



## St. Gabriel/Sacred Heart Middle School Scholarship Program, Lascahobas, Haiti

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

In 2007, Sacred Heart Church twinned with Saint Gabriel Church in Lascahobas, situated in the Central Plateau in Haiti, close to the Dominican Republic. After the Earthquake that struck Port-au Prince in January 12<sup>th</sup> 2010, the Central region was impacted by over 90,997 displaced persons. This significant increase in the population of this region is a burden to the many communities that were already straggling with the reality of poverty.

Pilgrims from Sacred Heart regularly visit Fr. Bernard, pastor at Saint Gabriel and the parishioners. They see firsthand both the growing of a mutual loving relationship, and the need for support. Because of these frequent pilgrimages, they are able to report back to others the fruits of this growth and the combined efforts of both parishes.

In August of 2010, Fr. Bernard, informed Fr. Dan, pastor at Sacred Heart of his vision of building a Middle School so he could provide education beyond the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. With some initial help from Sacred Heart, Saint Patrick and Maury High School, he has started the construction of a Middle School which will eventually have classrooms for students from 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, with two classes of 60 students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 51 students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and 41 students in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. He has asked Sacred Heart and the larger community for their support in developing a scholarship program. His vision is to eventually provide 2 scholarships per class per year starting this year with one. Recently, Sacred Heart has received financial support from a generous donor for that one young man. Additionally we are establishing a tax exempt trust fund, which will eventually have sufficient principal to provide income for the decided number of recipients. Fr. Bernard has established selection criteria and will involve the “superintendent” of his school system, the principal and teachers to select 2 students; one being the highest performer, and the other being the hardest worker. These criteria are designed to both reward and motivate the students, while providing much needed financial support to their families.

**What can we do?** Fr. Bernard’s goal is to find donors to contribute to the Scholarship Program for the new Middle School. It costs \$350 per year to send a student to St. Gabriel Middle School. **100% of every donation goes directly to the program since this ministry is blessed with generous volunteers and sponsors.** Donations are entirely tax deductible. If you feel a Call to Service and wish to donate some funds, please write your check to Sacred Heart Church and add St. Gabriel Scholarship on the memo line. Together we continue praying for our Family in Haiti.

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