



***“Sharing our wealth” (TWINNING)***

It is hard to believe from where we sit in our beautiful city of Burlington, Ontario, Canada, that around us, both near and far, are families and individuals struggling to survive. We at Saint Vincent de Paul, St. Paul The Apostle Conference are thankful to our very generous parishioners, who enable us to assist those who are in such need. We call those we assist our “neighbours”, as we strive to develop a trusting relationship, with respect for their dignity and privacy.

Recognizing the great need well beyond the borders of our own conference, in July 2018 our conference twinned with the Saint Vincent de Paul conference in Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Grande Rivière du Nord, Haïti. This town is situated in the north of the country, considered a picturesque tourist destination with its majestic mountains and fresh-flowing river. However, the economic and social development is severely hindered by political instability and increasing gang violence. Unemployment is high. The Haitians are vulnerable to natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and earthquakes. New diseases are resurfacing and taking a toll on health, leading even to death.

Creole is the main language spoken in Haïti, a slang version of the French language. The more educated speak French. As of 2021, we were blessed to start communicating with our twinned conference, through one of our contacts, François, the president of the Saint Rose of Lima conference. They now correspond regularly, sharing information about each other and their respective conferences. François is an elderly man with a deep Christian faith. He operates a shelter he calls Asylum. The structure is rundown with a leaking tin roof. There are no finances to repair it. The inside edges of the building are lined with cots for the homeless. In the middle are tables covered with plates of rice, mixed with a few vegetables. The hungry drop in, welcomed with prayers and a modest meal.



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François communicates frequently, exchanging photos and videos to demonstrate the conditions faced by his parish. During live “chats”, the Haitians gleefully jump, sing, smile and yell their thanks for our support, offering us prayers and God’s blessings. They are steadfast in their faith, gaining strength from it, proclaiming that God will always provide. These are touching, yet sad moments. It warms our hearts to know that the least we are doing for these neighbours, we are doing for our Almighty and loving God.



*At this time, a decent life in Haïti is not promising, but the strong spirit of the Haitians will prevail and survive. The funds that we send to SSVP in Haiti enable this needy parish to provide certain basic necessities of life.*



*Roberte Rivard  
Twinning representative  
St. Paul The Apostle Conference,  
Burlington, ON*

## Guatemala

Poverty in our country is very severe because there are families who have been sick for a long time, but cannot afford treatment because they have no work and no money. There are homes where the children have left because of violence leaving their grandparents abandoned. In my conference, we are only going to visit because we don't have money to give them anything. Money is needed for medicine, food for the elderly, and food for the children. Let us join hands in solidarity with those who will be grateful.

## Guatemala

Lapobreza en nuestra país es más gravé porque hay familias que están enfermas desdehace tiempo pero por no tener trabajo, dinero no pueden sanar, hay hogares queloshijos se fueron por la violencia y dejaron abandonados a los abuelos, En mi conferencia solo vamos a visitar porqué no contamos con dinero para darles algo. Se necesitadinerero para medicinas, alimentos para ancianos alimentos para niños. De nos la mano para nuestra hermanamiento los necesitados lo agracedaran .

