University of Dayton, Ohio (url: http://www.udayton.edu/index.php)

Prayers and Aid for Haiti

01.15.2010 | President, International, Students, Service and Giving, Catholic  (A letter from University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran to the campus community, sent Jan. 15, 2010)

Dear members of the University of Dayton community,

We stand with the world in mourning the victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. As a Catholic, Marianist university, we are called to carry out God’s will in service to others and support one another in community. I’m asking for your prayers and help.

The Marianist community in Haiti was affected by the devastation. Miraculously, there was no loss of life, but buildings were damaged with one destroyed. Please keep all on this island nation in your prayers. Some have deep connections to the University of Dayton or are part of the extended family network of our faculty, staff and students.

How can the campus community help this stricken nation?

The U.S. government has committed $100 million to the relief efforts. Since the government is advising Americans to avoid travel to Haiti, the best way to help the country recover is to make a donation. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and has been plagued by environmental devastation, poverty and political corruption in ways that most of us cannot begin to understand.

On Friday, January 15, we held a special Mass for the people of Haiti; and plans are unfolding for other prayer vigils and faith-based efforts on campus that will be coordinated by the Center for Social Concern.

The Center for Social Concern has established a Web site (see related link) with links to various charities including Catholic Relief Services and the Marianist Lay Network of North America’s efforts. Of course, scores of other charities including the American Red Cross make certain that your contributions reach those who need the help the most.

If you are part of a group that wants to raise money for the earthquake victims, please contact Nick Cardilino, director of the Center for Social Concern, at 937-229-2576. At this time, financial contributions matter the most. There are no immediate plans to collect food or clothing because of the difficulty in delivering the donations.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the people of Haiti.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Curran, Ph. D.
President

For more information, contact Teri Rizvi at 937-229-3255 or rizvi@udayton.edu.