

The end of the year always seems to be a time of reflection, a time to take account of the many blessings of this life. Likewise, the beginning of the year seems to be a time of renewed hope, of renewed possibilities, of renewed vision. And so it is as we begin 2006!

From time to time over the last year, as we worked to organize the campaign for the Three Bishops' Fund, I must admit, that during my weaker moments, I sometimes questioned whether or not we will succeed in meeting our ambitious financial goal of raising \$2.2 million (\$1 million within the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado) . . . a sum that will support the vision of our Haitian friends . . . a vision of a free, independent, self-sustaining community. Fortunately, I have had the opportunity to make several trips to Haiti in the last year. It takes but a glance into the hopeful eyes of one worn down by the harshness of everyday life, it takes but a glimpse of the smile on the face of a young child on their way to school for the first time, it takes but a moment to feel the hospitality of those who have almost nothing, in the material sense, but willing to share whatever they have, to renew my commitment to this effort. I wish that each of you could experience these things first hand, and I hope that a visit to Haiti will become part of your future.

The simple fact is this; we must succeed, there can be no doubt, we cannot accept anything less. And while we have a long way to go, step by step, we are succeeding. The completion of the first phase of the new Women's Resource & Education Center, funded by the Three Bishops' Fund, is proof of this and construction of the new primary and secondary school has begun! The excitement that these projects and the accompanying programs bring to our Haitian friends is contagious. Hope is renewed, prayers are answered and people's lives are transformed.

If you are not already involved with this wonderful ministry, or simply want to know more, I hope you will prayerfully consider, or in some cases reconsider how this might happen. There are so many possibilities; become informed about Haiti, commit yourself to prayer on behalf of our Haitian brothers and sisters, make a financial commitment to the Three Bishops' Fund, volunteer as a church representative for the Three Bishops' Fund, provide contact information on a foundation that might be approached with a grant proposal, plan a visit to Haiti with a CHP mission . . . these are but a few of the possibilities.

The Lenten season provides a wonderful opportunity for an introduction to Haiti and the Three Bishops' Fund. We have many 'presenters' who have been in Haiti and know the situation firsthand. Our presenters are willing and able to share their personal stories with you, provide you with a glimpse of the place through photographs and share the joy of mission with you using a video documenting an actual mission trip. I encourage you to contact the Colorado Haiti Project at 303-938-5021 or by e-mail at [info@coloradohaitiproject.org](mailto:info@coloradohaitiproject.org) to schedule a presenter.

For those of us who return time and time again to Petit trou de Nippes, we are often asked by our Haitian friends, who have been abandoned in so many ways, for so long, "Do you forget me . . . do you forget me?" I am always happy to tell them, both for me, and now on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, "No, we have not forgotten you . . . we will never forget you."

December 2005  
Don Snyder