

APPEAL for our HAITI MISSION (ROCOR)
Haiti Orthodox Family Relief (HOFR)
April 17, 2012

Shortly after the terrible earthquake of 2010 in Haiti, with the blessing of Met. Hilarion (ROCOR), the Haiti Orthodox Family Relief (HOFR) program was conceived to directly help our most suffering poor Orthodox families living amongst our seven parishes there. Through this program, sponsors (parishes or individuals) signed on for a year of help to a particular impoverished family by sending them 100 dollars a month.

Donations to the HOFR Program Administration office in Miami are forwarded to the Fund for Assistance (ROCOR) for direct transfer to our priests in Haiti who then transfer 100% of the donated funds to the bank accounts of each sponsored family. Until now, most of these families have not had bank accounts.

Since the 7 parishes in Haiti are located all over the country and there are only two priests, Readers are responsible for nurturing the parishes as they await the monthly visits of the priests. Often it is the Readers, who must instruct numerous catechumens in preparation for baptism.

They are a vital part of the Mission in Haiti. Bishop Michael of Geneva recognized this and ordained 14 of them for all of Haiti during his visit in 2010..

In the absence of the priests, the readers are the only ones who the parishioners turn to with their problems and financial needs. For these reasons the HOFR program has been extended to them as well, by sending them \$200. dollars a month. They use these funds both for their own families and to help other desperate families of their parish as much as they can.

Many of our Orthodox faithful abroad do not understand the gravity of the situation in Haiti. Others, perhaps realize the need to help, **but consider "Haiti" to be a "lost cause"**, where donations will never make a "sustainable" difference.

It seems, some conclude that the Haitian people themselves are the cause of their own misery and thus conclude, **"Because of their own ineptitude, we are justified to dismiss and ignore their pleas.**

Our priest in Port-au-Prince, Fr.Gregoire, has explained to us the wonderful helpful blessings that have been given to the sponsored families of the HOFR Program:

--- Most of the families have been relieved from severe family food shortages with the HOFR money.

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--- Some of the parents are now able to pay for their children to attend the parish school. (There are very few public schools in Haiti).

--- Other families have been purchasing a few bricks, every month, in hopes of one day leaving their tattered tents and building their own one or two room little homes. This wonderful hope of theirs can be attainable.

--- Some families use some of their sponsorship funds to start a small business, thereby generating additional funds to support the family.

--- In some cases, the HOFR program has helped lift up, those who had fallen below the level of the most rudimentary human dignity, in "extreme" poverty.

We are asking you to help our poor faithful in Haiti by your participation in the HOFR program, if you can. You yourself will be made happy by our Lord for not "passing by". Please refer to the web site of the program. haitiorthodoxfamilyrelief.com

In Christ,
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PS: Search YouTube: "Orthodox Haiti" to see recent film interviews of sponsored families in Haiti.