

Off The Top of My Head...

Two topics this week.

First, HAITI: First this weekend, I have a brief report from our sister parish in Haiti, St. Louis du Sud. Our new Pastor there, Father Benoit Tulcé, reports that there were six deaths in the community, and damage to some of the parish mission chapels in the outlying areas, as well as to many homes. Apparently, the crops were completely destroyed. His final statement is as follows: "Very bad situation, but people are still alive and full of hope. Thank you, Father. We keep you in our prayers." I'm hoping to learn more about the damages and how our parish might be able to help. I will keep everyone posted! And as the people of our sister parish are praying for us, let's remember to pray for them as well.

Second, FRUITFUL HARVEST: This month we begin our solicitation of pledges for the Fruitful Harvest campaign. This week's bulletin insert provides basic information about the campaign. A frequently asked question about the Fruitful Harvest campaign, is this: "Why does the diocese need our money?"

The short answer is that the diocese needs our money for the same purpose that the parish needs our money. The people of the church (parish and diocese) are the main source of its income. Just like the parish, the diocese has buildings to maintain and salaries to pay. And these buildings and salaries support the mission of the diocese, which is connected to that of the parish but is different.

For instance: The diocese helps support campus ministry at Purdue University, Ball State University, and Wabash College. Because these campuses are located in our diocese, the diocese has a responsibility to support them. And...the diocese is US.

Another example: The Diocesan Tribunal. If a Catholic wants to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage but that person or the intended spouse has been married before, a decree of nullity is usually needed. There is a cost for the process of seeking such a decree, mainly to pay the salaries of the staff in the Tribunal. Our diocese, however, does not charge any fees to pass on the expense of these salaries. Our diocese makes the process less difficult for those going through it. And...the diocese is US.

Stay tuned for more information on Fruitful Harvest in the next couple of weeks.

And please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift.

Fr. Tom Metzger
6 November 2016