

Update to the People of Resurrection on Our Haiti Twinning, June 19, 2011

For 22 years, Resurrection has been twinned in partnership with the Foyer Des Filles de Dieu, the Home of the Daughters of God, a girls' orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. We have gained much from and given much to this relationship.

Shortly after the earthquake of January 12, 2010, which devastated Port-au-Prince and greatly damaged the orphanage, we joined with other donors and partners in fundraising and planning for the construction of a new orphanage. We had every reason to believe, based on all information and on several visits to Port-au-Prince by parishioners, that this was the best course of action.

A major stumbling block arose. Paula Thybulle, the founder and director of the orphanage, refused to allow for the creation of a foundation which would own the new property and eventual building. She insisted on being the personal owner of what would be her private property.

Our Haiti Mission Committee and our Haiti Work Group, with representation from our staff, our pastoral council, and our finance council, has stood steadfast in our requirement of the establishment of a corporate entity such as a foundation, to which our financial support would be given.

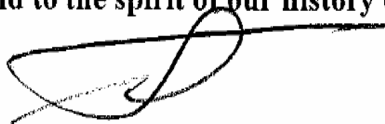
While we are pursuing one final avenue and even though the twinning relationship is not totally or finally severed, the relationship has become so tenuous such that we feel strongly that, in good conscience, we cannot ask for or accept any more financial contributions to the Haiti Orphanage Fund at this time.

So, until further notice, please do not use your Haiti envelope and please do not donate to the Haiti Orphanage Fund during this difficult and uncertain period of transition. Donations made at the Mass yesterday, Saturday, June 18, will be returned or voided. We ask for and expect a high standard of transparency and accountability from our Haiti partner. We also demand it of ourselves.

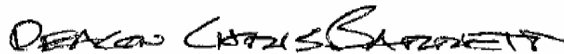
We have, in good faith and with great care and conscientiousness, safeguarded and stewarded your financial contributions throughout the 22 year history of this twinning. We will continue to do so with the substantial Haiti Reserve that we have built through your generosity.

If there is a resolution with Paula Thybulle and the Foyer, then we'll begin again in time with seeking your financial help. If there is no agreement, then we will explore possibilities for the establishment of a new Haiti mission and twin, for which we would ask for your help.

Our parish and our diocese are committed to partnership with the people of Haiti. Our parish and our diocese will continue in that commitment. We continue to be in prayer for and in solidarity with all the people of Haiti and we continue to seek to be in a very particular partnership with and mission to a specific institution that serves children in the earthquake-ravaged city of Port-au-Prince so as to be as faithful as possible to the spirit in which your donations have been given in the past and to the spirit of our history of twinning.



Fr. Salvador Añonuevo, pastor



Deacon Chris Barrett, senior pastoral associate