

HAITI - LENT APPEAL 2021

Despite the serious situation that this country is experiencing, Sister Natalia laments that **“Haiti never appears in the news... yes, when there are serious catastrophes like the earthquakes and when people die... then for a brief period of time there is a “a lot of noise, but then, silence once again.”**

For Sister Mónica, the problem in Haiti is there is no on-going assistance that enables the country to move forward.”

“Despite all the difficulties, it is a blessing to be able to be here,” says Sister Mónica, while Sister Natalia says “I would not change places with anyone.”

“The gratitude of the people, who see our little help as very useful, that gratitude provides us with much satisfaction,” concludes Sister Mónica Jiménez



**PLEASE HELP THESE PEOPLE
WITH YOUR LENTEN GIVING**



The latest disaster to strike Haiti – not reported there are so many it is old news before it is new news.

Earthquakes, Tsunami, Storms are all part of everyday life for the people and now Covid 19. Nothing like on the scale that we have it in this country but there again the population and size of the country is so small in comparison with UK.

The suffering is certainly greater, the poverty is certainly greater.

The Daughters of Charity in Haiti do what they can but need our help.

Please take a LENT BOX for Haiti and one for our parish if you can.



In the area of La Plaine, just outside Port-au-Prince (capital of Haiti), five Daughters of Charity, two Spaniards, one Haitian, and one person from Poland minister at a medical dispensary and a day centre for the elderly.

In this neighbourhood, like so many others in the Haitian capital, most houses do not have electricity or running water, the streets are not paved, and there are mountains of rubbish everywhere. The breakfast and the food that the

Sisters provide in the day centre are the only food that some of the neighbours receive.

“In Haiti, people really go hungry,” says Natalia Martínez de Pablo, from Valencia (España), who at 72 and with an “incredible good health” is the eldest of the Sisters in this country. She arrived 27 years ago, after having ministered living in Switzerland and Thailand.

“At least here they eat and get a little food for the night, because they have nothing. They are people who are totally abandoned,” she cries.



As the sisters walk through the streets of this area, they encounter some of their neighbours carrying water that they obtained from public wells, and they pause to rejoice with a couple of children who proudly show the Sisters their new toys (two cars that they themselves built with plastic bottles).

The Sisters affirm that they are not afraid, although they remember that a few years ago the centre was assaulted and several of the Sisters were beaten.

“They respect us. They know that in religious communities, especially communities of women, we are here for them. If we have something, it is for them,” says Sister Mónica, who has been in Haiti for 8 years.



Every 15 days, the religious, who also attend to medical emergencies on weekends, visit the sick in their homes.

In Jacmel, on Haiti’s southern coast, Felician Srs.



Mary Inga Borko and Marilyn Marie Minter help run a mobile clinic, an afternoon afterschool feeding and tutoring program and provide spiritual care for their neighbors. They have found similar challenges, as well as moments of grace and hope.

Both sets of sisters, and others who work in Haiti, speak of the importance of “accompaniment” — the spiritual underpinning of their work that keeps them bonded to the people they serve. That sense is particularly important in Haiti, where frustrations are many and where success, in the traditional sense of the word, can be spotty.

“All we can do is help them tap into what they already have,” said Moore, who, like Nchubiri, frequently uses the terms “accompany” and “accompaniment” to describe what they and other sisters do in Haiti.