



Sister Parish – St. Louis Cathedral – Jeremie, Haiti & Diocese Facts

The Cathedral of the Assumption's relationship with St. Louis Cathedral in Jeremie, Haiti began in 2000. The Pastor is Fr. Tony Leolien, and the Assistant Director of Pastoral Youth Program is Fr. Pierre Roland Bien-Aime.

- St. Louis Cathedral is founded 1877.
- Twenty religious communities are active in the diocese – Six in Jeremie.
- The Diocese has 1 radio station.
- There is one law school run by the diocese.
- 2000 people are involved in lay movements and the choirs.
- Population of Jeremie is 65,000 – 60% of these are Roman Catholic.
- Unemployment 90%.
- There are severe infrastructure problems in Jeremie: public services for communication, electricity, clean water, and affordable health care are all unstable entities at best
- Jeremie is served by one boat which arrives from Port au Prince once a week – freight & passenger service.
- Daily air service.
- 1 medical doctor per 10,000 people.
- 1 nurse per 3,000 people.
- 55% of children attend school - 25% attend primary – 17% attend secondary.
- 1 out of 8 children will die before the age of five.
- There is a nursing school, secretarial school and technical center.
- Very little opportunity for youth of the community – they leave and go to Port Au Prince.
- Riches are the people – they are very religious – with hospitality a big value for them.
- They exhibit courage in suffering.
- The people of Jeremie are creative and gifted in art and music.

Current Projects

- Fund the St. Therese Montessori lunch program that feeds approximately 157 students and 11 staff for nine months. Very generous donations from Cathedral of the Assumption parishioners have helped supplement and increase the nutritional quality of the daily lunch program.
- Restoration of pews in St. Louis Cathedral.
- Fund Feast Day / Holy Day food for the homeless basket 4x per year.

Six members of the Sister Parish committee recently attended the National Parish Twinning Conference and learned valuable information on solar energy, water purification and other life changing opportunities that would increase the quality of life for the parishioners of St. Louis Cathedral. We will be assessing, researching and speaking with Fr. Tony to determine what the needs of his parish might include. Three Cathedral parishioners also visited our sister parish in March 2009 to see the new school building and lunch canteen, meet with the parish council, and plan future projects.