

Dear Brothers,

The Sunday before last we had here at St. Peter's in Greenville a 2nd collection to go to Catholic Relief Services for the suffering people of Haiti. During the homily, I read Fr. Rick Frechette's letter. The collection brought in \$30,000 of which \$13,000 was earmarked for Rick's Children's Hospital. The people wanted to support our Passionist Mission. And beyond that a number of doctors volunteered to go to Haiti. Today, our parish sent 8 doctors, 2 operating room registered nurses and an assistant for Rick's St. Damien's Hospital for children in Port-au-Prince.

Dr. Greg Murphy organized the medical professionals. Six of whom are among our loyal parishioners. We are deeply touched by their generosity to our Passionist Mission. They are slated to be there for close to two weeks. They flew out of Greenville a half hour ago with all sorts of supplies. Fr. Rick said that these doctors, especially the surgeons, will be of great assistance to the suffering people there. Bishop Burbidge of Raleigh came at noon to commission them as Missionaries from our Passionist parish to the Passionist Mission in Haiti. We presented each one with a cross. Bishop spoke of what a great honor this was for the Church of Raleigh to have these men responding to the suffering Christ in Haiti. I ask you to pray for them and their safety and their families here.

I especially want to thank Fr. Jerome Vereb who took care of the complicated details of diplomacy with the Vatican, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and our State Department. Also, he oversaw the the very complicated arrangements to have them arrive in Port-au-Prince. I thank our Provincial for giving Bro. Leo DiFiore permission to forward \$25,000 in support of this venture through Passionist Overseas Missions. **I thank Fr. Paul Wierichs and the Community in Florida for the hospitality they will extend this evening to this medical team from St. Peter's.** They fly out of Fort Pierce tomorrow and Fr. Rick will meet them at the Port-au-Prince Airport. I am so proud to be Pastor of such a loving parish.

In Christ,

Justin Kerber, C.P.



Leaving at dawn for Airport



Loading pallets for aircraft