

Sacred Heart Haiti Mission Foundation

5455 50th Ave NW

Rochester, MN 55901

507-884-9020 (Lisa Jessen) or 507-271-7203 (Carol Fitzgerald)

October 2023

Although it's been over a year since we've sent a newsletter, we have been busy! The last newsletter told of a shipment that we were sending in June of 2022. Well, we loaded it and sent it on its way and it ended up being detained in Customs in Haiti for 10 months! The violence in Port au Prince prevented anyone from safely unloading it and getting our donations to those who needed them most. After many conversations and much prayer, the fees were waived and the container was unloaded. Praise God! The Sisters were so happy to receive the clothing, shoes, diapers, personal hygiene items, furniture, linens and so much more. Thank you so much for your generosity. It never ceases to amaze me how generous people are with their time, talents (sewing), and treasure!

A complete list of needed items can be found on our website at: www.holyspiritrochester.org/how-can-i-help. We communicate regularly with the Missionaries of Charity in order to prioritize the list of needs, so please check the website for the most up-to-date list. It may change from time to time.

Carol continues to schedule work days at the storage units to sort and pack donated items while the weather is still decent. We generally take donations until October 15; but will make exceptions if the weather is agreeable. If you would like to drop off items, please contact **Carol or Lisa** to schedule a time to meet at the storage units on Hwy 14 West in Rochester (Lock Away Storage). After October, if you are able to store items over the winter, please contact us in the spring.

It is very helpful if you can sort and box the items before dropping them off at the storage unit. If able to do so, please familiarize yourself with and follow our system. The instruction guidelines are on our website. This helps us with our inventory and shipping. Please make sure each box contains only **one type or category** of item. Also make sure that boxes are FULL so they don't collapse while stacked in storage or during shipment. If a box is not full, mark 'Not Full' and we will top it off with like items. If you are not able to sort the donation, mark it 'MIXED' and we will sort it. Apple boxes or similar sized boxes are best. Plastic storage totes/bins **with lids** will also be accepted. The packing guidelines can be found on the website: www.holyspiritrochester.org/how-can-i-help. The document will be on the left-hand side under "Documents".

Reminder: Please remember that the average temperature in Haiti is in the 80s-90s. We do not need winter clothing, shoes, or boots. And please donate items that are in new/like-new condition. We don't have the manpower to go through every single box that is donated so please make sure the clothing is clean and free of stains and rips.

We only want to receive and send clothing and shoes that are appropriate for their climate and in good condition.

On July 25, 2023 we loaded and sent a container. I recently received word that it was received and unloaded. Father Brillere was especially appreciative because he just moved to another parish in the mountains where the need is immense. We were able to send him an Easter/Paschal candle and other church items.

The CCW of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester held its annual meeting on October 7. We picked up over 60 boxes in a U-Haul and brought the donations back to our storage units (pictured on opposite side). We hope to send another container in the late spring of 2024.

Food continues to be scarce and expensive, so monetary donations are always welcomed. We hope to mail another \$5000 check to the Missionaries of Charity in Miami before Christmas. They are able to buy food and get it there much quicker and cheaper than we can.

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Information to share...

- **Leadership:**

Lisa Jessen, President (Ljessen@holyspiritrochester.org cell: 507-884-9020)

Carol Fitzgerald, Coordinator of Sorting & Packing (cfitz1217@charter.net cell: 507-271-7203)

- **Mailing address:**

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Attn: Sacred Heart Haiti Mission Fdn.

5455 50th Ave NW

Rochester MN 55901

- **List of items needed**—see website: Holyspiritrochester.org/how-can-i-help. Left-hand side of screen under *Documents*.
- **Packing instructions**—see website: Holyspiritrochester.org/how-can-i-help. Left-hand side of screen under *Documents*.

Website: www.holyspiritrochester.org/sacred-heart-haiti-mission. Go to holyspiritrochester.org, then click on Ministries. You will find the Haiti Mission under 'Social Justice & Outreach'.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SacredHeartHaitiMission

Thank you so much for supporting the Sacred Heart Haiti Mission for so many years! We look forward to your continued support so we can keep the mission alive!

Blessings of peace to you all,

The Sacred Heart Haiti Mission

Loading U-Haul at CCW meeting.



Sorting, repacking, and organizing at the storage units. It's a BIG job!! A huge THANK YOU to Carol and the volunteers who come to help.

