



Press Release

Mass for Haiti at Saint Joseph's Oratory Donations of \$26,417.05 presented to Development and Peace

Montréal, January 26, 2010 – It was with great joy that the pastoral teams from the Diocese of Montréal and Saint Joseph's Oratory presented \$26,417.05 to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. The pilgrims participating in the masses at the Oratory on January 16 and 17 donated \$11,913.33, and an additional \$14,503.72 was collected during the January 23 special mass for Haiti, representing a total of \$26,417.05.

During the special mass, Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte asked God to help us to be generous, not only today, but also in the weeks, months and years to come. The rector of Saint Joseph's Oratory, Father Claude Grou, C.S.C., emotionally acknowledged that “we cannot remain indifferent when a nation is trying to recover after such a tragedy. If we make such a gesture of solidarity, it is because the Haitian people demonstrate an unshakeable faith in God, in life and in the future. The Haitians inspire us. We must be at their side. We thank all of our pilgrims.”

“We are touched by the immense generosity of the community. Men and women are suffering, and very quickly people of good will are mobilizing to come to their aid,” observed Michael Casey, Managing Director of Development and Peace. As of Tuesday, January 26, the organization has collected 1.5 million dollars, and continues to receive all of the funds donated during the special collections taken up in Canadian parishes last weekend.

More than 2,000 people took part in the special mass for Haiti, celebrated on January 23, with numerous members of the Haitian community of metropolitan Montréal, several Haitian priests, and dignitaries representing various levels of government in attendance.

The monetary donations collected by Development and Peace for Haiti are used to provide emergency aid through Caritas Haiti. “They support the hard work of reconstruction that the population of Haiti is undertaking,” adds Michael Casey. It is still possible to make a donation by telephone at 1 888 664-3387, by internet at www.devp.org, or by cheque, payable to: Development and Peace (indicating **Haiti Emergency**), at the following address:

Development and Peace
1425 René-Lévesque Boulevard West, 3rd Floor
Montréal, Québec H3G 1T7

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Source and Information

Photos of the special mass for Haiti at the Oratory are available upon request.

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