



THE DIOCESE
OF COLORADO
The Right Reverend
Robert J. O'Neill
(303) 837-1173 / (800) 446-3081
FAX: (303) 837-1311

PASTORAL LETTER

15 January 2010

Dear Friends,

Along with all of you, I continue to watch the tragedy in Haiti unfold, to pray for all the people there, and to watch as aid efforts mobilize. The images are heart-wrenching, to say the least, particularly knowing the extreme poverty in which so many of our Haitian brothers and sisters live on a daily basis.

Haiti now faces an emergency of huge proportions that requires both the immediate mobilization of resources for relief as well as for the long and challenging road of rebuilding and redevelopment. Long after the images have faded from the front pages of the news and the cyber-appeals have been deleted from our email, our sisters and brothers in Haiti will continue to face daily challenges that we cannot begin to comprehend.

Many of you are aware of our diocese's close and special relationship with Haiti. Thanks to this relationship, we have special human concern and connection for our brothers and sisters there and at least two organizations we can support to make a concrete difference now and in the weeks and months to come.

Along with many others, I have been encouraging donations to Episcopal Relief & Development during this time of crisis. Episcopal Relief & Development has been providing emergency assistance from the earliest hours of this disaster. Through its partnerships with The Diocese of Haiti, other agencies and Episcopal ministries, Episcopal Relief & Development is in a unique position to mobilize resources on the ground quickly, to operate efficiently and effectively, and even now to begin the long process of redevelopment in Haiti.

In Colorado, many of us have a special connection with Haiti through the Colorado Haiti Project. While the Colorado Haiti Project does not normally provide emergency assistance, it will certainly be in a position in the coming weeks and months to offer its staff, organization and expertise to support the long-term redevelopment effort in Haiti—particularly through its relationships to the people in Petit Trou de Nippes and the surrounding region. In fact, as many people flee Port au Prince in the wake of this disaster, the mission work in Petit Trou will become especially instrumental in the work of redevelopment.

Both of these organizations will be critical in bringing new life to a people whose lives have been devastated, and both need our support as they show God's love to our sisters and brothers in Haiti.

To that end, I am making a special "Epiphany Appeal for Haiti Relief." At my request, the Anschutz Foundation has graciously agreed to give us a \$75,000 grant to match dollar for dollar your contributions to bring relief and aid to the people of Haiti.

I am asking every congregation in The Diocese of Colorado to participate in this appeal by gathering contributions in whatever way your leadership deems appropriate between now and Shrove Tuesday. Because of this generous gift from the Anschutz Foundation, we in this diocese have been given a unique opportunity to let our light shine collectively during this season of light. I ask you to give generously.

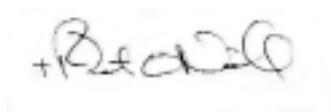
Please know that I will work with the leadership of Episcopal Relief & Development and the Colorado Haiti Project to insure that the funds gathered by my office will be distributed to these two organizations to support their immediate and long-term relief and development efforts in Haiti.

In spite of economic difficulties, we all still live with an abundance of resources. Indeed, we have much to offer. Clearly there are many needs in our world, and I am grateful for the generosity that so many of you across Colorado already display in providing life and hope to those who suffer. It is my prayer that you will continue to support those ministries while, at the same time, giving to this critical need over and above your regular efforts.

As you consider your gift to this campaign, I encourage you to keep in mind the economy of God. Remember that love only exists when love is shared; that when love is shared, love is multiplied; and that when love is shared completely, love is multiplied completely.

During this season of light, please be the Light.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert O'Neill", enclosed in a light gray rectangular border.

The Right Reverend Robert O'Neill
Bishop