

Lascahobas, March 19th, 2011

Cholera, a serious disease, came to Haiti at the end of October 2010. It strikes people of all ages. This disease causes diarrhea with a rice water color, and vomiting which, without prompt treatment can kill a person from severe dehydration. About 2,800 people died of this scourge. Also 1,900 people recovered through prompt medical care. Some people are afraid to die. People who have no faith in God are totally panicked by this terrible disease.
To remedy this catastrophic situation throughout the country, health workers provide training to the population. They give advice on precautions to take and show how to prepare oral serums.
At home in Lascahobas, at the Saint Gabriel Church rectory, our pastor Father Bernard with the help of the local Catholic organization Caritas distributes *boquites* (small water containers) with filters to treat the water. Food for the Poor organization installed a system at the rectory to purify water for the community. In schools, health officials have distributed some soap and Aquatable tablets. They advised us students to use the toilets (instead of using the outdoors), wash our hands after using the toilets and before eating, and also to drink treated water.
To prepare the oral serum, take a *gallon* (a large bucket) filled with water, add five teaspoons of sugar and a large spoonful of salt. Shake the mixture well before use.

Cholera is still present in Lascahobas but much reduced. If people do not continue taking precautions, they can still catch the disease, particularly people who do not practice good hygiene.
In conclusion, I ask you to pray for our beloved Haiti who knows different problems each day. You remain forever in my thoughts and prayers.

Written by Jean Bédel PIERROT, student at St. Gabriel Middle School, in Lascahobas, Haiti

