



Haiti Report 2010–2013

Remains of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Port-au-Prince after the earthquake



Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to introduce this Summary Report from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on our efforts toward reconstruction in Haiti. The January 12, 2010, earthquake left many Haitian cities in ruins and many of our faithful brothers and sisters without places or the means to worship. Catholics in the United States responded with unprecedented generosity in a special national collection to help the people of Haiti with emergency humanitarian needs and the longer-term reconstruction of church buildings.

The USCCB Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America was tasked with administering the funds from that collection going toward church reconstruction in Haiti. Collaborating with the bishops of Haiti and other sister churches, the Partnership for Church Reconstruction in Haiti (PROCHE) was created and we began the long-term work of setting up a structure that would efficiently, transparently, and safely lead to the reconstruction of parishes, rectories, convents, and schools.

This report contains examples of the work done so far and an audited financial report of PROCHE for the 17-month period ending in August 2012. The report is an example of our commitment to being transparent. We hope this and future reports will show the progress of getting the people of Haiti back into suitable worship spaces.

Please join me in thanking our good Lord for his generosity, guidance, and protection. I ask, through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, that God may bless all who through their financial donations are so generous in spirit.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eusebio Elizondo", with a stylized cross symbol to the left.

Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 earthquake devastated some of the most populated parts of Haiti, including Port-au-Prince. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed or injured and buildings were left in rubble. Among those killed was the archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, and among the buildings destroyed were hundreds of church buildings and chapels. The response by Catholics in the United States was unparalleled generosity. The special collection for Haiti relief brought in donations of almost \$85 million in one weekend. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee

on the Church in Latin America (USCCB-SCLA) was tasked with administering 40 percent of the funds from the special collection, which were designated for church reconstruction. Working to rebuild in Haiti after such destruction is a daunting task. Collaborating with the bishops of Haiti and other sister churches, the Partnership for Church Reconstruction in Haiti (PROCHE for its initials in French) was created and the partnership began the long-term work of setting up a structure that could efficiently, transparently, and safely lead toward the reconstruction of parishes, rectories, convents, and schools.



(L to R): Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Papal Nuncio Bernadito Auza, Mr. Jacques Liautaud, Mr. Stephan Destin, and Bishop Launey Saturné at the groundbreaking and first-stone placement for Jacmel Multi-Use Hall, April 30, 2013.



Interior of the reconstructed St. Francis of Assisi Church on dedication day, Grand-Goave, January 2013.



A worker reinforcing the structure at IDEPH School.



Inside the reconstructed headquarters building of the Conference of Haitian Religious on inauguration day, Port-au-Prince, May 2013.

Reconstruction began immediately and has been moving forward at an accelerated pace since 2012. The first two completed buildings were inaugurated this year: the new Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Grand-Goave, in January 2013; and the new headquarters of the Conference of Haitian Religious in Port-au-Prince, in May 2013 (financed by the Conference of Latin American Religious, and overseen by PROCHE).

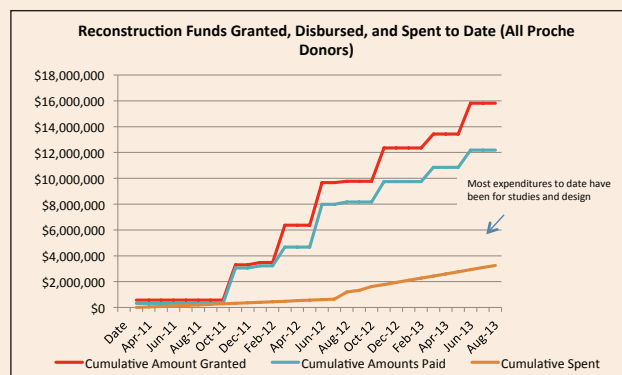
Other hopeful events taking place are first-stone placements. These milestones signify the conclusion of much behind-the-scenes preparatory work, including acquiring permits, finalizing designs and budgets, and signing contracts

so that construction can begin and move ahead as planned. The actual construction, in a way, simply continues the long road leading to a community having a worship space. First-stone placement ceremonies were held for four reconstruction projects starting in the summer and fall of 2013: the Sacré-Coeur Church in Port-au-Prince, in August 2013; the Multi-Use Hall in Jacmel, in April 2013; the Daughters of Mary novitiate in Port-au-Prince, in July 2013; and the St. Therese Church in Petion-Ville, in September 2013.

