



Via CARITAS

Through God's Love

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Haiti Program: Earthquake Update

By Genevieve Steigerwald



The powerful 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti over a month ago, and was powerful enough to be felt in neighboring countries, is still unfolding its deadly consequences. Felix, our Sponsorship Coordinator in Haiti, told us that he is praying that this earthquake is not as damaging and lethal as what he witnessed in 2010 – but it’s

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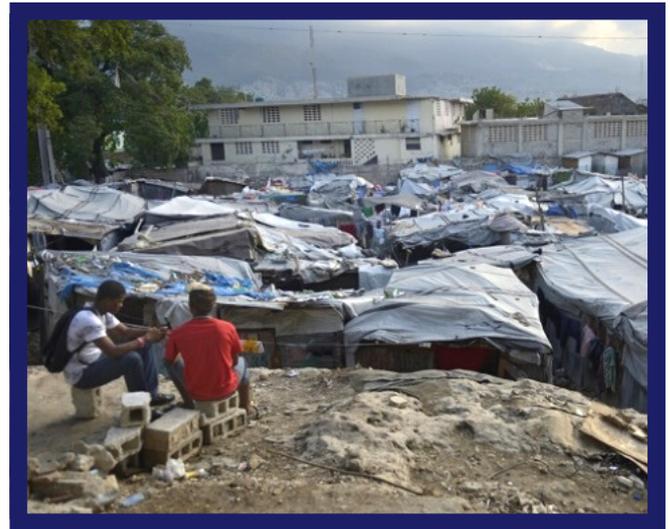
clear from the aftermath that it will be difficult for the already impoverished country to recover. For now, we have asked Felix to stay put as dangerous aftershocks have occurred and the threat of gang violence has increased during and after the turmoil. The people of Haiti desperately need our prayers during this time!

Our sponsored children were in their normal summer break and home with their parents/guardians during the earthquake. Unfortunately, we won't be able to hear from many of them until the weeks following September 21st when they return to school. Felix will be checking in with our sponsored children when they're back, distributing supplies, and collecting letters and pictures.

As of September 21st, more than 2,200 people have

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died due to this earthquake, 137,500 homes have been damaged or destroyed, and 12,200 people have been wounded. In addition, attempts to bring aid to people in devastated areas have been upset by gang violence, and many of the country's hospitals have been damaged as well. It is also estimated that nearly a million people will experience severe food insecurity for the next 5 months.



We are asking everyone to please pray for our children in Haiti, our staff, and our ministry service providers, the Little Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus (PSST). Obviously, there is a great need to support Haiti in a practical manner during this time of crisis, so CARITAS will continue to gather funds for Earthquake Support to help meet the needs that our Liaisons encounter on the ground in Haiti. Please consider [donating to the fund](#) or [sharing it](#) with friends and family!

CARITAS is about Sacred Relationships

Our Ministry begins with the universal call to "love God with one's whole heart and one's neighbor as oneself." (Matt. 22:37-40).

As part of our CARITAS Family, you can actively spread Caritas(God's love) by caring for the tender heart of a little brother or sister who may be half a world away.

Through this encounter, you will also find yourself nourished by the streams of God's love and mercy. It's Caritas for a person in need, and it's Caritas for a sponsor. This is because God is never outdone in generosity and His love always flows both ways!

NEW

Chat with the CARITAS team right from our website!

New Technology to Support Our Mission!

By Arnold Lezcano

CARITAS For Children has several new features as we continue to focus on improving and upgrading our software and communication tools.

The biggest launched upgrade is a **Bubble Chat option** that everyone can use on our website. You will still be able to call our office, but we figured that occasionally, a simple chat would be easier. We always look forward to hearing from you and hope that you enjoy this new feature.

If you happen to love a Catholic Outreach project that we are involved in, you also now have the ability to create a personal campaign to help us fundraise. For more information, you can learn more on our website's [Advocacy Page](#).

In addition, if you use Amazon for online purchases, we ask you to please add CARITAS For Children as your Charity of choice on [Amazon Smile](#) for free, and 0.5% of all your eligible purchases will be donated to our ministry. Every little bit helps. Thank you.



Our Children Are Returning to School!



Despite lockdowns and earthquakes, our children are still returning to school. We know you are concerned for their welfare, and we hope to get all our sponsors both pictures and letters from their sponsored child(ren) very soon. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin a new term.

Uganda

Due to new, strict COVID-19 lockdowns, Ugandan primary and secondary schools are closed, and there is currently no date set for them to reopen. In response to this difficult situation, our resourceful ministry coordinators have implemented a second CHSSP, an in-person/homeschool program that enables our sponsored children to continue learning.

Haiti

Despite having withstood another terrible earthquake, Haitian schools reopened on September 21st. Felix is collecting school supplies such as books and shoes for our sponsored children and finding out their additional needs.

