

# Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



## Monthly Newsletter

June 2018

### A Laboratory in Chauffard!

More wonderful news from Father Raymond! He wrote at the start of this month that a friend “made us a gift of a small laboratory. It is already installed in the clinic. So, now, instead of going into the city, some preliminary tests can be made in Chauffard.” What an amazing thing for the people of Chauffard! The clinic is operating very well. More and more people are coming to it each day. Along with the nurse, a laboratory worker has been hired. To



give them a salary, each sick person coming to the clinic pays a small fee. Our goal is to soon have a doctor start working monthly in the clinic. We will have to send money for the doctor’s salary and purchasing medicines and supplies for the clinic. This will greatly improve the quality of life for the people of our twin parish. *Photo left to right: Dr. Tom Abbamont, Dr. Jerry McMahon, Father Raymond*

### News from Chauffard:

At the start of June, Father Raymond wrote that “there has been a lot of rain for the month of May. The school is going well in Chauffard. The 15 students of the 9th year Fondamentale will soon be participating in the state examinations.” The boxes from the sea container shipment arrived. “I have saved a portion for the restarting of the classes next September to help the most vulnerable children. I thank you infinitely.”

“For the lacking of the money (for the June school lunches), I understand this. I know that the situation is difficult everywhere in the world. That which you have done already for us in Chauffard is extraordinary. I am going to talk with the teachers and the students so that they can understand.”

### Upcoming Events:

**July 7-8:** Annual Bottle & Can Drive collection in the parish center parking lot of the Church of St. Michael and St. Peter. Saturday all day and Sunday from 7:30 to 4. Please call Ellie at 315-459-3476 to arrange for a pick up of your bottles and cans.

**September:** Annual school supplies collection, Quilt Raffle, Book & Bake Sale

For more information, call Kate McMahon (315-214-1569).

**Supporting the Church of the Immaculate Conception,  
Chauffard, Haiti, Father Raymond, Parish Priest**

## Community Health Survey Results



Last summer, our interns Meghan Sovocool and Katie McDonnell spent a good deal of time creating and refining the Community Health Survey questions that we took on our November 2017 Medical Mission. We wanted to know more about how much time was spent collecting water for households and what crops they grew. We also hoped to figure out a household food insecurity score that we could use to apply for food aid. Food insecurity is defined as the condition in which people experience limited or uncertain access to safe, adequate, and nutritious food that meets their dietary

needs or food preferences and helps them to lead a productive, active, healthy life. Our team returned to Syracuse with 114 completed surveys, which was good for the length of the visit. Katie compiled the data and Meghan ran analyses using statistical software. *Photo: Nurse Practitioner Katie McDonnell with Nurse Pat Sovocool (Meghan's mother) on the 2017 medical mission.*

### Major findings from these analyses were:

The average food insecurity score was 16.40, which is severely food insecure. In fact, 94% of the sample population fell into the category of severely food insecure. In comparison, the September 2017 USDA report on food insecurity in America found that 12.3% of US households were food insecure. The food insecurity score in our study was significantly associated with the length of time it takes someone to travel to a medical facility and age. In other words, in the Chauffard parish, the longer it takes someone to travel to a medical facility, the more food insecure they are, and the older someone is, the more food insecure they are.

This proves how important the school lunch program is to the health of the children in our twin parish. We hope to use this data to secure funding for food assistance in the short term and for funding for income generating projects in the long term so that the parishioners of the Church of the Immaculate Conception can provide for themselves.

