

M 28 : 19



Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

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Support Disaster Relief in Haiti

On January 12, 2010 a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti. Tens of thousands are feared dead after this earthquake knocking down buildings and power lines and inflicting new misery on the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation. Let us join recovery efforts mobilizing around the world to assist earthquake victims. Let us reach out to other people afflicted with disasters. The celebration of commemorating the feast of St. John Bosco will be much memorable if we are able to donate for the victims.

Pictures from Salesian Missions Schools in Port-Au-Prince showing children and students before the earthquake.



Provincial Economist of the Antilles Province, Bro. Alberto Rodriguez, the Director of the Development Office for Haiti, Bro. Franklin Ortega, are on their way to the capital of Haiti to make an assessment and find news. They have managed to obtain three solar-energy powered satellite phones and are trying to establish a communications link to support the Salesian relief efforts. In spite of the difficulty of communicating with Haiti, information has arrived of the death of **Atsime Wilfrid and Vibrun Valsaint, the two young Salesians in formation**, in the third year of philosophy, who died when the "Saint Francis of Sales" Institute of Philosophy in the Fleuriot-Tabarre district of Port-au-Prince collapsed.

At least 500 students are believed to be buried in the rubble of the compound that houses the renowned "National School of Arts and Trades" and other schools operated by Salesian Missions. In the wake of the earthquake that devastated Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Salesian Missions is working around the clock to pull together emergency response teams and fundraising efforts to assist in the relief efforts. Among those in need of assistance are those at Salesian buildings in the Cité Soleil area of Port-au-Prince. **THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST OF PAP HAVE BEEN LOST, AS THEY WERE IN CLASS AT THE TIME OF THE QUAKE** ("National School of Arts and Trades" referred to as ENAM or "Don Bosco Institute" locally in P-A-P. Those who were learning the vocations needed to rebuild were the ones in class and lost in the ruins.

HEARTFELT APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY BY THE RECTOR MAJOR



(ANS – Rome) – In a personal letter addressed to all the Salesians in the world, the Rector Major Fr Pascual Chávez makes “a heartfelt and at the same time a very strong appeal for solidarity by the Salesian Congregation” for the “Blessed Philip Rinaldi” Vice Province of Haiti.

“Just as in a family everyone gathers around a sick child, so, moved by great “com-compassion’ we want to share the burden of this extraordinary emergency and help in a very practical way this small Vice Province so sorely tried.”

Recalling how for Salesians the greatest loss has been that of the lives of so many young people, youngsters and children as well as three confreres, Fr Chávez gives an account of the state of the Salesian houses.

“Our Confreres in Haiti have been sorely tried but without doubt they are turning to us. They are asking for help and support so that Don Bosco may be able to continue his work in this country and may give them a sign of hope as they continue along their path as Salesians. For days they have been living out in the open with thousands of other people.”

The Rector Major expresses deep admiration for the Province of Santo Domingo which “has been a “good neighbour” and quickly sent food and first aid” and for the fact that the “poorest Provinces (of Africa, Asia and America) were those which have responded most promptly and spontaneously.”

“In the name of Don Bosco,” Fr Chávez concludes, “I can assure you that the Lord will bless this act of charity of yours.” Through the Offices of the Direzione Generale Don Bosco in Rome, Salesians are invited to contribute to the relief work and to the reconstruction of the centres in Haiti: “Be generous therefore, even at the cost of having to “delay” some of your own particular projects!”

Benefactors who want to make a contribution can use the Bank Account opened by the New Rochelle Missions Office:

**Citibank, 238 North Ave.
New Rochelle, NY 10801
Account Number: 9959015692
Swift Number: CITIUS33
ABA Number: 021000089**

The situation is critical and overwhelming. Salesian Missions is working hard to respond to the need for disaster relief and is calling for emergency donations. Read more from the following link.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2010/01/prweb3452224.htm>