

UPDATE HAITI RELIEF

March 12, 2010

Vice President Clermont Fortin maintains regular contacts with Bro. Élisbé Lesly, President of the National Council of Haiti, by telephone and by E-mail. Vincentians in Haiti are showing a lot of resilience and courage in face of such dire living conditions.

The SSVP National Office in Port-au-Prince cannot be used due to cracks in the walls; the owner plans to repair the property. However, all computer equipment and furniture have not been damaged. Meetings and office business are conducted in the courtyard.

The National Council of Canada, through usual channels, has transferred funds since end of January 2010 without problems. Funds may now be forwarded securely to Haiti, through Canadian National Council, for emergency relief and within existing twinning arrangements. Funds have also been distributed to selected regional councils and conferences in Haiti by the CNH. Councils and conferences in Canada are encouraged to re-start communications and send funds to their twins in Haiti, and if difficulties are encountered, please contact brother Clermont Fortin. We all well aware of the misery and suffering in the country, and your moral and financial support is needed, now and for the long term.

The International General Council has allocated a sum of 10,000 Euros to buy food for the victims of the disaster in Port-au-Prince and region. The funds should arrive in a few days, en route from the neighbouring Dominican Republic. The Territorial Vice President, Eduardo Marques Almeida, the Daughters of Charity and local Vincentians will coordinate distribution of the food (20\$US per person).

Conditions have improved somewhat in Haiti as you have read in the media. However, the rainy season, starting in late March, to be followed by the hurricanes season (June -) is not reassuring for the hundreds of thousands living in temporary shelters. Our prayers are needed. The President of National Council of Haiti has, many times, expressed his gratitude for our support.

Clermont Fortin
Chair Int'l Emergency Relief Committee
NCC - SSVP