

WE'RE JUST A CLICK AWAY

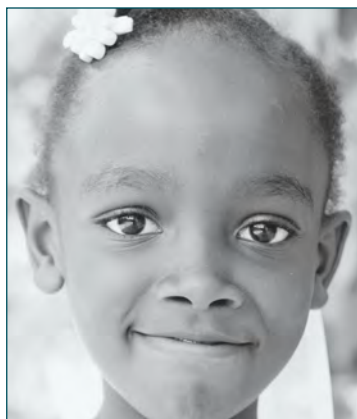
Learn more about our work and how you can assist children and families in Haiti. Visit our new website:

www.outreachtohaiti.org
(to be launched in April).

You can also find us on **Facebook** and **Twitter**. Simply search by: Outreach to Haiti.

If you would like to join our e-mailed list-serve, send your e-mail address to us at: info@outreachtohaiti.org. You will receive short updates on happenings concerning our Outreach mission and other Haiti-related news and events.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Norwich Priest Takes New Post as Chaplain & Twinning Director

Fr. Frank Rouleau heads to Port-au-Prince in March to take the new Outreach to Haiti position of Chaplain & Twinning Director.

Fr. Rouleau will live in the capital, working with the priests in nine parishes within the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince that are twinned with parishes in the United States through an Outreach program. Also, he will work with the Archdiocese itself, which has a partnership with the Diocese of Norwich.

"We'll be making sure there's communication between the parishes," he said. "If there are problems or questions, we'll work out solutions so that everybody is onboard."

In other duties, Fr. Rouleau will provide a spiritual component to the visits by guests staying either at the Outreach mission house in Petion-Ville or at the Outreach campus in Christ Roi. He will guide reflections and celebrate Mass. Once a week, he will celebrate Mass for all the Haitian staff.

A Creole speaker, Fr. Rouleau lived for eight months in Haiti in 2000 and 2001 to learn the language and culture. That assignment came only months after his ordination in the Diocese of Norwich in 2000. The priesthood became his second-career vocation after many years as a psycho-therapist.

After his return from Haiti, Fr. Rouleau, who is



Fr. Frank Rouleau.

65, helped to establish the Haitian Apostolate at St. Mary Church in Norwich. He was with the Haitian community there for eight years, offering Sunday Mass and "being a bridge-builder" between the immigrants and other city residents and services.

During those same years and until early 2011, Fr. Rouleau also served in the Diocese of Norwich at: St. Joseph in New London; St. Michael in Pawcatuck; St. John in Montville; St. Stephen in Quinebaug; and St. John in Plainfield.

Fr. Rouleau grew up in New Britain, Conn., the oldest of three boys. His mother was a homemaker and his father a carpenter. He earned his undergraduate degree from Pace University in New York City, a master's in psychology from the University of Arizona, and a second master's in management (for non-profits) from Leslie University in Cambridge, Mass.

Before the priesthood, Fr. Rouleau's work with people suffering from addictions and other mental health problems took him to jobs with United Social and Mental Health Services in Danielson and Willimantic; the Stonington Institute; and Elmcrest Hospital in Portland.

He said he is looking forward to his new appointment in Haiti. The people, he said, are extraordinary "for the sense of hope they have that things will get better."

Welcome to espwa

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The two mission sites remain in operation, one in Petion-Ville, which was rented by Haitian Ministries after its house was destroyed in the earthquake. The other, in the Christ Roi district of Port-au-Prince, was established by Hospice St. Joseph 22 years ago and remains a base despite destruction of the main building on Jan. 12th last year. Eventually, all operations will be consolidated in Christ Roi, after a new mission complex is built.

In Connecticut, Outreach will keep its office at 199 Broadway, Norwich, CT, which is the same address used by Haitian Ministries and Hospice St. Joseph. The office phone number is: 860.848.2237 ext.206.

By mid-April, if not sooner, we expect to launch a new website: www.outreachtohaiti.org. You'll find our new board of directors and much more, including a blog with regular postings from administrators, staff and friends.

In closing, we assure you that Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti continues to serve Haitians in need. The merger will strengthen and make more efficient the programs that have been in place over the last two decades in Port-au-Prince and surrounding parishes. Through the support of friends like you, the mission of Outreach to Haiti will continue for many years to come.



The mission house in Petion-Ville.



