

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Prominent Archbishop Begg American Catholics To Help Bring Comfort To Haiti's Suffering Poor

Every day, Archbishop Francois Gayot sees the terrible weight of poverty crushing Haiti's families, and his heart breaks for them.

"I see too many parents with fear in their eyes. Some have lost their jobs and they are struggling to feed their children," he says. "Others have little ones who are sick and they are not able to buy medicine. Far too many live in horrible slums — in patchwork cardboard and scrap wood shacks that bake in the sun and leak when it rains."



Archbishop Francois Gayot

In a recent meeting with Ferdinand Mahfood, founder of the Food For The Poor relief agency, Archbishop Gayot requested special assistance on behalf of these destitute families, particularly help to provide better housing.

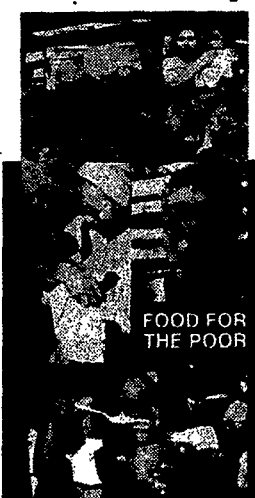
"To help these suffering people, we need to start by supplying them with simple, sturdy housing," Archbishop Gayot explained.

"Without a home, a family has no foundation for stability — the parents have no way of breaking out of their cycle of poverty. In fact, a homeless family often spirals down into deeper and deeper levels of poverty and despair."

Mahfood agrees.

"I know exactly why Archbishop Gayot is so passionate about this cause. I've walked in the slums of Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haitien. Dogs and cats in America live better than these people live. As a

Christian, I feel called to bring the Lord's



HOW YOU CAN HELP

To support this urgent outreach to the poor of Cap-Haitien, use the brochure inserted in this issue (shown at left) or send your tax-deductible contributions to: Food For The Poor, Dept. 25585, 550 SW 12 Avenue, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442. Large or small, every contribution will make a difference!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As the Archbishop of Cap-Haitien on Haiti's north coast, and on behalf of the struggling families I serve, I urgently ask for help from you, our American brothers and sisters in Christ.

The poorest families in our area are suffering as never before, and I fear the burden of their poverty will soon crush them under its weight. In growing numbers, our families are homeless, our children cry for want of food and the poor feel their hope slipping away.

On my recent visit to one poor community in my diocese, I met with families who live in a desolate place -- a place of abject poverty. Most of the homes were little more than a patchwork of rusty tin sheets and scraps of lumber. Most of the families had little or nothing to eat. As I walked among them, the eyes of the parents carried a simple plea -- "help us."

My heart was broken because I could do so little for them. Haiti is destitute, and I do not have the resources I need to help.

To meet the needs of our poor, I have forged a special partnership with FOOD FOR THE POOR, a Christ-centered ministry that has served the poor in Haiti through the church since 1982. By making a contribution to Food For The Poor, you will be supplying me with the food and other items I urgently need to bring comfort and hope to the suffering families of Cap-Haitien.

I beg you to share the plight of our people with others. Ask them to pray for us and to support our partnership with Food For The Poor. Working together, we can make a difference. We can bring the light of Christ's mercy to the areas of Cape-Haitien in desperate need.

Thank you, and may God richly bless you for hearing the cry of the poor and responding to their need with the mercy of Christ.

Francois Gayot
 † Francois GAYOT SMM
 Archbishop of Cap-Haitien
 P.O. Box 22
 CAP-HAITIEN, HAITI (W.I.)



◀ Children stand in line for a bowl of rice and beans — for many, it will be the only meal for the day.

▼ In Haiti, poor families live in patchwork homes made from discarded plastic, rusty tin sheets and scraps of lumber.



mercy and compassion to these families. I feel called to help Archbishop Gayot in any way I can."

But will other American Catholics feel this same compassion for Haiti's poor? Will they have any interest in helping people of a different nationality, culture and language?

"Yes, I'm confident that most American Catholics will share our concern for these people because they see themselves as part of a universal family of believers. They understand that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ — regardless of our color, language or national origin — and I'm sure they will rally to this important outreach.

"In fact, I believe American Christians can use this challenge to glorify God. By responding to this need, we can show the world the power of combined Christian charity. We can be a light to the nations," said Mahfood.

In response to the Archbishop's

urgent request, Food For The Poor has launched a special fund raising campaign for Cap-Haitien. Contributions will be used to supply the struggling diocese with a variety of material needs, such as food, clothing, medical supplies and basic housing.

"Since housing for the poor is one of Archbishop Gayot's greatest priorities, Food For The Poor is also putting an emphasis on meeting that need," Mahfood said. "Donors who contribute \$2,000 donation can sponsor an entire home. Smaller gifts can be pooled together to provide a 'team-built' house. Large or small, every gift made toward housing or any of Cap-Haitien's other needs will make a significant difference. These people are desperate, so every grain of rice we can supply will matter."

"This outreach will be tremendously meaningful, and I want to thank everyone who participates," the Archbishop said. "The poor families you help will feel as if God has answered their cries for help with miracle. I pray that God will bless you for the sacrifice you are making."

Readers interested in giving to this special fund should send their tax-deductible gifts to: Food For The Poor, Cap-Haitien Outreach — Dept. 25585, 550 SW 12th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442.

