

Dear Father,

I would like to share the latest information we have from Haiti. Because of the many donations we have received, we were able to pledge an initial £100,000 to the church's response, which is being co-ordinated in Haiti through Caritas Internationalis, the international network of Catholic aid agencies, of which SCIAF is a member. Caritas Haiti responded immediately the earthquake struck, and they have now been joined by Caritas USA and 11 international Caritas staff with specialist skills. They will co-ordinate the work of helping those who have survived the tragedy, which has killed so many and destroyed so much. By the end of this week there will be a team of around 24 Caritas staff in Port au Prince.

Their initial target is to help 50,000 survivors with water, sanitation, shelter and food. Parishes are helping provide basic services in camps for survivors. Food packages are being distributed and water storage containers, water purification tablets, hygiene kits, cooking utensils and plastic sheeting are being prepared in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Bishop Pierre Dumas, President of Caritas Haiti, sent this message yesterday (19th January):

"I believe that our charity and the way in which we live this crisis will help increase our humanity. It will help us be more generous, open and available to each other, because the symbolic ways of living together have been destroyed. All of the symbols which join us together: the cathedral, the president's palace, ministries, the schools, religious communities and many more places are in ruins."

Michelle Hough from Caritas International said: "Every night around 11.30pm, people who are sleeping in the street start to sing and pray. It's one of the few signs of hope amid the shock and devastation. The With many thanks for all your support and generous donations, which are arriving every day.

Peter McMillan, SCIAF Parish Officer

The second collection last week raised a massive **£809** for Haiti, Well done for your generosity.

Monday 1 February, Harry Burns, the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland will be giving a talk in St Paul's Hall, Shettleston at 7pm on health in the East End. This is organised by the deanery and is open to everyone.

2nd collection on 14 February as part of Catholic Education week.

Sick: Mary Smith, Mary Kelly, Betty McSherry, Robert McManus, Alden Ross Murray, Senga Duncan, Sally McGee, Alex Gunn, Gerard Deighan, Victor Verzluk, Karen Edge, Willie Wallon, Brian McKenna, Kathleen Welsh RIP: Mary Paterson,

Month's Mind: Helen Carrigan, Tony McManus, (sixth month's mind) Anniversaries: Donnie Casey, Michael Timoney, John Shannon, Elizabeth O'Neill, Lorraine Brown, Agnes Jamieson, Thomas Coyle, Mary Howatt, Anne Gologly, Angus Brown, Alex McQuade, Kathleen Burns

Vincentian Reflection: In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reads the words of scripture: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

Have you considered answering the call to "bring glad tidings to the poor" by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

Freecycling is coming to the parish soon, the Justice and Peace Group will be setting up a Freecycling exchange board in the porch from Sunday 30 January as part of Poverty & Homelessness Action Week, the theme for the week is "Enough for All", more details next week

What is Freecycling: Freecycling matches people who have things they want to get rid of with people who can use them. Our goal is to keep usable items out of landfills by using what we already have on this earth, we reduce consumerism, manufacture fewer goods, and lessen the impact on the earth. Another benefit of using Freecycle is that it encourages us to get rid of junk that we no longer need and builds community involvement in the process.

How does Freecycle work? Everything posted must be free, legal and appropriate for all ages. When you want to OFFER something - whether it's a chair, TV, that coat you bought but never wore, the kid's bikes they have grown out of or an old door, simply complete a freecycle card and post it on the board and complete the freecycle control log.

Maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself? Post a WANTED message on the board and someone may just have what you're looking for.

After that it is up to the giver to decide who receives the gift from the responses they receive and to set up a collection time, and finally complete the freecycle log that you have completed a successful freecycle exchange. So start looking out those items you want to pass on to a good home

DISCLAIMER: FREECYCLE USERS DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK. Please take reasonable measures to protect your safety and privacy when participating in an exchange. By participating in freecycling at any stage, you agree to hold neither the board owners (The St Jude & St John Ogilvie Justice & Peace Group) or the parish of St Jude & St John Ogilvie responsible or liable for any circumstance resulting from a Freecycle-related exchange or communication.