

## **REFLECTION BY CVX HAITI September 2013**

Does God have his place in poverty?

It is not to remove God's concern for the weakest. He himself took on the condition of the weakest as a fragile little baby, placing himself completely in the hands of a people who were often foolish and consumed with their own interests. Love is foolishness, isn't it? The Gospel of St. John states that God is Love . God must be crazy to give himself entirely into the hands of people. And even crazier when he knows how weak their hope is in him. And yet, that is what he did. What does all this have with the beginnings of a CLC community? None.

However, in January 2009, the word "CLC Haiti" seemed like sheer foolishness. What could be done with a group of university students who were seeking intellectual and scientific knowledge... in a country where it is a daily struggle for the majority of the population to meet their most basic needs? Prayer!

In this age! It is pure nonsense! And yet, this is our daily reality today.

The initiation into Ignatian prayer has allowed each of us to discover and recognize God in our poverty like the young Mary at the Visitation. But also to listen carefully to our sufferings like the rich young man, but the difference being not sadly going along our journey but rather devoting ourselves with joyful hearts to the building up of His Kingdom.

One year later, in January 2010, it was sheer horror in Haiti. And our new group allowed us, through prayer to help one another and to be in solidarity, which characterizes the members of a CLC community, to pass through the horror and to find in ourselves the resources necessary to continue our journey with the tools/methods offered by CLC; namely prayer, days of reflection, retreats, in order to help those around us and all in our community to face these things.

In 2011, as our little "community" grew spiritually, we lost some numbers. The emphasis was placed on formation and our prayer meetings, and on Eucharistic celebrations which were so warm and lively that you could say that God has made himself a preferred spot in in the hearts and in the simplicity of the courses of the St. Jacques fathers, sometimes even given under the mango trees. We have never known a group which has been so supported and we have experienced the meaning of the Church as one apostolic body and felt we belong to something beyond our little reality. We have experienced ourselves as an important link in this chain, and as such, share responsibility in the mission.

The various visits from communities in CLC and CVX Canada, the members from France and moral and financial support, the increased accompaniment by the Jesuit fathers and not to forget the unconditional and unqualified availability of our initiators Denis and Eleonore Tcheunte were all important signs for us and great consolations.

After so many good things in 2012, it was time for the decision. We took time for personal discernment and 12 out of 15 confirmed their desire to live their CVX vocation.

Always under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, accompanied by the Jesuits and guided by Tcheunte family, we continue this beautiful adventure by putting in place the start of a structure with the election of officers.

We have not stopped counting the blessings arising from our commitment and CVX vocation CVX- not without constraints - but we continue to look to Him whom they pierced and our hearts are all filled with great consolations . From the ruins and rubble of devastating earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010, young Christians are still standing and have found their path in a welcoming, open and dynamic community in which to be (spiritually) formed, live and share faith.

We express our gratitude to the Lord for all his blessings, our leaders and all our benefactors. By helping us to grow, you are helping God to dwell where he loves most: in the heart of the smallest.