



TERREMOTO - EARTHQUAKE HAITI

HAITI: GOD WEEPS ON EARTH

Once again we were surprised. Again we have been humiliated in where it hurts most: the poorest of the poor. It is not the avenging hand of a vengeful fairy who laughs at the opulent of possession and might, but a strange and unwanted misfortune that breaks loose at a people already poor and beggar. Haiti has been and remains, in its endless morgue, a huge pointing finger that we do not know whom it is directed to or who is waving it. It is like an intruder's finger on our wound making us more vulnerable and terrified in front of a tragedy that leaves us without breath, without a word, without anything. This is how we have lived and are still living this tragedy. It is not a question of how many countrymen are under the debris, or how many of us whoever they are. It's almost the same, and although we cannot be insensitive to our homeland and more so to our blood, death makes us all equal and the only thing that overwhelms us is the act itself, without a passport in hand, no relationship, no credentials.

There have been many who sincerely have wondered "why", while others have been asking "who". There is no answer to any of the two issues no matter how we look at them: why do these things that hurt us so much happen and to whom shall we address our protest?

Yet these replies do exist even though finding them is complex. For a moment we realize how many things we enjoy everyday, how many we have exchanged, assuming that all this must be so, taking it for granted, too often losing the vision of the gift that makes us live, walk, see, hear and love. Perhaps, by having all these things daily, we lose sight of that which is in itself a continuous gift, a permanent gift.

Secondly, the fact that the media bring us closer in real time to what is happening thousands of miles away, allows us to place ourselves within this global village with a sense of closeness that does not permit us to be indifferent. Undaunted to be witnessing a catastrophe that has nothing to do with us, that does not affect us, but we feel the need not only to acknowledge what we have as gift and present, but also do something for those who suddenly lost everything. This solidarity makes us human, brings us out of our defecting security and our selfish escapes. It also allows us to guess without fear that humanity does not begin or end in my unique backyard, but there are too many corners of this world where people are suffering, lacking freedom, peace, bread, dignity, affection, faith. A tragedy that awakens us from our sleep.

Finally, the big question that many have been asking: and God, where was He? Certainly He was not playing golf, sightseeing or distracted bonsai pruning. God was in the victims, dying again with them. But also in people who are giving their time, money, talents and knowledge to help their brethren: this is God's tenderly hand, these are his lips pronouncing comforting words, this is his silence when he is quite as if saying the best of things, this is his throbbing heart pulsing with the people involved.

We join in the pain of this brotherly people, we offer our prayers for the repose of those who have lost their lives, and we offer to help in all possible ways those who need any kind of consolation or hope to build everything from the ashes.

Receive my love and my blessing,

† Fr. Jesús Sanz Montes, ofm
Bishop of Huesca and Jaca
24th January 2010

One of the questions that Haiti provokes at present with regard to its institutions, is how will it operate thereof since the institutions, the buildings and some employees, along with some officers, died during the recent earthquake. We hope for change, a change for the better and new structures to have something new. Something to plant with the bitter tears of pain, but which will reap something new and make us sing with the Psalmist, “those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy”



Hotels ... In the photo a hotel that is adjacent to our chapel of St. Alexandero



Evangelical Church, about 250 meters from the Fraternity of St. Alexander



“UniBank” branch near the fraternity

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A School which operated within 100 meters of the Fraternity of St. Alexander.



Nursing School, near the General Hospital. Many students were killed and some bodies of the deceased are still outdoors. Located about 200 meters from the fraternity of St. Alexander.



View of the General Hospital, its structure seriously damaged. Emergency services are rendered in the hospital courtyard and in another undamaged wing.



Ministry of Justice, was one of the most beautiful buildings in Haiti. Killed many people inside, including the Minister of Justice.





Finance Ministry, about 800 meters from the Fraternity of St. Alexander



Government Palace, came down killing several people, including UN personnel



Directorate General of Taxes



Episcopal Cathedral, inside there was a beautiful picture depicting a Haitian version of the plan of salvation given in Christ.

Side View of Metropolitan Cathedral.



Back side of the cathedral



Right side of the cathedral





Back side of the cathedral



Front view of cathedral



Archbishop's Seat of Port au Prince, which came down burying under the rubble Archbishop Serge Miot (RIP) and Bishop Benoît, Vicar General.



Entrance to Archbishop's palace.

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Front View of the Metropolitan Cathedral



The commercial area of Port au Prince



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Popular commercial area



Shopping areas where usually it was difficult to walk because of the number of people who used to fill the area.



Banks

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Building of the Electricity Authority.



Mayor's office of Port au Prince



Streets of Port au Prince.



Legislative Palace.





Commercial area



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Hotels area: many of them burying their dead within.



Parroquia de Santa Ana, en la que trabajaba los Hermanos de la Fraternidad de San Alejandro.



University "United Hearts". There were many deaths. Many bodies are still inside. At about 10 meters from the Fraternity of St. Alexander



University of St Gerard. There were many dead and some survivors.



Church of Santa Ana, in which the brothers of the Fraternity of St. Alexander serve. The presbytery was also damaged and here the pastor was killed.



Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince, near St. Alexander



Chapel of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

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National Bank of Haiti



Flats in the vicinity of the fraternity of St. Alexander.



Hospital, near San Alejandro, all patients died in the building.



Sacred Heart Church, one of the most prestigious churches in Haiti



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Center for Religious Studies (CIFOR)



We trust in God so that these circumstances will permit us to have another Port-au-Prince and thus a new Haiti, with public officials close to their people with management and work policies for the majority

Fraternally

The Brothers in Haiti

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