

Martha's Vineyard Fish Farm Haiti Project

An Island-wide humanitarian mission organized by

Little Children of Mary

PO Box 1803

Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

www.fishfarmhaiti.org

Praised be Jesus!

January, 2010 Newsletter

Check Out Our New Website!

Susan Johnson (Art & Design) is volunteering her time and expertise to create the new www.fishfarmhaiti.org site. Susan also created the poster and program for last summer's annual Haitian Art Sale Benefit. Thank you, Susan, for joining our team.

One Child at a Time

Board member **Karen Flynn** traveled to Haiti in March with members of Haitian Outreach of Leominster, MA. Haitian Outreach administers the Sponsorship Program for the children attending the schools of the Daughters of Mary Queen Immaculate. Karen traveled again to Haiti in October. During these trips she verified the children attending our school in Lilavois, helped distribute back packs, took pictures of the children, and delivered gifts from their sponsors. Of the 130 children and adolescents enrolled in our school, 56 have sponsors. To learn how to make an enormous difference in the life of a child for just \$165 a year, call Karen at **(508) 693 – 3801** or contact us at info@fishfarmhaiti.org.

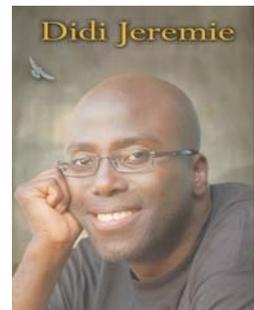


Our Summer Fundraisers

Two fund raisers were held this past July at the **Martha's Vineyard Resort** in Oak Bluffs. Making our fundraisers possible once again was the gracious owner, **Claudette Niles Robinson**. The 2nd annual **Tennis Tournament Benefit** was organized by Farm Neck tennis pro **Mas Kimball**, with the help of **Nate Carvalho** and **Mason Viau** who are also tennis pros at **Farm Neck Golf Club**. **Paul Adler** and **Roderigo Fraga** won decisively, winning all their matches in straights sets, as did **Anne Williamson**. Congratulations and thank you to all of the players. Mas has announced that next year's tournament is already scheduled for the last week of **June 2010** at the **Farm Neck Golf Club**. *Mark your calendars!*



The 7th annual **Haitian Art Sale Benefit** was graced with the presence of our guest speaker, the **Honorable Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue**, Haiti's minister of Women's Rights and Affairs. The Minister and her delegation were guests in the homes of Fish Farm for Haiti volunteers **Barbara** and **Bill Bennett**, and **Drs. Barbara** and **Bruce Stelle**. Haitian musician and songwriter **Didi Jeremie** shared his gift of music that evening adding to the festive ambiance. He and his family were guests of volunteer and board member, **Loretta Hovanec**. Delicious delicacies were donated by **Dee Geiger** (Tea Lane Caterers), **Jan Burnham** (The Kitchen Porch), **Pam Glavin** (Pam's Pesto), **Susan** and **Pierre Guerin** (The Sweet Life Café), **Jackie** and



Doug Korell (Lobster Tales), **Beth** and **Louis Larsen** (The Net Result), and **Marybeth Grady** (Chilmark Chocolates). The beverages were supplied by **Amy** and **Gary Look** (Al's Package Store) and **David Richardson** (Tony's Market). It was an uplifting and heartwarming event enjoyed by one and all. Thank you to all the sponsors, benefactors and volunteers for making it happen.

From the Head to the Heart - Our Latest Pilgrimage to Haiti



In November the second pilgrimage of 2009 took place. Pictured at their arrival in Port - au - Prince are **Drs. Barbara and Bruce Stelle, Helen Maciolek, Robert Carter, Claire Peterson**; two students of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, junior **Madeleine Pénicaud** and senior **Patrick Hart**. Pilgrim **Tomar Waldman** who is sitting, helped deliver a donated wheelchair. The pilgrimage was organized by **Margaret Pénicaud**. They were met at the airport by **Hermina Hyacinthe, Sr. Irma** of the Daughters of Mary Queen Immaculate, and driver **Richard Charles**.

Soon after their arrival the pilgrims traveled west to Petit-Goave where they helped distribute donated shoes and serve food in Hermina's soup kitchen at the Immaculata House. The next day they traveled out to the southern peninsula where medical supplies were delivered to the medical dispensary in Roche-à-Bateau. Our two doctors assisted the local doctor as he tended to the many sick children who were brought there to be cared for.



Back in Port-au-Prince the pilgrims were received by the **Honorable Marie Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue** who had them visit an orphanage next to her home. Donated clothing was distributed to the 60 children many of which lost their parents in the mudslides in 2004. The Minister's husband, **Dr. Alix Lassegue**, is the recently appointed director of the State Hospital in the capital. Dr. Lassegue provided the pilgrims with a tour of the facility where 2,500 patients are seen every day and medical equipment is noticeably lacking. At **Mother Theresa's Home for Children** the group helped feed the babies, and held and played with the children who craved human contact and affection.

