



Church Partnership – The Construction of the Our Lady of the Assumption Church

It was a great celebration in Haiti on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. Bishop Decoste, Father Jomanas and many of the priests of the diocese of Jeremie were on hand for a special evening Mass to announce that HMI would partner with the local community and help them build a new church for Our Lady of Assumption Parish. The day has been in the works for nearly three years and was at the forefront of all our minds since Hurricane Matthew destroyed the old church on October 4, 2016. The only surviving item from the old church was the statue of the Blessed Mary. Since then, the community has been having all their services in a large room at St. Bridget's School in Numero Deux. The estimated cost of the church was \$454,020 which would include the foundation, smooth coat concrete walls, solid concrete roof, concrete floors, doors, windows, wiring, lighting and painting inside and out. The cost does not include a retaining wall, pews, chairs, altar, statues, choir needs and other. HMI agreed to contribute \$10,000 per month for 36 months (\$360,000) and Fr. Joe and the community would contribute 20% of the cost (\$94,020) over the same time period. The church building is being constructed in such a manner that it will not only be a wonderful house of worship, but will also function as a lifesaving storm shelter if needed for the community.

With that dream in mind, HMI began a major donor "Silent Phase" during the first several months of 2017. The out pouring of support was amazing and by April 2017 we had already received donations and/or pledges totally \$282,300. Construction began in May 2018 and is scheduled for completion in April 2021 when a grand and glorious dedication is planned. Thanks to all who have helped in any way with their prayers and financial support.

Assumption Church in Numero Deux HMI Partnership

Church Timeline

March 2015: Initial Conversation with Fr. Joe on mission trip (Fr. Dave Pivonka Palm Sunday Week) when observing the condition of the "old" church & subsequent follow up conversation with Deacon Lloyd

May 2015: Our next trip is when Laura & I were on a walk alone and came upon the Holy Spirit Group (Fanmi Bondye Goup) praying at the site of the “new” church foundation. We asked them to pray with us for the possibility of one day having a new church.

April 2016: Nearly a year after our initial discussion with Fr. Joe we began formalizing a Church Partnership Plan between HMI & Church of Notre Dame de Assumption. The key elements were that Fr. Joe would need to become Pastor and directly supervise with Tete and Engineer Paul. That we needed a complete timeline and estimate of the costs. Funding for the church could not only come from HMI. It will be a partnership with the community. Some financial support would need to come from the community, help from volunteers and funding sources from Fr. Joe’s contacts outside of HMI. We wanted the church community to have a sense of pride in helping to build the new church.

October 4, 2016: Hurricane Matthew destroys the “old” church and leaves many in the community without shelter and food. HMI raised \$109,345 for hurricane relief support for the community. We used the majority of the funding for immediate humanitarian aid and repair of roofs and homes. The balance remaining of \$29,000 became the initial seed money for the new church construction.

September 2017: Fr. Joe becomes Pastor and the planning and fundraising for the church began. Over the next several months the plans for the church were reviewed and changes were made.

February 2018: Three Year Church Partnership was agreed upon with HMI. The church would be constructed in three phases with an estimated cost of \$454,000 US. HMI supporters would contribute \$360,000 and transfer \$10,000 per month for construction over three years beginning in May 2018. The balance of the funding of \$94,000 would come from the community and other donors that Fr. Joe could recruit.

May 20, 2018: Pentecost Sunday

Official Announcement of Support to the Community with Deacon Lloyd, Ms. Faie, Bishop Decoste & Priests of the diocese.

February 2018 – April 2021: Fundraising efforts by HMI and Fr. Joe. Construction of the church in 3 phases. \$360,000 contributed by HMI Donors and balance contributed by the community and donors which Fr. Joe obtained.

April 24, 2021: Original Scheduled Date for Church Dedication

January 22, 2022: Church Dedication

Nov 2020 with Fanmi bondye and mission team members



Aerial view of Church November 2020



June 2020



[Click this link for more detailed pictures](#) [Church Annual Update](#)

April 2020



Nov 2019 Church Interior



Sept 2019



Scaffolding



Reinforcement



Reinforcement



Concrete Pouring



Concrete Pouring



Concrete Slab



Inside of the church

Aug 2019



May 2019



April 2019



March 2019



December 2018



November 2018





August 2018





July 2018



June 2018



May 2018

