



S.M. 3 OFFICES

MARIANISTI – AMMINISTRAZIONE GENERAL – Via Latina, 22 – 00179 Roma – Italia

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Solidarity Fund for the Foundation of Haiti

Dear Brothers,

Kindly receive my fraternal greetings from Budakata, Orissa, India. As we all have become aware over the last week, the people of Haiti and in particular those who live in and near the capitol city of Port au Prince have suffered immensely as a result of a devastating earthquake. Our newspapers and televisions give us the daily updates in images and in print of what the disaster has wrought—tens of thousands killed, homes obliterated, overtaxed medical and rescue systems, infrastructure destroyed. In a recent update of the disaster published in the special edition of *Via Latina 22*, Brother Hervé, the Master of Novices in Haiti, poignantly describes the situation as a “spectacle of total destruction with an incalculable number of victims.”

Miraculously, our brothers, novices and candidates escaped physical harm. We thank God for their safety but also stand in prayerful solidarity with them as they support their family and friends, some of whom have fallen victim to this terrible disaster.

While our brothers were kept from physical harm, the houses in which they lived as a community succumbed to severe structural damage, making them inhabitable. It is too early to understand the precise costs of rebuilding and re-establishing ourselves in Haiti. It is clear, though, that these costs will be significant.

In order to assist the Region of Canada in meeting these costs, the General Council has approved the establishment of a special Solidarity Fund for the Foundation of Haiti (SFH). The fund will be housed in and administered by the General Administration. The main purpose of the fund is to provide the financial resources necessary for rebuilding and re-establishing the Society of Mary in Haiti.

Contributions to this fund may be sent through the Unit Administrations and in turn the Unit should send the funds to the GA in the same manner it sends in the annual assessment. Bro. Remy Sandah may be contacted by email (genadminpic@smcuria.it) for the most up to date bank transfer information. Several Units have already expressed their desire to contribute to this effort and we encourage all the Units of the Society to follow their lead in helping the Foundation of Haiti re-build itself.

We also have received requests to channel funds for general relief efforts through our brothers in Haiti. We would encourage the Units to follow the recommendations of the Bishop’s conference in their country for these type of donations. Several Catholic relief and development agencies have the infrastructure necessary, and are already

providing emergency relief. They will also have great need of re-development funding when the relief situation shifts to that stage.

As we prepare to celebrate our Holy Founder in a few days, let us pray for the people of Haiti, for our brothers, the Marianist laity, their family and friends for their well being and continued safety.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ed', written in a cursive style.

Edward A. Violett, SM
Assistant General for Temporalities