The Outreach campus in Christ Roi.

Scholarship Leads to Virginia Tech

A Lending Hand Opens Doors to His Education

Education has taken Ezechiel Prampin to places he never dreamed of seeing, at least not when he was a sixth-grader and accepted into a scholarship program run by Outreach to Haiti.

That was years ago. Today, the 26-year-old is in his final semester of undergraduate studies in industrial engineering. He is spending that semester at Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Va., after being one of two selected from his engineering classes at Quisqueya University in Port-au-Prince.

Although selection for this special program is testament to his capabilities and high achievements, Ezechiel likely would not be where he is today were it not for the scholarship program that enabled him to go to school for the last 10 years. The Tierney-Tobin Memorial Scholarship program, along with a scholarship program started by Hos-



Ezechiel Prampin.

pice St. Joseph in 1989, provide full tuition payments for him and 300 other impoverished children, teenagers and young adults. All have been accepted based on their economic need. Their families do not have the money to pay tuitions to private schools, which provide most of the education in Haiti because the public system is inadequate.

To remain tuition-recipients, students must also show academic merit; they must maintain above-average grades while attending high-performing schools (measured by student achievements and teacher qualifications).

Ezechiel has done well, despite odds against him. His father died several years ago. His mother made money for her family of seven by selling goods on the street. Ezechiel is the youngest among his brothers and sisters. He has worked hard in school, realizing even as a young boy that a good education

might be the best way to lift himself out of extreme poverty.

Now acclimated to the colder climate of Virginia, he is taking courses and special English classes. (Even before travelling to Virginia, he showed language proficiency, because his selection interview in Haiti was conducted in English.) He is also looking forward to May 15th. By that time, he should be back in Port-au-Prince, ready to graduate with his class.

The scholarship programs are themselves success stories. More than 90 percent of those accepted remain in the programs at least through secondary school graduation. All who pass the national examinations are encouraged to go onto higher education. Outreach to Haiti seeks donors in the United States willing to sponsor their studies by providing for their annual tuitions. Like the others, Ezechiel has shown where this kind of help can lead. It has made all the difference in his life.

To learn more about sponsoring a student for the upcoming academic year, please contact us at: 860.848.2237 ext. 206. Or e-mail: info@outreachtohaiti.org.

New partnership creates shelters

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quake rubble from their land and show proof of property ownership. All of the homes are the product of the Ti Shelter (Small Shelter) pilot project, which has partnered Outreach to Haiti and the international Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

"It's been a real success," said Ben Krause, who spearheaded this neighborhood project for CRS, which is responsible for the funding. In a conversation in Christ Roi in January, Krause attributed much of the accomplishment to Max Delices and Pharra Hyppolite, Outreach's executive director and hospitality director, respectively. "They've been here, in the neighborhood and part of it. Their creativity and knowledge are behind it. Anything that CRS accomplishes here is because of (Outreach). It couldn't have happened without them."

The first house went up in July. Each measures 12 feet-by-16 feet and has a concrete foundation, treated lumber for the sides, and metal for the roof. Every house has two rooms and cut-outs for windows. Heavy-duty plastic is available for window coverings. The program provides the paint, which prolongs the life of the wood. Homeowners are asked to apply the color of their choosing. The cost for one house runs from \$1,500 to \$2,000. For the construction, a team of about five people—including carpenters and masons—do the work. Those teams and other CRS employees working on the Ti-Shelter project here use the Outreach campus as their base.

In part because of the success in Christ Roi, CRS envisions putting up 8,000 Ti Shelters throughout the city. In the Outreach neighborhood, some homeowners are still adding touches to their dwellings. People often modify their front rooms; some have created more open, porch-like spaces, while others turned the front sections into kitchens and eating areas, or second bedrooms.

"Yes, for some people, these shelters are more than what they had even before the earthquake," said Krause. "There's one man who's al-



Two Ti Shelters in the Christ Roi neighborhood.

ready started to build a permanent house on his property. He's doing it around the Ti-Shelter. It's pretty amazing."

Providing clean water and sanitation systems for these homes and other permanent ones that will rise up in the neighborhood in months and years to come is in the long-range plan. CRS has already brought in other groups for their assistance in removing the rubble of large buildings that fell in the earthquake. Clearing property is a basic requirement for redevelopment, but in many cases the task is difficult for reasons of money, logistics and disposal of the ruins.

