

**The Haitian Project, Inc.
Community Update: Court Wisdom
May 28, 2014**



TOP: Providence College students Emily Mitchell and Sam Ross sift compost; PC student Alyssa Zannella and Segond (U.S. 11th grade) student Jeffly Cadet crush rock with PC Chaplain and THP Board Member Fr. James Cuddy, O.P.; Coach Bob Simon shovels compost with PC student Shane Fitzgerald.

BOTTOM: Fr. Cuddy celebrates Mass for the community, assisted by THP President Deacon Patrick Moynihan; Junior staff member Obed Gilles (LCS '10), Fr. Cuddy, Coach Simon and Deacon Moynihan play a friendly game of basketball.

This week, we have the pleasure of welcoming a group of eight students from Providence College to join our community. The group is led by THP Board Member and PC Chaplain, Fr. James Cuddy, O.P., and PC Basketball Assistant Coach, Bob Simon, who is making his first trip to LCS.

Before I go on, I have to admit, in all humility, that in the overly flattering picture above--I did not make the shot. I think it is also an optical illusion that I got any height on the jump.

First impressions are always fresh and informative. After a morning of compost turning and rock crushing, I asked Coach Simon to jot down some thoughts on his first take on LCS, Haiti and, of course, the intensity of our basketball games.

Upon arrival at LCS two days ago, it was significantly noticeable that life inside these walls is completely different from what I saw outside. Separate from all the

confusion and disarray we encountered on the streets during our ride from the Port-au-Prince airport, there is complete harmony along with a valued sense of community for the 350+ students, Volunteers, and faculty here at LCS. There is a unique friendship and love within these boundaries. This nurturing love and encouragement must support the constant reminder that change will happen. This change will take time. Everyone has a spirit and value of true purpose for life development and growth within a community. There is a meaningful understanding that organization, discipline, leadership and trust can co-exist within a country that some may feel has so little to offer the outside world. In my eyes, the youth here at LCS have so much to gain from the training, knowledge, and ability to think independently and without fear that they are given at LCS. Standing up and being heard will be the beginning of a truly inspired and independent economy here in Haiti.

Students have a rigorous and daily routine here at LCS. Their schedule is not typical, nor is it normal compared to that of most US students attending school. Here, each day starts with a 5:00 am wake-up bell, followed by intermittent bells from 6am until 7am for breakfast. Then it's off to class. Following breakfast their day consists of school work, individual and group related chores (every student has a role in keeping the campus clean and functional), tutoring and peer tutoring, leadership by the older students, recess or free play, and religious obligations. From sun up till sun down, there is inspired activity and education. There are specific goals and direction. People here are rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty. And they love it.

As in my profession as an assistant basketball coach, preparation is the key to success. In order to be great, you must prepare to be great. Winning is not easy, winning is hard. When the sun rises in the east, LCS is preparing and winning every single day. God bless the people here making a difference.

Peace, Patrick

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“What you receive for free, you must give for free.”
“Se gratis nou resevwa, Se gratis tou pou nou bay.”
--Matthew 10:8