



Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence Office of Communications

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Smithfield Catholic Parishes Raise Nearly \$30,000 for Haiti Earthquake Relief

*Special Second Collections Held at Catholic Parishes Across Rhode Island Raise
Nearly \$1 Million to Support Efforts of Catholic Relief Services*

(SMITHFIELD, R.I.)—The Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence today announced that through the generosity of parishioners, Catholic schools and others, \$908,548 was raised to support Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) relief efforts in Haiti. **Catholic parishes in Smithfield raised a combined \$29,313.** All funds collected thus far have been sent to CRS. A handful of parishes have not yet reported their results.

Shortly after the earthquake, Bishop Tobin appealed to parishes for help with supporting the efforts of Catholic Relief Services through the option of a special second collection. More than 120 parishes in the diocese responded to help provide for the people in Haiti. Some individuals sent donations directly to the diocese.

"Funds raised through Catholic parishes and schools in Rhode Island will provide critical resources for Catholic Relief Services to continue their efforts to provide housing, food and spiritual care to the people of Haiti," said Bishop Tobin. "Rhode Island is blessed with many generous individuals who have supported this effort to help those who lost so much as a result of the earthquake. Despite these challenging times, the Catholic community has once again responded to provide for the homeless and hungry."

According to CRS, since the earthquake struck on January 12, the humanitarian relief organization has distributed emergency shelter kits to 6,500 families, got a hospital up and running that is staffed by doctors and nurses from the University of Maryland performing 20 operations per day, set up health clinics throughout the country, established sanitation services, established food distribution systems and provided countless meals.

The collection for Haiti is among the largest special second collection for the diocese, surpassing the \$672,298 collected in 2004-2005 for CRS efforts after a tsunami struck Indonesia.

A complete listing of parish results may be viewed on www.thercatholic.com, keyword: Haiti.