Despite these difficulties and many more ahead, the achievements in hand are significant. Men, women and children without homes are once again living safely in their neighborhood. Others have found work and wages in the redevelopment effort. Now a community can see that change for the better is possible. And Outreach and CRS have shown the power of partnership.

Story by Kyn Tolson, Development Director.



Doctors Wilkens Gilbert (left) and **Tom Gorin** have worked together in medical missions in and around Port-au-Prince. Dr. Gorin, of Storrs, Conn., sponsored the medical education in Haiti of Dr. Gilbert, who is now a surgeon. This winter and spring, he is in a three-month surgical training at The Brooklyn Hospital Center in New York.

Mark The Calendar

Saturday, April 9

The **2nd Annual CT Walks for Haiti** to raise money for five organizations aiding Haitians begins with registration opening at 10:30 a.m. at St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford.

Participants are asked to collect donations for the 2.5 walk, which goes through West Hartford Center and Blue Back Square.

Registration will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon, and the walk goes from noon to 2 p.m. Crafts sales, entertainment, food, and a silent auction will run from 10:30 to 2 p.m.

Outreach to Haiti is one of the agencies that will benefit. For more information, see: www.ctwalksforhaiti.org.

July 14-16

The **54rd Guilford Art Center Craft Expo**, one of the oldest and finest outdoor juried craft shows in Connecticut, includes an expansive array of crafts and art from Haiti. Our non-profit Haiti's Back Porch sets up tents in front of St. George Church, at the Guilford Green.



A Ti Shelter owner paints his new home in the Christ Roi neighborhood of Port-au-Prince.

Outreach & CRS join hands

New Partnership Creates Color, Homes and Hope for a Better Community

The hillside of this Christ Roi neighborhood in Port-au-Prince is a canvas of grey—relieved only by occasional spots of blue, yellow, or turquoise.

Indeed, grey is the prevailing tone of Haiti's capital. Cinderblock dominates the urban landscape, whether it's part of buildings or in piles of rubble.



OUTREACH
FOR HAITI

At first glance, this neighborhood—hit hard by the devastating earthquake last January—offers little exception. But a closer look shows a difference. From the Outreach to Haiti campus at #33 Rue Acacia, one can see bright dots of color amidst the warren of cinderblock housing and ruins on the slope nearby. A small blue house stands out, so, too, one painted yellow not far away. Two more, in turquoise, are nearby.

These homes are more than a chromatic relief. For the Haitian families now living in them, they are a "life relief"—temporary but sturdy dwellings that should provide safe, clean places in their own neighborhood, rather than the danger and dislocation of a tent city. By design and material, these structures should last at least three years while the owners find the wherewithal to build permanent dwellings on their same land.

Today, about 500 of these shelters have been built for free for people who have been able to clear the earth-

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Welcome to espwa and our new Outreach

It's in your hands—the first edition of espwa newsletter.

Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti plans to send you every year at least two newsletters (along with other mailings) that deliver news and updates of what's happening in our mission in Haiti and in the United States.

Our first edition signals new times, for sure. But in ways most important, not much has changed. Outreach to Haiti is new, but as the successor organization to Haitian Ministries for the Diocese of Norwich and Hospice St. Joseph for the Diocese of Norwich, it continues the work that has been under way for more than two decades. In helping and serving Haitians in need, it brings together the operations and programs of those two sister agencies.

The union preserves Haitian Ministries; support to: the twinning program; the Tierney-Tobin scholarships for high-achieving but needy students; the food for children at Madame Samson's house and on the island of La Gonave; the two orphanages (Paula Thybulle's orphanage and Maison L'Arc-en-Ciel); immersion visits and the guest house; and the non-profit Haiti's Back Porch shop in Middletown, Conn., a retail and on-line outlet that supports Haitian artisans with the sales of their art and crafts.

The numerous programs of Hospice St. Joseph are also kept in place. They include: scholarships for more than 150 students; the on-site and the mobile medical clinics; the community health initiative; a neighborhood nutrition program; hospitality for visiting medical groups and volunteers; the Guests from the Provinces program, providing medical care and advocacy for patients from rural provinces in need of care in Port-au-Prince; vocational training; and economic development, notably in the Ti Shelter project with Catholic Relief Services.

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