

By now most of you know about the devastation in Haiti. I'm going to start sending out regular updates to keep everyone posted with information regarding our mission. If anyone learns of new information specific to Hinche or of anyone affiliated with our mission or their families, please share it and I will make sure it gets included in future updates. I have been trying since last evening to make contact with Father Bourdeau and numerous others, but with no success. I'm sure some of you have had the same experience. I will keep trying through phone calls, text messages and emails until I get through. Here are some things we know:

- Thankfully, Hinche did not sustain heavy damage. However, many of our Haitian friends live in Port au Prince where the damage is massive, including Madam Prince's three children, Suze, Fonfon and Samuel, who live in the heavily damaged Pétionville area of Port au Prince where they attend school. Other friends in Port au Prince, including Bernard Celestin, have not been heard from. Odilane Etienne, who we brought here for surgery a few years ago typically travels to Port au Prince in the early part of each week to buy supplies has also been unreachable. Many of our St. Monica's parishioners, including Daphnee Moise, Gilbert and Laurence Pierre and others, are desperately trying to get news from family members in Port au Prince. Please keep them in your prayers.
- The Archbishop of Port au Prince, Msgr. Joseph Serge Miot, was killed in the quake. The cathedral and all of the main churches and seminary buildings in Port au Prince were leveled. Hundreds of priests and seminarians are believed trapped beneath the rubble.
- Bishop Saint Hilien and Father Bourdeau will not be coming to visit this weekend as planned. I have not communicated with them, but American Airlines just called to say their flights have been cancelled.
- Dr. Jim Toth sent a message to our Haitian clinic physician that he and his staff are free to travel to Port au Prince with our clinic's medicines and supplies to become first responders there until the international response has time to ramp up. We don't know if the message has been received.
- As soon as I make contact with Fr. Bourdeau, I will ask his assistance in formulating our parish response to this horrendous tragedy. It is likely to include fundraising to buy emergency supplies and an over-the-counter medicine drive.

**Stay tuned** for frequent updates. If anyone is able to communicate with people on the ground in Haiti and has news, please let me know and I will share it.

Mark Coughlin