



Twinning Ministry with Mary Immaculate Parish, Platon, Haiti
Update – September 8, 2025

Dear Parish Family,

With heavy hearts, we share this update on the state of affairs in Haiti. Haiti's government has imposed a three-month state of emergency across the West, Artibonite, and Centre (Central) regions, declaring a full mobilization to confront surging gang violence, and to address a deepening agricultural and food crisis.

In Port-au-Prince, gang networks control up to 90 percent of the city, operating with impunity and terrorizing civilians with kidnappings, massacres, and extortion. From October 2024 through June 2025, the toll has been staggering: nearly 5,000 souls lost to relentless gang warfare, over 1.3 million displaced, and humanitarian appeal funding languishing at just 9.2 percent of its needed \$900 million. In the fertile heart of Haiti, fighters are killing farmers, razing communities, and shredding the fragile fabric of life — with tens of thousands forced to flee, even wading across rivers in desperate bids to seek safety. Recently, an Irish missionary and a young child were among nine abducted during a brutal raid on the Sainte-Hélène orphanage in Kenscoff — an act the Archdiocese denounced as “a new act of barbarity,” urging Catholics to respond with prayer and the bold courage of solidarity.

While rural Mary Immaculate parish is several hours from the center of violence in the capital, it is not spared from the impact. Inflation, fear, hunger, and despair are constant companions. Fr. Charles Mehu, C.S.C, pastor of Mary Immaculate parish, reports that amidst the bad news and daily challenges of life, they try to stand firm in the Lord. Even in this dark hour, our spiritual bonds glow with a courageous flame of hope.

We stand with Mary Immaculate Parish in steadfast prayer. Our novenas to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lenten almsgiving, and Feast-day offerings are tender signs of our love. They remind our sisters and brothers in Platon that they are neither forgotten nor alone. The financial donations help sustain vital programs like their daily hot lunch and internet service to keep us connected. Our prayers unite our two Holy Cross parishes spiritually.

In the face of unrelenting sorrow, let us bear one another's burdens and shine Christ's light into the shadows. May our solidarity summon the peace that surpasses understanding—in word, in prayer, and in humble acts of compassion.

With sorrow, faith, and hopeful resolve,

The Haiti Twinning Ministry
Saint Joseph Parish, South Bend