



**Franciscan Friars
Holy Name Province
Provincial Office**
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Please pray for the people of Haiti

January 15, 2010

Dear Brothers,

Like so many others, our entire Province has been caught up in the terrible suffering of our brothers and sisters in Haiti caused by the earthquake that has claimed thousands of lives, destroyed countless homes and churches, and left millions without the basic necessities of life. The 16 Friars Minor in Haiti, who belong to the Province of Central America, are all reported to be safe. Families and friends of many we know, however, are not so fortunate. Our own brother, Cidouane Joseph, OFM, of Holy Name Friary in New York has also thankfully learned that his siblings in the country are safe. But they and many people in our various ministries in the U.S., especially the Haitian communities at Holy Name Parish, New York, and St. Camillus Parish, Silver Spring, as well as the parishioners of St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish in Hartford, which has a sister parish in Haiti, have been deeply affected by this tragedy.

We desire to stand in solidarity with God's People in Haiti, to offer them our prayers and to reach out to them in their time of suffering. Therefore, in the name of the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province, we are donating \$20,000 to Catholic Relief Services. We know that most of our parishes will be joining in their local diocesan relief efforts this weekend. We urge all of our friaries, however, to also contribute to this effort according to your means. Please check the Catholic Relief Services Web site (www.crs.org) for information on how and where to donate.

Let us hold the people of Haiti in prayer and reach out to them with our arms of concern.

John F. O'Connor, OFM
Provincial Minister

Dominic V. Monti, OFM
Provincial Vicar