



# THE DIOCESE OF COLORADO

The Right Reverend  
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Dear fellow clergy and their wardens,

Within the last few months I agreed, along with Bishop Winterrowd and Bishop Duracin, the Bishop of Haiti, to be an honorary co-chair of a capital campaign entitled '*The Three Bishop's Fund for Haiti*'. Few situations are so important that they bring together three individual Episcopal Bishops to champion an effort such as this. But the situation in Haiti is critical. It is urgent. It is compelling. It is desperate. Simply put, Haiti calls us.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, a country where nearly 80% of the people live in abject poverty. *The Three Bishop's Fund for Haiti* is a \$2.2 million capital campaign being undertaken by the Colorado Haiti Project, a faith-based, non-profit organization sanctioned by the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado to provide education, health care, potable water, sanitation, economic development, and a better quality of life for the people of Petit Trou de Nippes, Haiti. The envisioned projects are designed to be self-sustaining. Additionally, the entire campaign has been designed to serve as a replicable model, providing an opportunity for other churches or dioceses to get involved in ministry with the people of Haiti. It is hoped that 50% of the campaign's financial goal will be raised within our diocese, with the remaining 50% to come from foundations, grants, major gifts, and individual donors.

The Colorado Haiti Project was originally conceived in 1989 by three Episcopal priests. Early on, the group's primary responsibility was the coordination of medical mission trips to Petit Trou de Nippes, but as time went on it became evident that much more was needed. The first capital project undertaken by the Colorado Haiti Project was the construction of St. Paul's Church in Petit Trou de Nippes. The church was built in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti and the Colorado Haiti Project. Utilizing an \$85,000 gift from the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado and \$15,000 raised by the Colorado Haiti Project, St. Paul's was constructed in 1998 and consecrated in 1999. Today, the Colorado Haiti Project operates a pre-school and primary school serving more than 250 students. They continue to lead mission trips, now focused not only on health care, but on education, potable water supply, and other needs of this Haitian community.

Recently, at my direction, the Colorado Haiti Project has taken on a role as the 'umbrella' organization for all projects in Haiti sanctioned by our diocese. At the present time those projects include, in addition to the projects at St. Paul's in Petit Trou, the re-opening of the Episcopal seminary in Port au Prince, support of the Trinity School of Music at the Episcopal Cathedral in Port au Prince, and support for St. Basil's Church and school in Gonaives. The latter relationship was established by and continues to be a primary focus of the Church of the Ascension in Pueblo under the guidance of the Reverend Ephraim Radner.

Now, you may ask, why have I agreed to sponsor this effort? Why Haiti? I believe that we are all called to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves, whether that be in our local community, our state, our nation or our world. I believe firmly in global mission and in spreading the word of Jesus Christ through our actions. I believe that Haiti is a gift, given to us by God, and that God has called upon us to respond

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