



ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH

20 Idlewood Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario L8T 1V9

September 20, 2019

Dear Rev. Fernand Pierre;

Greetings from your dear friends at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Canada. It has been some time since my last letter to you on behalf of our Twinning Committee, as we have continued to monitor the situation through our connections with Mr. Ron Roy on the quarterly fund transfers in support of your mission of catholic education and Ms. Gina Ghiabi and her visits and ongoing reports of her family in Haiti. We appreciate so very much your efforts in providing us with the important information and interviews that have enabled us to grow in our relationship and come to know more fully our brothers and sisters in Haiti. The powerful stories of Magdalena Stimpfil and Yvon Abellard are resonating throughout our parish and are deepening our resolve on the importance of our mission to be a beacon of hope and light in a world where ignorance, violence and oppression are far too prevalent.

We have been deeply troubled on the reports of violence and political instability in Haiti and that such unrest and threats of violence have prevented the visit of the medical mission team from Holy Family Parish in Florida. I can only reflect on the divine mercy and providence of our Lord, that in his wisdom he has ensured that Nurse Magdalena is with you serving the community at this time. I can also say with certainty that each and every member of our committee remembers you personally in our prayers, as you shoulder the significant responsibilities as Pastor and we pray that our Lord continues to provide the strength, courage and knowledge to fortify your resolve and mission of love and mercy.

Having received your e-mail of September 5, 2019, and the tremendous words of success, joy and happiness regarding the 991 students and their academic achievements for the 2018 - 2019 year, I too was excited to share the good news and am looking forward to discussing this matter at our upcoming Twinning Committee meeting. The news that all 12 of our students who completed the final exam by the Department of Education of Haiti were successful, is awesome! We look forward to sharing your beautiful letter with our parish in the near future.

Much has happened in St. Margaret Mary parish since our last formal letter and I would like to bring our friends in St. Gabriel parish up to date. Each year the Bishop announces the clergy and religious assignments for the Hamilton Diocese, which are to take effect in the month of June. A number of changes occurred in parishes this year, including St. Margaret Mary with the announcement that Fr. Jeff Oehring, having served two years, would be moving. St. Margaret Mary parish welcomed Fr. Pawel Jamroz as our new Pastor and he has confirmed his continued support, as the Pastors before him, to the parish Mission in Haiti. We look forward to working with Fr. Jamroz in securing the campaign funding supporting our mission of providing a catholic education in Haiti.

During this past year the committee decided to plan an event that would celebrate community and would be designed to attract families to attend. On Sunday June 2, 2019, a "Have a Heart for Haiti Fundraiser and Social" was held where over 150 guests were greeted to the St. Margaret Mary Elementary school gymnasium and a wonderful lunch including Haitian dishes [fried plantain, rice with red kidney and lima beans, Haitian mac & cheese and cabbage salad] were served. A prize table and music were included and a wonderful afternoon was had by all, with all proceeds going to support the Twinning Mission in Haiti.

We were blessed to have Monsignor Philippe in attendance who expressed in a very personal way his deep gratitude to St. Margaret Mary Parish for the sustained commitment in transforming the lives of so many young people in the Beau-Séjour region of Haiti. I am hoping that we can include some pictures from the event with this letter as I am sure they will be appreciated.

As I bring this letter to a close, I do so with a renewed sense of purpose and hope that our Twinning Mission, now in its second decade, is as strong today as it was those many years ago and our resolve to see this mission through remains steadfast. May our Lord continue to shower his blessings upon you and our brothers and sisters of St. Gabriel.

Sincerely,

Jim P. LoPresti

