

## Reflections on the Mission Trip to Haiti (January 28 to February 2, 2019)

1. This was my first visit to Haiti and I must say that I have come away proud of the Haiti Mission Group at Holy Trinity Parish. I am pleased to have been a part of this group of generous and dedicated parishioners.
2. I was happy to learn that there are over 300 Catholic parishes in the USA twinned with parishes in Haiti, not to mention the hundreds of other Christian Churches that also assist the people of Haiti.
3. Having experience of the difficulty in promoting Catholic Stewardship in the Church in Bermuda, I was happy to learn that Holy Trinity Parish tithes a portion of its total income (one half of one percent) to support Fr. Isaac and Notre Dame Parish in LaVoute. I am sure that the courage to tithe will bring blessings to Holy Trinity Parishioners.
4. I strongly support the decision of the Haiti Mission Group of the parish to focus on the practical necessities in assisting the people of Notre Dame parish in Haiti by way of providing water filters and practical instruction in their use to selected people of the parish and the village. I was fascinated to witness the training sessions of nearly 50 women in the use of the water filters for the benefit of their families and two others families of their choice. Clean water is a blessing for the people of LaVoute.
5. I also admire the generosity of Deacon Pat Blaney in staying in Haiti for an extra week to provide much needed dental care to the people of LaVoute and the vicinity.
6. Finally, I am grateful to God for the opportunity to meet some of the truly beautiful and simple people of God in Haiti as well as the people who serve them like Fr. Isaac and the Sisters of the Holy Spirit who run a school and a clinic in LaVoute.

But I also have to confess that the trip to Haiti has left me with a bewildering question that has haunted me for a very long time: how can it be that in a country like Haiti that claims to be 80% Catholic we see such dire poverty and social inequality? Why does our great Catholic teaching on Social Justice or, even more so, the command of Jesus to “love our neighbor as ourselves” have such a hard time entering into the social fabric of our contemporary society?

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