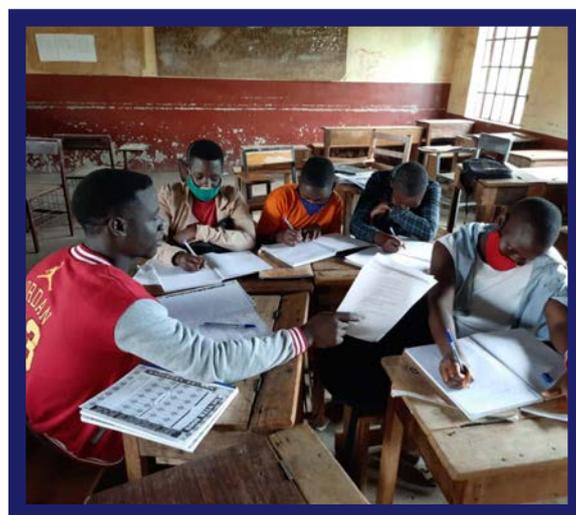
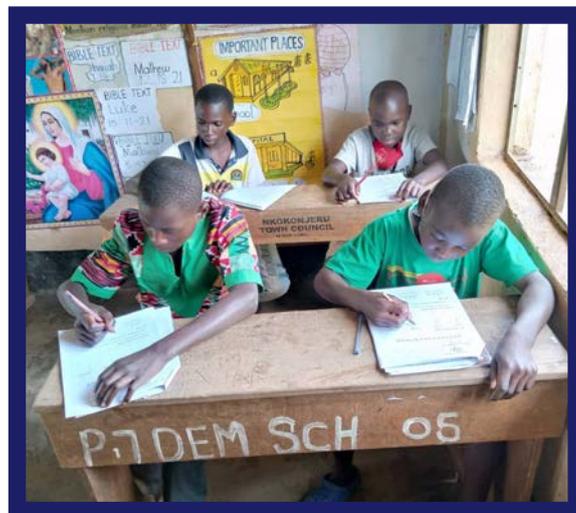
Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic's new term began on Monday, September 20th.

Nigeria

Our children in Nigeria are set to begin school on Monday, September 27th.

Thanks be to God for the opportunity for our children to continue their education, in spite of the turmoil our world is in. Please pray to St. Thomas Aquinas (patron of students) for their success in this new academic year!



Capuchin SUV for Kenya - and Sr. Fidelity

Help CARITAS raise funds for a very special cause! We are hoping to donate a 4x4 SUV to the Capuchin Franciscan friars in the Kitale Diocese, Kenya (to learn more about the Capuchins in Kenya, [click here](#) for a short video). In this diocese many people live in primitive conditions with no running water or electricity. The religious brothers and sisters spend much of their time visiting the poor of the diocese and tending to their needs, but all the villages are many miles apart and are interwoven by dirt roads that are filled with large potholes.



The car will allow the religious staff of the Friary, Parish, and the local Ministry Team to serve people in all these villages more often and more efficiently. Mostly, it will be driven by Sr. Fidelity, a teacher and tutor by trade, who is now a full-time Social Services Minister caring tirelessly for the needy of the diocese. She currently has to ride on the back of a motorcycle taxi to get where she needs to go, which is uncomfortable and can be dangerous – but that hasn't stopped her from continuing her vital work!



The SUV will allow her to:

- Carry the Eucharist to more homebound people
- Escort needy people for their regular medical treatments or for emergencies
- Increase her ability to provide food, water, and medication deliveries to those who need it most

([Click here](#) to watch a short video of Sister Fidelity busy in her ministry in Kenya.)

Based on the outstanding dedication of the Capuchin Friars and their Ministry Team, we are committed to helping them get this SUV. We ask you to [please support them](#) in their efforts to more safely and more efficiently serve some of the poorest people in our world.

Meet Aridenny: the First CARITAS Child from the Dominican Republic to Attend University!



We are delighted to share some very good news with you: our very first CARITAS student from the Dominican Republic, Aridenny Encarnación Jiménez, is set to pursue her post-secondary (university) education!

Aridenny is 20 years old, and she has two older sisters. Her story begins the same as many other children we meet through CARITAS – her father passed away when she was three, and soon afterwards her mother abandoned the family, leaving the girls to be cared for by their grandparents. Because her grandparents were too poor to properly look after the girls, they placed them in the Hogares Teresa Toda orphanage run by the

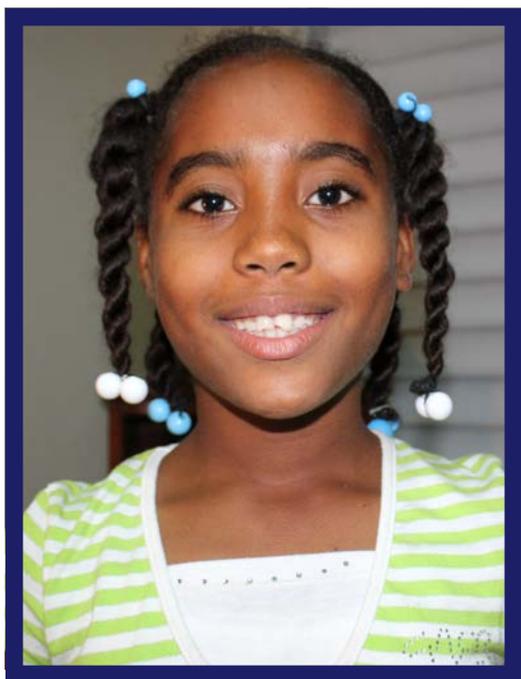
Carmelite Sisters. Though they were sad to part with their grandchildren, they knew that the nuns could provide for Aridenny and her sisters better than they could.

