

Friends,

We all share in the shock and sorrow of this week's earthquake in Haiti. As you may know, up in the mountains of Fond Des Blancs, Haiti, we built and maintain a home for elderly people who would otherwise be living on the streets. We also help support a hospital there as well as an orphanage run by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters of Blessed Mother Teresa. Another group built and runs several schools within the slum of Cite Soliel in Port au Prince and we pay the faculty in one of the schools.

As we understand it, all in Fond Des Blancs are safe. We know that Port Au Prince is in horrible shape and in desperate need. We believe that in the coming days people may be leaving Port Au Prince seeking medical help in Fond Des Blanc adding additional strain on an already weak system.

This week we are announcing that the weekend of January 23rd and 24th we will take up a collection for our missions in Haiti. We are announcing it in advance so you have the opportunity to be prepared and bring a check made payable to Queen of Peace with "Haiti Collection" in the memo.

Parishes throughout the diocese will also have this special collection, but due to our already existing missions, the Bishop gives us permission to send all monies from our special collection to our missions directly.

Please know that 100% of our special collection goes right to Haiti right where it will do the most good through missions we know and are trustworthy.

I am sorry I cannot be with you all this weekend as I have had a long standing commitment to assist Fr. Alberto, but I will be back with you all next weekend.

Please pray for the souls of those lost in the disaster, those who mourn, and those who are serving others in this most difficult of times.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Fr. Alberto", written in a cursive style.