



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

— The nation of Haiti has dominated the news this past week. They are certainly a country that is no stranger to suffering. Recall several years ago the series of hurricanes that ravaged the country. Now they face even more devastation with the recent earthquake. By all standards of comparison, it doesn't seem fair that the poorest nation in the western hemisphere should have to endure such large-scale natural disasters. But that is exactly what has happened, and now they are in desperate need of our support and our prayers.

Like the people of Haiti, the ancient Israelites to whom Isaiah prophesied knew first-hand the meaning of suffering. They too knew of the lack of adequate food and water and other basic necessities. Their nation also experienced centuries of oppression at the hands of foreign empires, be they Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Greece, and finally Rome. Like the people of Haiti, the ancient Israelites might well have thought that God had neglected them—if not entirely abandoned them.

Along comes Isaiah. Speaking on God's behalf, his message is full of promise. He tells the Israelites, "No longer shall people call you "Forsaken", or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." (62:4) In effect, Isaiah is offering a message of hope and promise to his afflicted country. I hope the Haitian people might accept Isaiah's message as their own. I hope they can remain hopeful in the midst of such devastation. While no one can ever solve the mystery of such human tragedies, we can again and again turn to the God who pledges his healing and restoration. And the more the family of nations can provide assistance to and solidarity with nations such as Haiti, the more God's pledge finds fulfillment.

Fr. Mannebach



ECUMENICAL BRUNCH in honor of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place on Sunday, January 24 at St. Peter Church, 303 North Franklin Street, New Bremen (in the Fellowship Hall downstairs). The gathering will begin at 11:30 a.m. with brunch served about noon, followed by brief ecumenical updates by the New Bremen pastors. There is no charge for the brunch. Please call Holy Redeemer parish office to register.



MISSION COMMITTEE is sponsoring an all-you-care-to-eat buffet on Sunday, January 24 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Speedway Lanes, 455 North Herman Street. Proceeds will benefit our Mission friends in Grenada.

THANK YOU for all the thoughtful words, prayers and concern for Lynn. Sr. Lynn is doing well in the Bronx, New York. She was blessed to be in a group with three other girls who entered in June 2009. Four other girls had entered in January 2009, which made a total of eight in formation. (Lynn was hoping for at least one or two to share with.) At the end of December, the four that entered in January of 2009 moved to Mexico City to Our Lady of Guadalupe to stay for one year, which is the next step in their formation process. Lynn has assisted with the homeless shelter since her arrival in June. From hand washing sheets and floors to checking the men in at night, her day is very eventful. Since the moving of the four aspirants to Mexico, Lynn will now assume responsibilities in the soup kitchen. She has been blessed in a multitude of ways and given the strength and spirit to continue. She had the privilege of ministering in a jail for juveniles, ages ranging from 13 to 16, for Thanksgiving. They sang songs and taught hand motions to those songs. She mentioned that the reverence the youth displayed during prayer was very touching. We were blessed to spend several hours with her in November. The reverence for God and the simplicity of their lives was very striking. Needless to say, she is very happy and is

doing well. Hopefully she will receive her sari soon. Please continue to pray for vocations.

God Bless. The Knapke's

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY:

CYO games on Sunday, January 17 will be: girls' team vs. Holy Trinity, IN, at Celina I.C. at 3:30 p.m.

Youth presently in grades eight and nine are candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will take place in the fall of 2010. There will be a mandatory meeting for all candidates and parents on Wednesday, January 27 in the parish hall from 7:45-8:45 p.m. All information regarding the preparation process will be distributed at this meeting. Anyone unable to attend should contact Robin Goettemoeller at the parish office.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, January 27. Rehearsals are from 4:15-5:00 p.m. in the music room. The choir is open to any student in grades 3-8. The choir will next sing for the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday. A schedule of rehearsals will be given to students on January 27. For more information, please contact Brigid Hegemier or Nick Wilker in the parish office.

VOCATION VIEWS – God's Spirit is given to each person for the common good. What are your gifts? Be willing to share them for the good of others. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

DEAR FR. MANNEBACH, *On behalf of Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem and those we serve, I would like to extend our greatest appreciation to The Church of The Holy Redeemer for their donation of \$516.59.*

This year, the Hospital will deliver over 3,000 infants, examine nearly 19,000 women and children through outpatient consultations and ensure nearly 400 babies achieve their fullest potential in its neo-natal intensive care unit (the only one in the region). Every day, Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem is a place of joy and hope. Joy in the birth of a child and hope in the return of peace to this troubled land.

Through this generosity, your congregation will enable the Hospital to meet the growing needs of the poorest and most defenseless. Please extend our deepest gratitude to your

caring congregation and we hope that you and your parishioners will continue to pray for Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem. Sincerely, Colleen B. Marotta, Executive Director.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB NEWS – A short organizational meeting will be held on Monday, January 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room for those interested. For more information, please contact Becky Koverman at 419-629-3470.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, as long-time advocates of health care reform, continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.
- On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion.
- Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.
- These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience protection, affordability, and immigrants' access to health care must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill, or the final bill must be opposed.

ACTION: contact your Representative and Senators today by e-mail, phone or FAX.

- To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Contact info can be found on

- Sun.
- Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist
 - CCD for 3's, preschool and kindergarten during 10:00 a.m. Mass
 - Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass



"Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Jn 2:10-11