However, Aridenny still required a sponsorship for her secondary school education, which eased the burden on the nuns who have many children under their care.

Aridenny got good grades in school, and has been accepted into a post-secondary course! She tells us that she started a general psychology course at university with a specialty in child psychology on September 13th, because



Aridenny is pictured here at her high school graduation with one of her sisters and the Carmelites.



Aridenny as a little girl in school.

she has a strong desire to help little children in her community. She will live at home with her sister while she attends school, and her faithful sponsors have committed to assisting her with tuition fees.

Aridenny says, "I thank CARITAS and my sponsors so much for their generosity in getting me this far. I ask that God blesses all their projects for the benefit of the neediest in society. Thank you for building the Kingdom of God."

CARITAS is very proud of Aridenny and all she has achieved. In your charity, please keep her in your prayers as she begins this exciting new chapter!

Sponsor a Seminarian

If you have had it on your heart to support the priesthood in some way, we hope you will read about Br. Robert and consider assisting him in his seminary formation.

Br. Robert is the second of nine children. He was inspired as a young boy to pursue the priesthood by his own father's life and teaching. His father was an orphan and could not afford to study much, but when he completed primary school he started serving as a catechist. He told his children many

Br. Robert Bwambale, 33 Kasese Diocese, Uganda

stories about priests and sisters, which motivated Robert to join the seminary. Sadly, he could only afford to study for one term at the minor seminary before dropping out.

Robert and his parents worked very hard to raise enough money for him to attend a cheaper, secular school that was a twelve-kilometer walk from their home. Every year, it was difficult to pay for the tuition and school supplies he needed, but the determination to study kept pushing him on. He never gave up on his desire to become a priest, and eventually was admitted to the Capuchin Franciscans!

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Br. Robert has completed the process of initial formation, his philosophical studies, and is now hoping to join theology classes this year. This still means several more years of study before ordination. Br. Robert tells us, "I am praying very hard for God to continue providing for my formation so that I may serve Him well as a Capuchin brother and priest."

Br. Robert is 75% sponsored, so only \$125 a month is necessary for him to finish his formation! If you are interested in supporting him, please visit [his profile](#) to read more about his journey to the priesthood, and as always please feel free to [contact us](#) with questions. You may also call our office: (414) 323-5000.



Br. Robert is pictured here, 3rd from the left, with Ministry Coordinator Alon and his fellow Capuchin priests and brothers.

Want to see what our kids are up to?

CLICK TO FOLLOW US!



Spotlight on Children in Need

These two children are in great need of sponsors to give them a chance at a better life. Catherine has recently lost her sponsor and needs a new one to continue in school, and Malcom just needs one more half-sponsorship to be able to go to boarding school!

Catherine has recently lost her longtime sponsor and desperately needs a new one so that she can stay in school, where in addition to her education, she receives regular meals and stability.

Catherine's father died some time ago, and she was left in the care of her mother, who suffers from HIV. Her mother tries to provide for Catherine but does not have steady work.

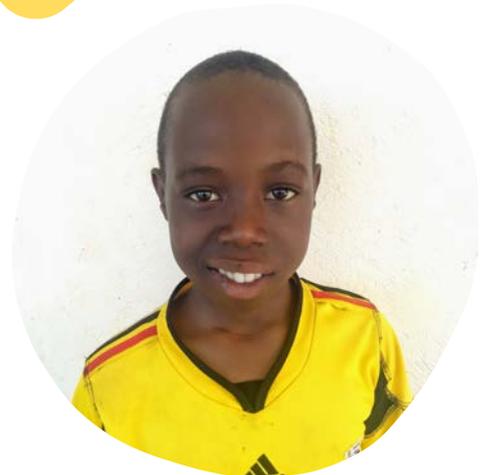
It is necessary that Catherine receive sponsorship so that she can be safe and healthy. She loves to dance and to study English at school.

Malcom lives with his parents who are peasants and can't afford to send him to school. Malcom is a very clever boy who wants to become a pilot but may not attain his goal without a better education.

Malcom's mother became pregnant with him while she was still a student and her parents chased her away from home, disowned her, and told her not to come back. The father, who was a cleaner at a school, lost his job and they started a new life together. They both dig in people's gardens and they also rent space in a garden where they grow some food for themselves. All this is just enough to provide the family with daily meals, some clothing, and possible medical support, and they cannot afford to give Malcom and his siblings the educations they need.



[Catherine Namutebi, 14](#)



[Malcom Wasswa, 11](#)



Please visit Catherine and Malcom's profiles on our website if you are interested in sponsoring them!