

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the social teachings of the Church, the Christ the King Social Justice Committee seeks to respond to the needs of our community, our country, and our world. The Committee works to educate the parish with regard to these needs and to engage parishioners in the mission of responding – through advocacy, direct assistance, and solidarity with the poor.

Just Us Parishioners

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Social Justice Committee

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HAITI IN RECOVERY

Life in Haiti was dramatically altered by the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010. We have all read accounts and seen photos of the wide-spread destruction of life and property. For the What If? Foundation, which has received support from our parish for several years, it was a great relief to learn that the courageous cooks and community leaders who the Foundation works with in the St. Clare's community were safe and that the rectory building where the Foundation's food program takes place did not collapse.

The St. Clare's community has worked tirelessly to feed as many people as possible at the food program every Monday through Friday. In the early weeks after the earthquake, over 3,000 meals were served everyday (double what was served before the earthquake). Gradually, with food and water becoming more available in the area, the number of children and adults coming to eat at the food program has gone down to about 2,000/day.

Margaret Trost, the Foundation's President, recently returned from a trip to Haiti. She was overwhelmed by the scale of destruction. She reports that tent communities with thousands of people living together (without electricity, running water and, in most cases, without toilets) are located in every open space. During her trip, she received confirmation that the new pastor at St. Clare's church wants to use the parish rectory for housing. This means that the food and education programs that have been operating out of the rectory for the past ten years will have to move to another location.

Thankfully, working closely with its Haitian partners, the Foundation has been able to find land in the St. Clare's neighborhood and is determined to buy that land and build a new kitchen and eating area on it as soon as possible so that the food program can continue without interruption. The longer term vision for the property includes not only the food program but a neighborhood school, a community garden, and a medical clinic.

Please join us in praying that the Foundation's work will continue to thrive and grow in a sustainable way in the very critical years ahead. To learn more, visit the Foundation's website at <http://whatiffoundation.org>.