrants from Port-au-Prince.

"This movement of people to Thomazeau will add to the stress on the water, food and housing crisis that already exists," Dyrwal said. "Fr. Sufirin of St. Anne's will be called upon to help alleviate this suffering."

Assumption has partnered with St. Anne's of Thomazeau via the Parish Twinning Program of North America.

When the volunteers arrive in Haiti, they have use of a hospitality house called Matthew 25 House in Port-au-Prince.

"We got an e-mail on late Wednesday from a staff member that there was a fair amount of damage to the house, but the main floor was OK," Zenczak said.

"Since there was no structural damage to Matthew 25 that evening of the earthquake, they used generators to supply enough electricity to put lights onto an open soccer field that is next door. They took all of the supplies from the mission groups, including medical supplies, bedding, and equipment and brought it outside. Haitian physicians used this area for emergency triage."

The Friends of Haiti were planning for a trip which was to have begun Tuesday but has been postponed because



Two Haitian girls pose for a Church of the Assumption mission trip photo.

of the earthquake. Zenczak said only emergency personnel and first responders are able to go to Haiti and there are no domestic flights.

Zenczak returned from her most recent mission trip Nov. 19.

Friends of Haiti and Catholic Relief Services are collecting money only since tangible goods cannot be distributed by the organization.

According to Dyrwal, second monetary collections at area Catholic churches last Sunday were for Catholic Relief Services that provides worldwide relief efforts, including a priority for Haiti.

"The Bishop of Cleveland has responded to all of the parishes in unison to support operations through Catholic Relief Services," Zenczak said.

Assumption Church has set up a voicemail for the Haiti outreach program through its general parish phone number, (440) 526-1177. Zenczak said she has received offers to volunteer from members of both St. Basil of Brecksville and St. Matthias of Parma.



Church of the Assumption parishioner and Incarnate Word Academy teacher Mary Stout works with translator Nadia Amedee to read a book to kindergarteners at St. Therese School in Thomazeau.

"They are a lovely people, hope-filled even in difficulties they have," Zenczak said. "My hope is out of their misery, there will be a better rebuilt Haiti with the economic, infrastructure and educational opportunities they need to live in dignity and to reach their full potential. We as a faith community should support them in this process."

LOVE THEM NEIGHBOR

