

HAITI

Deacon Matthew Williams - ROCOR cleric

Eyewitness Report & Presentation

Holy Virgin Protection Church

51 Prospect St, Nyack, NY 10960

1/31/2009 ~12pm

after Sunday Liturgy in Church Hall following lunch

Donations accepted in Church Hall

and in Church Collection Plate following Liturgy

Donation Mailing Address: Holy Virgin Protection Church, Haiti Relief Fund, 38 So. Mill Street, Nyack, NY 10960

Information: 845 353 1155

Haiti Mission's Most Pressing Concerns

by Deacon Matthew Williams

January, 27

House Springs, MO - I have just returned from a week in Haiti following the disastrous earthquake on Jan 12. The condition of the mission in Haiti, along with the population at large, is dire beyond all imagination. While there, I visited three parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church, meeting with the faithful and assessing their needs. I traveled with a paramedic/medical officer from Belfast, Ireland (Lars Stuewe) who was able to treat approximately 50 sick and wounded, including many of our parishioners. There are so many concerns that I hardly know where to begin, but I will mention a few of the issues I believe to be most pressing.



Haiti Mission Parish Situation

January, 26

New York

Port-au-Prince

Church of the Nativity of the Virgin is still standing but damaged. One reader, Vladimir, is missing and cannot be located. There are no confirmed casualties in the parish. The school operated by Fr. Jean Chenier Dumais was completely destroyed, along with his home and vehicle.



Fontamara

Fr Gregoire Legoute's home withstood both quakes, but the chapel of St Moses sustained some damage. The school operated by Fr Gregoire is damaged as well.

Jacmel

The house where services are held is standing without damage. About thirty of the parishioners are injured, with three admitted to the hospital.

Leogane

The Church of Sts Peter and Paul and many houses were destroyed, but no details regarding the situation of the faithful is available.

The parishes in Cayes, Cap Haitien, and Maissade were unaffected.

The Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia assists Haiti

Voice of America

Washington, January 20- A week has passed since the world was horrified to learn of the disaster in Haiti. Today's catastrophic situation in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas was increased by the magnitude 6 aftershock.

Various countries have sent in rescue workers, doctors and essential provisions to Haiti. According to some sources, the number of victims of the tragedy may reach two hundred thousand. [Read more...](#)



Haiti Mission Parish in Leogane destroyed

January, 21

New York - According to the ROCOR delegation to Haiti the church building of our ROCOR Sts. Peter & Paul parish in Leogane was completely destroyed in the earthquake. The situation in Jacmel, where there is another mission parish, is "not too bad."





Press Release: FFA reponse to Haiti Earthquakes

January, 21

New York - The Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) has supported a Russian Orthodox parish in Haiti for some time (see article in our December newsletter). There are about 2,000 Orthodox Christians in Haiti, and the number constantly increases, owing to the tireless missionary efforts of the island's two Orthodox priests, Fr. Jean Chenier-Dumais, and Fr. Gregoire Legouté. [Read more..](#)

A Message from FFA Executive Director

January, 20

New York - Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Another 6.0 earthquake struck Haiti today. The situation in that poor country is dire.

As of today the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia has collected over \$50,000 and disbursed \$16,000 of aid to the suffering people of Haiti through trusted clergymen on the ground there. This is an ongoing fundraising effort.

We are working towards opening a clinic on the grounds of one of our five parishes in Haiti. Please pray for Fr. Gregoire, Fr. Jean, their long-suffering parishioners and for the members of our delegation, who are doing a magnificent job in Haiti, negotiated with the United Nations, the Red Cross, IOCC and other organizations to get aid to our people.



ROCOR priests in Haiti alive, mission school in Port-au-Prince destroyed - Updated January, 17

New York - The Fund for Assistance is happy to inform our supporters that both ROCOR priests in the Haiti mission and their families are alive.

"They are staying together and sleeping outdoors - afraid of more tremours," said Matushka Sophia McKenzie who reached Fr. Gregoire Legoute by telephone on Saturday, January 16.

The mission's main church of Nativity of the Theotokos in Port-au-Prince suffered some damage, but is still standing with its roof intact; the adjoining school belonging to the mission has been destroyed. There is no news of ROCOR parishioners yet.

Haiti Tragedy: Statement by the First Hierarchy of the Russian Church Abroad

January, 17

New York - It was with pain in my heart that I learned of the terrible catastrophe that has befallen the people of Haiti, and wish to express my profound empathy with the anguish felt by all the island's occupants, and especially our brothers and sisters carrying on their service to God and man within the Orthodox Mission of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. I pray for the repose of the souls of those who died during the earthquake, I pray for those who survived, that the Lord bless them with His consolation and heavenly aid. May the Lord bless the rescuers and all those who are going to that country with the aim of helping its occupants!

[Read more...](#)



Fr. Gregoire Legoute, one of two ROCOR priests in Haiti alive

January, 15

New York - According to Matushka Sophia McKenzie, Fr. Gregoire Legoute is alive. She spoke with him for a moment before the line dropped.

"I only know that he was alive at the moment. He said things are bad and then we were cut off," she said in a telephone interview.

Nothing is known about his family or Fr. Jean Chenier-Dumais, the other ROCOR priest in Haiti.



Please Assist Our mission in Haiti! January, 13

New York -

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A very powerful earthquake has devastated Haiti, the poorest country in our hemisphere. The media reports that up to 3,000,000 Haitians have been affected by this calamity. Life in Haiti is very difficult under normal circumstances. Now it is on the brink of becoming unbearable.

Folks there need our help.

We ask you to please pass this information to your friends and families and to urgently help those who are suffering!

