



St. Andrew the Apostle

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Love God, Serve Neighbor, Nurture Disciples

September 2024

CONCERNING THE HAITI GOAT PROJECT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

St. Andrew's has generously supported the Haiti Goat Project for 20 years! It has been a life-changing experience – both for those of us who support it, as well as those who are the recipients of our support. Increasing the protein intake of children has led to better performance in school, better overall health, and entire family systems have been improved, and even communities.

Sadly, the current situation in Haiti has so deteriorated that the school/community we have been serving has had to relocate. Which means it will no longer be 'Haiti Goat.'

We discussed this with the parish council and finance council. I was delighted that we decided to continue to support the people of Haiti, AS WE HAVE FOR 20 YEARS, but it will now be funneled through a yet-to-be determined other entity. We are looking for a reliable on-ground group that we can trust to disburse the money effectively. This will most likely be a church-run organization, Catholic or otherwise. We will seek input from those who have been involved and we know, and follow their recommendation.

I write this to you now, because some of you donate throughout the year, and we wanted you to be aware that while the name may change, our commitment to help the poorest of the poor beyond our own local area remains the same. The Second Vatican Council said that we, as the church, should operate with a 'preferential option' for the poor, a term first coined by Fr. Pedro Arrupe, once the head of the Jesuits. In #90 of the Church's Document on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*), the Fathers of the Council wrote: "Different Catholic international bodies can assist the community of nations on the way to peace and brotherhood; these bodies should be strengthened by enlarging the number of their well-trained members, by increasing the subsidies they need so badly, and by suitable coordination of their forces. Nowadays efficiency of action and the need for dialogue call for concerted effort. Organizations of this kind, moreover, contribute more than a little to the instilling of a feeling of universality, which is certainly appropriate for Catholics (*CATHOLIC means UNIVERSAL, JGD note*), and to the formation of truly worldwide solidarity and responsibility." (#90a) I am proud to be part of a parish that has served the poor locally in so many ways, while not neglecting our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

Our support for the people of Haiti demonstrates our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in all parts of the world, and fulfills the command of Jesus in Matthew 25, "As long as you did it to one of these least ones, you did it to me."



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Going forward, we can continue to write checks to support Haiti. For the moment, make the checks out to the parish, with the memo marked 'Haiti.' We will hold those funds in a separate account to be distributed as soon as possible. There will also be a new WeShare giving link for 'Haiti Support.' We hope this will be resolved within the next several months. The need in Haiti is not going away; they now need our support more than ever. I'm happy that the church has very strict protocols for these donations, and they must be followed to the letter. Which means every penny donated for Haiti WILL (and MUST) go to Haiti.

Bottom line? **We will** continue to support Haiti in whatever new form/name it takes. We just want you to be aware that a name may change, but we will continue to hold your funds (as we have for the past 20 years) until the appropriate time for distribution.

THANK YOU for recognizing Jesus in the poor everywhere. It makes us truly CATHOLIC.

Father John