

The Haitian Project, Inc.
Community Update: It's Official
May 29, 2013



Deacon Patrick Moynihan assists Fr. Isaia Birollo during Mass at Deacon Moynihan's newly assigned parish. Deacon Moynihan and Fr. Isaia baptize children.

With the permission of Bishop Doran, who recently retired as Bishop of Rockford, and his successor Bishop Malloy, I asked for faculties and a parish assignment in the Archdiocese of Port au Prince. The process involved both local Church and governmental offices. It took nearly a year. But, all is well that ends well!

This past week, Archbishop Guire Poulard assigned me to the mission of St. Thomas which is part of a nearby parish called Our Lady of Victory. Fr. Isaia Birollo, who celebrates Mass with our community each Saturday evening, is the pastor of this growing congregation. The mission chapel serves tens of thousands of people who have been relocated from the post-earthquake camps in Port au Prince to a once-temporary-becoming-permanent community. I am proud to report that, thanks to the courageous and persistent endeavors of the Scalabrinis, the church is the most permanent aspect. It is a beautiful sanctuary.

This past Sunday, Fr. Isaia and I had the privilege of baptizing 121 children ranging from infants to six years old. It was an amazing event to anoint and baptize 74 children—looking into each face. (I am pretty sure that I had not baptized 74 children in total before Sunday.) My wife, Christina, helped me manage the names and the line – both of which can be a bit challenging in Haiti.

When I asked for permission to transfer officially as a deacon to the Archdiocese of Port au Prince, I had in mind the goal of giving more support to the local Church and Archbishop Poulard. I had not realized until I was in the midst of a massive crowd of parents seeking baptism for their children what it would mean personally. It was amazing.

It is great to be part of Haiti in yet another way and to be able to support the local Church as well.

Peace, Patrick

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