

Rebuild Our Church in Haiti

Reprinted from The Dominion, September 2011

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The earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010 wrought damage that the nation is feeling acutely to the present moment. The recent passing of tropical storm Emily brought anxiety for the people still living in tents, numbering over 600,000 in the vicinity of Port-au-Prince according to United Nations estimates.

While lives are being rebuilt, the church structure that serves those lives also stands in need. The diocese of Haiti, like the diocese of Long Island, is part of Province II of the Church. The Cathedral of the diocese, Holy Trinity, must be re-constructed. The Cathedral is not only the center of worship at Port-au-Prince, it is as well a focus of education, healthcare, and culture. The Episcopal Church has begun a campaign to support the rebuilding of the Cathedral to enable again its full contribution to the life of Haiti's people.

Beginning this effort, Episcopal Church Foundation stated: "But there is one thing no one else can rebuild for The Episcopal Church: Holy Trinity Cathedral. Home of the famous murals that depicted the Biblical narrative, the Cathedral was a beacon in a land where strength of faith is inversely proportional to economic development. As the site of Holy Trinity Music School, the Cathedral trained a touring choir and the nation's only symphony orchestra, providing both cultural development and income. Holy Trinity Professional School and the primary and secondary schools, also located on the Cathedral grounds, all raised up future leaders in an environment of cultural and spiritual grace. In 35 seconds, it was all reduced to rubble."

This fall, the diocese of Long Island joins this effort. Information has been placed on the diocese's website – www.dioceselongisland.org - available to parish administrators, clergy, and parishioners. There you can learn about the need and the efforts being undertaken throughout the church. Donations can be made either by mail or online. Episcopal Church Foundation is taking the lead and assuring that funds gathered go directly to this vital cause.

If you wish to make a donation by check, please mail it to: *Rebuild Our Church in Haiti, c/o Episcopal Church Foundation, 815 Second Ave., New York, New York 10017.* To donate online, please visit www.episcopalchurch.org/haitiappeal and click on "Give" at the bottom of the page. And thank you.

All that we do locally, every dollar given, will make a difference in the speed and success of this rebuilding effort.