An important concern for any reconstruction and aid project is that accountability and transparency are maintained during all phases and in all aspects of the

project. This was a top concern for the USCCB and other PROCHE partners. To ensure that this goal is achieved, an external financial audit of the construction unit (UOC) of PROCHE was completed by the top audit firm in Haiti, Mérové-Pierre and Associates. The final audit report, with a snapshot included here, indicates “no significant findings” (no audit concerns with financial stewardship) and that the PROCHE books accurately reflect its financial position for the period examined, ending August 31, 2012 (audit covers a 17-month period beginning at the inception

of the PROCHE construction unit [UOC]). This audit assures all interested parties that the money invested in the management and execution of projects is being spent well and efficiently. A summary statement reflecting the fund balance activity of the construction unit is shown on the opposite page. The activity reflected shows the amount of funds that have been disbursed to the construction unit for its management and the actual projects in progress. It does not reflect the amount of money each sister church has available for the financing of projects.



The above graph displays the cumulative reconstruction funds granted, disbursed (by donors), and spent (by PROCHE-UOC) to date. We can see that the level of funding was modest and flat through the end of 2011 when a dramatic increase in the level of funding occurred, primarily fueled by USCCB-SCLA grant decisions. USCCB-PROCHE grants to date total over \$10 million, of which only approximately \$2 million have actually been spent. Understandably, disbursement and spending lag behind the grant awards, reflecting the actual operational capability of the network used by PROCHE and the normal project spending “S” curve. Since June–July 2012, when the first projects entered construction, we have seen a more or less steady increase in project expenditures. These are expected to increase sharply as more projects enter the construction phase.

Statement of Contributions, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balance*

Proximité Catholique Avec Haiti et Son Église (PROCHE)

(Period of 17 months, ending August 31, 2012)

(in dollars)

Starting Fund Balance: \$0

Contributions:

Project-related contributions transmitted through the Apostolic Nunciature in Haiti	1,563,474
Other donors	751,294
Management fees	103,206
Contributions in kind	37,768
Total Contributions	\$2,455,742

Disbursements:

Project costs	1,322,525
Salaries, wages, and professional fees	518,178
Office-related expenses	176,761
Other expenses	13,827
Total Expenses	\$2,031,291

Surplus for the period and fund ending balance \$424,451

*The financial statements of Proximité Catholique avec Haiti et son Église (PROCHE) have been prepared by management and audited by Mérové-Pierre—Cabinet d’Experts-Comptables, an independent accounting firm. They are available online at www.usccb.org/haiti.

The above PROCHE Statement of Contributions, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance is extracted from the August 31, 2012, year-end financial statements with the approval of the auditors, Mérové-Pierre—Cabinet d’Experts-Comptables.

There are several projects that are in progress and will soon be finalized. One significant project, soon to be dedicated, is the Institut Diocésain d’Éducation et Promotion Humaine (IDEPH) School in Jacmel

on the southern coast of Haiti. The USCCB and the German Catholic organization Adveniat funded the structural reinforcement of the building that was damaged during the earthquake. The total cost of the reinforcement is budgeted at almost \$1.2 million. Other projects will soon follow and be completed.



Archbishop Wenski at the placement of the first stone for the Sacré-Coeur Church reconstruction, Port-au-Prince August 2, 2013.



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Photo of Bishop Elizondo © Archdiocese of Seattle. Used with permission.

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