The pilgrimage concluded their pilgrimage with a two night stay at the Fish Farm for Haiti Project in Lilavois. There the progress of the Project was assessed, funding for the beginning of the construction of the second story of the living quarters was delivered, and gifts from sponsors of the children at the school were distributed.

Sister Rosemane Alice oversees the farming aspect of the **Fish Farm for Haiti Project**. This summer through our fund raising efforts, she received further training in aquaculture for 5 weeks at **Morning Star Fishermen** in Dade City, Florida. She also received training in agriculture at **ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization)** which is located on a demonstration farm in North Fort Myers. Pictured here, Sr. Rosemane showing us her composting piles, an application of her recent training.



The ten day pilgrimage provided not only first hand knowledge of the poverty and hardship of our brothers and sisters in Haiti but also the experience of Haitian hospitality and rich culture. New friendships were formed and future collaborations are transpiring as we continue to walk in solidarity with our neighbors in need. For

information on future pilgrimages call **Margaret** at (508) 693 - 0368 or email us at info@fishfarmhaiti.org.

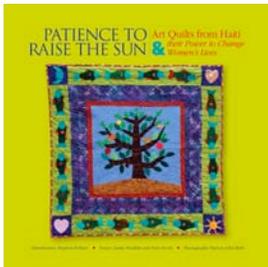
PeaceCraft – Our Holiday Sale Benefit

During our pilgrimages metal art and crafts are purchased from local artisans for the PeaceCraft holiday sale. This year our 12th annual



PeaceCraft holiday sale was held from the day after Thanksgiving until the day before Christmas. Thanks to the generosity of **Karen Coffey** and **Dan Koch**, the owners of **Pyewacket's** antique and gift shop in Vineyard Haven, and to all our volunteers, crafts from self-help projects were sold to benefit the artisans, their families, and to help finance food, medical, and educational programs in those poverty-stricken areas of our world including Haiti. It is our hope that our endeavors will be instrumental in bringing peace and justice to our world.

The PeaceQuilts Cooperative



Located in two rooms on the second story of our school, PeaceQuilts is providing a means of livelihood with dignity for the women who are creating one-of-a-kind art quilts there. The women are graduates of the domestic trade school for adolescent girls on the ground level of the school. Last fall their original, one-of-a-kind, art quilts were featured at the Bennington Museum in Bennington, Vermont. "Patience to Raise the Sun" was published on the occasion of the exhibition. To learn more about the PeaceQuilt Cooperative, purchase this book or an original PeaceQuilt art quilt, go to www.haitipeacequilts.org

POT LUCK SUPPER

6:00 p.m., Saturday, March 6, 2010

At the Common House, Island Cohousing in West Tisbury

- ▶ **For anyone who has volunteered or contributed in any way to the success of the Fish Farm Haiti Project**
- ▶ **For everyone who has made the pilgrimage to Haiti (Bring pictures, stories to share, plus friends, & family members)**
- ▶ **For anyone who wants to learn more about the Fish Farm Haiti Project**

RSVP: Martha (508) 696-6645



A personal Journey of Faith – Margaret Mayhew Pénicaud

How did the Fish Farm Haiti Project get started?

The events in a small village in Bosnia-Herzegovina (in former Yugoslavia) have made a radical impact on my journey of faith.

In June 1981, Mary, Mother of Jesus, began appearing to six children in the village of Medjugorje, bringing messages of peace and hope. To this day, twenty eight years later she continues to appear daily, urging us to spend time every day talking and listening to God, reading the Bible, doing penance and converting our hearts. “Put God in the first place in your lives”.

She asks us to fast and pray for peace in the world, and to live and transform her messages into life. “The perfect fast is bread and water.” “Through prayer and fasting you can stop wars and suspend natural law.” Fasting has enhanced my prayer life. It intensifies the Word of God. It has heightened my awareness of the critical role food plays in our lives, and therefore, the plight of those who are without. Google Medjugorje or go to www.medjugorje.com for more information.

Through “chance” meetings with Sr. Monique Saint-Louis, the founder of the Daughters of Mary Queen Immaculate, came the opportunity to visit Haiti where I there encountered abject poverty first-hand. In prayer I asked God how I could help.” Fish Farming” was the unexpected answer that came to me. Within hours the location, the technical assistance, and the “go-ahead” all came together.

January 25, 2010 - Message of Our Lady Queen of Peace - Medjugorje

“Dear children! May this time be a time of personal prayer for you, so that the seed of faith may grow in your hearts; and may it grow into a joyful witness to others. I am with you and I desire to inspire you all: grow and rejoice in the Lord who has created you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”



For those of you who live on Martha’s Vineyard, you may have seen our ads with Our Lady’s messages in the Martha’s Vineyard Times. A special fund has been created to underwrite costs for publicizing Our Lady’s messages. If you would like to help continue this effort, please make your tax-deductible donation out to “Little Children of Mary” and designate “Messages” in the memo.

