

## ***Where is the School of the Infant Jesus?***

The School of the Infant Jesus, Cite Militaire, Haiti, has between 1000 to 1500 students depending on Haiti's current economic situation. The children live in a poor and dangerous neighborhood with U.N. soldiers patrolling their streets. Their parents will typically only make a few dollars a day in backbreaking labor or in long hours of selling items along the sidewalk. Food is uncertain. Violence is common. Yet, Sr. Philomena and other Haitian Salesian Sisters have built a school to improve lives in the Cite Militaire section of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. They are committed to teaching as many children as possible. Haitian parents are proud to have one or two of their children in school. Much of the hope for improvement of life in Haiti starts with educating the next generation.

## ***How do we support them?***

Since 1995, St. Simon Church and the School of the Infant Jesus have been part of the twinning program operated by PTPA ([www.parishprogram.org](http://www.parishprogram.org)). St. Simon Church provides money for school lunches, tuition and development needs. Visits between the Haitian school and American parish have occurred regularly. The Haitian Sisters have used the money from St. Simon Church to good advantage. Development projects started small with the addition of windows and doors to the elementary school class rooms. Later a lunchroom was built and bathrooms improved. Most recently, a two story junior high school / trade school building was completed.

The Salesian Sisters understand that children learn best in a safe environment and with full stomachs. They have built a wing onto their administration/living area so they could welcome 30 live-in orphans. They provide a nutritious lunch to all the students and a breakfast to the most frail. They work with young adults to teach barbering, cooking and sewing skills. The January 2010 earthquake has damaged the school buildings. St. Simon Catholic Church is committed to helping its sister school rebuild so the work to improve life in Haiti can continue.

## ***How can you help them?***

Even in a normal year, one third of the students can not afford tuition. You can help by providing a donation of \$50/year for 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade tuition or \$75/year for 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade tuition.

“We never stop thanking you for the good work that you do to benefit the deprived children of the School of the Infant Jesus.” – Sr. Philomena Telfort, Christmas 2009

*Kathryn Nixon for the St. Simon Catholic Church Haiti Twinning Program.*

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 / year Tuition Support for School of the Infant Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 / year Tuition Support for School of the Infant Jesus 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade

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Name

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E-mail

Send this donation slip and your check to St. Simon Catholic Church, 702 E. Bryant, Ludington, MI 49431 with “Haiti Sponsor” in the memo line. >> Mesi anpil! (Thank you) <<