

# BERCY SCHOOL HAITI

## Saint Thomas à Becket Mission Committee Project

### THE SITUATION IN HAITI IS DIRE THIS YEAR!

FR. DOSSOUS WRITES THAT PARENTS ARE STRUGGLING TO FEED THEIR CHILDREN, AND THE SCHOOL SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH RESOURCES.

- GANG VIOLENCE • FUEL SHORTAGES • FOOD INSECURITY

### YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS WILL HELP!

THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT WE PROVIDE TO THIS SMALL RURAL FARMING COMMUNITY IN HAITI SUPPORTS THE BASIC NEEDS THAT MAKE EDUCATION A REALITY FOR THESE IMPOVERISHED CHILDREN.



**HOT LUNCH**



**TUITION ASSISTANCE**



**TEACHER SALARY**



**BUILDING PROJECTS**



**BOOKS AND SUPPLIES**



**DISASTER RELIEF**

### THE NEED IN BERCY IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH!

**SAINT THOMAS à BECKET CAN HELP THEM TO OVERCOME THESE EXTREME DIFFICULTIES.**

Can you please help? Checks may be placed in the Sunday collection or dropped off or mailed to the parish office - please be sure to write "Bercy School" on the memo line! You may also make a one-time or recurring gift through Faith Direct and designating it to the Bercy School.

If you would like to join our email list or lend your talent and compassion to this effort by becoming a Haiti Mission Committee member, please email us at [bercy.stab.reston@gmail.com](mailto:bercy.stab.reston@gmail.com)

**You Can Help Make This Program a Success Again This Year! See Next Page for More!**

### MORE DETAILS ON THE SITUATION IN BERCY AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

Since 2010, the parishioners of St. Thomas à Becket have generously supported a small parochial elementary school in Bercy, Haiti. Your support has not only enabled countless children to receive an education and a daily hot lunch, it has also improved the school infrastructure significantly, financed important health initiatives and helped the community to get back on its feet after several natural disasters. Your previous generosity has been nothing short of awe-inspiring!

This year, as you have no doubt seen in the news, the situation in Haiti is especially dire with violent gangs terrorizing Port au Prince and causing acute shortages of fuel and food throughout the country. The World Food Program estimates that more than 40 percent of Haitians are food insecure and about a third of that group needs emergency food assistance, including the rural area in southern Haiti where Bercy is located. The Bercy school administrator, Fr. Dossous, writes that parents of our students are struggling to feed their children, and the school simply does not have enough resources to provide a daily meal to all who need it because of the very high food prices. A 25 kg sack of rice, 12 kg of beans and a gallon of cooking oil now cost \$100 - well beyond the means of individual families and well beyond the school's lunch program budget.

A gang-related fuel blockade halted virtually all travel within Haiti during September and October and made it impossible for schools in Bercy and surrounding areas to hold classes. The support provided by St. Thomas à Becket during that time helped to ensure that our teachers were paid and could survive in this difficult environment. The blockade was lifted in November, and classes have been slowly resuming as gas begins to trickle into the area, although the high fuel prices continue to restrict travel. Your support as schools re-open will help to give our 300+ students a safe place to learn and a chance to be nourished.

Unfortunately, while the need in Bercy is at an all-time high, our funding level is at an all-time low. Available funds will support resumed school operations only through January 2023. **We need to raise \$12,500 just to maintain our historical monthly contribution level through the normal end of the school year in June 2023, and even that amount will fall short of providing the help needed in the current inflationary crisis.** Fr. Dossous states frankly that without the help of the St. Thomas à Becket donors, they will not make it through this school year. His plea comes from the heart, *"Help us to overcome these difficulties. Help us to take care of the children so that they are able to study and succeed academically. We are counting on you to help the children today so that tomorrow they will be useful to the community and serve their country."*

Can you please help? Checks may be placed in the Sunday collection or dropped off or mailed to the parish office - please be sure to write "Bercy School" on the memo line! You may also make a one-time or recurring gift through Faith Direct, again designating the Bercy School.

If you would like more information about the parish efforts in Bercy, you can reach the committee at [bercy.stab.reston@gmail.com](mailto:bercy.stab.reston@gmail.com) or you may contact committee members individually by reaching out to Frank Vlossak ([frankvlossak@yahoo.com](mailto:frankvlossak@yahoo.com)), Julie Schoenman ([jschoenman@comcast.net](mailto:jschoenman@comcast.net)) or John Walsh ([jambrosew62@gmail.com](mailto:jambrosew62@gmail.com)).

**WE ALSO CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR PARISHIONERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE, SO PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED HELPING IN THAT WAY.**

**Thank you!**