Prayer Group

Join us **Mondays, 3:00 pm** at the **Martha’s Vineyard Hospital Chapel** as we pray, praise God, learn about, and try to live and transform into life the messages of Our Lady Queen of Peace.

About Us

Little Children of Mary is an all-volunteer, non-profit, charitable organization which is open to all faith traditions in a spirit of solidarity. Tax-exempt donations may be made out to **Little Children of Mary** or **Fish Farm Haiti Project**. To further direct your donations please make a note in the memo and mail it to **PO Box 1803, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568**.



Earthquake Relief

c/o MV Fish Farm Haiti Project
PO Box 1803

Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
508-693-0368

Or donate now via Pay Pal

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

The news of the 7.2 Richter scale earthquake left us stunned and horrified. Volunteer **Tomar Waldman** first alerted us of the news. She was with **Jeanne Staples** and **Maureen McClintock** at the airport in Boston waiting to board a plane for Miami when they saw the news alert on television. Jeanne and Maureen were on the first leg of their journey to the **PeaceQuilts Cooperative** at the Fish Farm Haiti Project in Lilavois. Needless to say, the two cancelled their plans and returned home.

We watched the news on television with disbelief. We could barely recognize familiar and favorite places amidst the terrible destruction. For two days we waited and waited for news of our Sisters and friends. Finally the first word trickled in. It was the sad news of the death of our faithful driver, **Richard Charles**. The reality of the earthquake started hitting home. Later we learned that Richard had died trying to get his two girls out of their home before it collapsed. Only his wife survived. Over the next few days we learned of the terrible destruction in Canapé Vert where Ste Marie, the mother house of the Daughters of Mary Queen Immaculate is located. All the buildings including the training school, the guest house where we stayed during our pilgrimages, the novitiate, and the new mother house itself were destroyed. **Sr. Thonie** and **Judeline**, one of the novices, and 10 of the girls attending the training school had perished in the quake. We learned that the older, front half of their school in Lalue, Port-au-Prince, where 1,000 students attended school, had collapsed. Fortunately the quake took place after school hours and no injuries were reported.



Days after the quake we finally learned that our project in Lilavois escaped with minor damages and there were no reported injuries at the compound itself. The church in Lilavois, Ste Therèse of the Child Jesus, collapsed killing one woman.

News continues to trickle in. The PeaceQuilt workers have all been accounted for but the Sisters are still trying to locate our students. Many families have lost their homes

and everything they had. From the outset of the earthquake families took refuge within the safety of the compound. Asked how they fed everybody, Sr. Rosemane said, "Everybody shared what they had." People are still coming to sleep at the project but many are leaving the area heading out to the provinces.

Mother Theresa's Home for Children in Port-au-Prince, the 200 babies there and the Sisters were unharmed. The honorable **Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lasègue** and **Ann-Valérie Milfort** survived the quake but Marie-Laurence lost her home and Ann-Valerie lost her grandmother, aunt, and niece. We continue to wait for news of so many we have befriended over the years: students, artists, metal art workers, crafts dealers, banana bark card makers. Everywhere there is so much sorrow. It seems Haiti is drowning in sorrow.

Haiti Relief Mission



From the moment of the earthquake communication was shut down. Cell phone lines were jammed. We knew that all banks were closed, that funds were low and supplies were needed for survival. On Saturday, January 23, two of our team members, **Kerry Brenner** and **Christian**



Ayotte, veteran travelers in Haiti, crossed the border from the Dominican Republic to deliver two satellite phones and much needed funds to three different locations: Lilavois, Canapé Vert, and Petit-Goave. The epicenter of the second quake was in Petit-Goave and Kerry and Christian reported that the town was decimated. The **Immaculata House**, where we stayed last November and worked in the soup kitchen, is miraculously still standing.

Fear of aftershocks is prevalent. No one in any of these three locations is sleeping in buildings. Everyone is camping outside. Rainy season will soon be upon them. We are organizing a **Haiti Relief Drive** here on Martha's Vineyard where specific items can be dropped off, packaged up, and transported to Trenton, New Jersey where they will be flown to Haiti. **Patrick Hart**, MVRHS senior, who made our pilgrimage to Haiti in November, is coordinating the drive. Contact Patrick at **1-508-221-2991** to volunteer or to donate items.

The outpouring of love and support here on Martha's Vineyard has been tremendous and totally appreciated. Thank you to all the people who are sending donations, organizing fund raisers, and coming together in prayer, support, and solidarity for our Haitian brothers and sisters.

Margaret Mayhew Pénicaud – February 10, 2010