

Newsletter

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
Haiti Outreach Ministry

June 2011



Upcoming Events

Rummage Sale

7/27 – 7/30

5K Run/Walk

10/29/2011

Crafting for Haiti

11/6/2011



9 Guitars

along with
Music Lessons
were donated to

St. Michael
Parish

In Memory of
Martin Schlatter
and
Tom Walsh

The News from Haiti

Our SMM team returned from their May visit to Haiti with lots of news. St. Michael parishioners have been clearing the sites for the two new chapels. Architectural plans were developed and sent to the bishop for review. Both have now been approved so work can continue. They hope to have floors, rebar and walls up by the end of July.



Livestock Training at St. Michael



The livestock program is in full-swing. By the end of April, the livestock committee had given out 56 donkeys, 32 pigs and 255 goats. Baba is giving inoculations and conducting training on care for the animals before animals are given to their new owners. As far as who gets what, it depends on what they want. Pigs have a shorter gestation period but are harder to take care of than goats. For all animals, the owner may have to plant some rice to have enough for the animals to eat. Water too is an issue and must be taken into account. The SMM team gave the committee additional funds so that the livestock program can con-



tinue to grow.

Sets of books for the Peace Program, written by Sr. Mary Alban, were reproduced here and brought to Haiti by the SMM team. Hundreds of Bibles were also provided. The copiers, funded on the last visit, are up and running at St. Michael. These copiers are available for use by the community. Fees from this usage should keep the copiers fed and watered (paper and toner).

Books for the elementary school have been received and stored away for the start of the school year. Funds to purchase secondary school books, provide summer teacher training and pay teacher salaries were provided. Funding was also provided to enable the secondary school to add computers and computer classes to the curriculum.

Both St. Michael and St. John parishes are interested in establishing banks. Our SMM team will make a separate visit this summer to work out the details.

Baba Visits Us

One of the treasures our SMM team brought back with them was Colin Augustnor, our man in Haiti, more commonly known as "Baba." Many people had a chance to meet and visit with him as he attended all committee meetings, spent a lot of time in the school and got to see many central Florida sites. He was especially interested in the retreat that the 8th graders attended, finding tools that he could use in the Peace Program.

Answering questions at the potluck dinner held shortly before he left us, Baba told us about his wife and new little girl, Cecilia, and told us he could have had neither without the job he now has working for SMM. He thanked us for all that we have done for Haiti and for him personally.

We also learned that Baba met



our own Ken Firling when Baba was just a teenager. Ken needed someone to translate for him and Baba came to his rescue with his typical energy and enthusiasm. That fateful meeting has led to a wonderful partnership that helps us all.

St. Margaret Mary
Catholic Church

526 Park Avenue North
Winter Park, FL 32789
407 647-3392
www.stmargaretmary.org

SMM Rummage Sale

To benefit the people
of Haiti

Drop-off and Setup Days

Wednesday, July 27 and

Thursday July 28, 8AM to
7PM.

Sale Days

Friday, July 29, and

Saturday, July 30, 8AM to
2PM.

Helpers, Donors and
Buyers Needed!

The Hottest Ticket in Town!

Kids want to get in. Some older adults are trying to get in. But only teenagers and young adults are being admitted to the Peace Program at St. Michael, St. John & St. Isidore Parishes. At St. Michael's Parish there are 300 teens and young adults who are part of the program. St. John & St. Isidore each add another 100. The goal of the Program is to create a culture of Peace through study, discussion, creative activities and community involvement.



Baba took back some money with him to help young folks at one of the poorer chapels begin raising goats. One group is investigating building chicken coops. And they are hoping to start an Internet Café at St. Michaels in the fall.

This summer St. Michael Parish will host a Peace Festival with participants from St. Isidore, St. John and all the St. Michael chapels. Pray for them — and for the pastor and parishioners who will be stepping over 500 young people talking, eating and sleeping all over the church property!



Peace Program at St. Andre Chapel

These young people might have to walk one and a half hours each way to get to the program, but they are eager to do so. In and through this program they have begun to see hope for Haiti and for themselves. Thus far SMM has provided a small amount of money for nutrition, but the participants are trying to find ways to raise money to keep things going. This summer SMM is sponsoring art classes for those who hope to be able to earn some money with their art.

Gift a Little Give a Lot Give your family and friends a special gift from the Haiti alternate gift market. You can purchase goats, donkeys, chickens, computers, chapel windows, Peace Program art supplies or cisterns for our partners in Haiti in their name. Special cards naming the gift are available at the St Margaret Mary office. Who wouldn't want a goat for his birthday?

And Not a Drop to Drink

When the SMM team arrived at St. Michael's Parish in May, they found that the water situation had worsened. It was nearing the end of the dry season and one of the two springs had totally dried up. Routinely people were walking 4 to 5 hours round trip just to get water. Some parishioners now have donkeys to carry the water; many still carry it on their heads. All have to spend many hours just to get this most basic necessity.



The team still proceeded to evaluate and install 5 biosand filters in the church, clinic, schools and teacher residence and to provide funds to repair the cisterns in order to provide some solutions for right now. However this discouraging situation is causing the SMM Health Working Group to reevaluate our direction and to consider the possibility of deep well digging. The depth which must be dug probably precludes manual pumping, making this solution much more costly. But people must have water.