

Les Dix Vierges (The Ten Virgins)
Eugène Bernand, 1850-1921

The kingdom of heaven
will be like ten virgins
who took their lamps and
went out to meet the bridegroom.
Five of them were foolish
and five were wise.



St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church • 285 Church Street • Hartford, Connecticut
November 12, 2023
Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church and The Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

285 Church Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103
tel 860-756-4034 • info@spsact.org • www.spsact.org



*Open Hearts
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Open Doors*

We are a welcoming and dynamic community of Christian disciples. Rooted in the Franciscan experience of the Roman Catholic tradition, we proactively endeavor to extend hospitality both at the Eucharistic Table and as we minister reciprocally and in solidarity among the alienated and the poor, nurturing the mind, body, and spirit in the Greater Hartford Community. All are welcome!

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Evening Mass of Anticipation

4:00 PM Livestream available

Sunday Masses

8:00 AM

10:00 AM Livestream available

11:45 AM

5:00 PM

Weekday Masses

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Livestream available

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Masks are required for everyone during Reconciliation

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:15 to 11:45 AM

Saturday 3:15 to 3:45 PM

Daily Mass Readings

Monday, Nov 13: Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6

Tuesday, Nov 14: Wis 2:23 — 3:9; Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday, Nov 15: Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19

Thursday, Nov 16: Wis 7:22b — 8:1; Lk 17:20-25

Friday, Nov 17: Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37

Sunday, Nov 19: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31;
Ps 128:1-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6;
Mt 25:14-30 [14-15, 19-21]

Go to <http://www.usccb.org/> for readings online.

The Annual Ladies Guild Bake & Craft Sale And Teacup Christmas Corner



The Ladies Guild is sponsoring their Annual Bake & Craft Sale and Tea Cup Christmas Corner after all Masses on Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12.

Your support will assist the Guild in its many ministries, in particular, our scholarship fund. Bring home a delicious cake or pie, bread or cookies... and for those "crafty" members of the parish, please share your talent with us. Don't forget to take a chance on the Christmas Corner, once again, offering many exciting prizes.

Prize drawing will be held at the Ladies Guild December 10th Christmas Party.

Come enjoy coffee at Community Sunday and this exciting Ladies Guild Event.



The Pastor's Corner

November 12, 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As I look over the parish calendar for the month of November, I am struck by the sheer number of events which take place here! Even the liturgical calendar is quite full with more than 20 solemnities, feasts or memorials during the month (a few more if you include the Franciscan liturgical calendar).

November began on Wednesday, November 1st, with the Solemnity of All Saints, and it will end on Thursday, November 30th, with the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. In between we also observe Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Day. And for the parish of St. Patrick-St. Anthony, this month becomes a place of non-stop activity of all sorts! I'd like to highlight a few events – past, present and future.

Those who attended the Mass of Remembrance on All Souls Day (or watched the live-stream) were united in heart and mind with their loved ones whom we lovingly lifted up to the Lord's mercy and eternal embrace. The beautiful and powerful setting of the Requiem Mass by the French organist and composer, Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986), is imbued with much emotion and drama. We are grateful to Gabriel Löfvall, our choirs and instrumentalists for their hard work and preparation of this masterpiece.



Anna Eddy Photo

This weekend we will be hearing from members of the Sister Parish Advocacy Subcommittee about their efforts to bring some stability and peace to the nation of Haiti, and how each of us can contribute to that effort. I am very grateful to Pat Spring, Joan Martin, Joe Cirasuolo, Anita Ellis and Fran Rago for their presentations to the parish at Mass. They have been working with other members of our Sister Parish Committee to network with other parishes across the country to find ways to make our voices heard.

More events this weekend include the Ladies Guild Annual Bake & Craft Sale and Teacup Christmas Corner after all Masses; the 15th Annual Turkey Drive this Sunday; and the raffle drawing during Community Sunday for tickets to the Andrea Bocelli Concert in the XL Center next month. We've sold over 400 tickets, and we are very grateful for your support!



Next Saturday, November 18th, we will celebrate a special Mass at 11:00 AM with the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. I am happy that this tradition will be returning after several years since the start of the pandemic. The Mass will be followed by a luncheon in the Franciscan Center. We invite anyone who desires to receive the Sacrament of the Sick to participate. Illness can take various forms, whether it's a chronic condition or something more urgent. Prayer is a very powerful and necessary element in the healing process, and we feel it even more so in a communal setting.

As I mentioned last week, we will observe the International Transgender Day of Remembrance at the 5:00 PM Mass on Sunday, November 19th, for transgender persons who have died as victims of transphobic violence during the past year. This annual event, sponsored by our Open Hearts LGBTQ+ Ministry, is our way of showing our support as a community that welcomes everyone.

Fr. Tim Shreenan, OFM
Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.

P.S. Here is a small sample of the photos our parishioners have submitted for our Parish Christmas Tree. There is still plenty of time to send yours in, and we have room for a lot more! Just email your hi-res digital file to tshreenan@gmail.com and please include the names of the individuals in the photo. If you prefer, bring in a photo and we will scan it.





A Message from our Parish Nurses

We, the Parish Nurses welcome you to join us on community Sunday for a blood pressure check.

Also a reminder for you to get your flu shot, covid booster and make sure you are up to date on any or all of your vaccines.

Any parishoners that are nurses and would like to help with blood pressures once a month, we would welcome you. Please contact Judee Martz at 860 798 4928.

Weekly Offerings

November 6 to 12, 2023

Online: \$9,909.23

Weekly Offering: \$6,161.00

Total for Operating Budget: \$16,070.23

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

Next week, November 18/19, 2023 our second collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. More than 37 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face in bringing permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.uscb.org/cchd

Ongoing Adult Faith Formation Programs

For full program descriptions, Zoom links, and more information, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-AFF>.

Group Spiritual Reflection:

Monday, November 13, in-person, 12:40 to 1:40 PM

Tuesday, November 14, on Zoom, 12:30 to 1:30 PM

In Quiet Prayer:

Wednesday, November 15, 7:30-8:00 AM on Zoom

Taproot

Wednesday, November 15, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 PM on Zoom

Praying with Sacred Scripture

Next Meeting: November 15, 7:00-8:00 PM in-person. Please consider joining us for "lectio divina" (divine reading.) It is a prayerful reading of a bible passage in order to discern its message for each of us today. We have found that meeting in person gives the experience greater intimacy and impact. If you haven't tried it yet, please do! The process is simple and will be explained each time, and sharing is welcome, but optional.

Co-facilitators: Sheila Denion and John Lemega

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join this wonderful and prayerful ministry. Our next meetings:

Monday, November 13 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on Zoom,

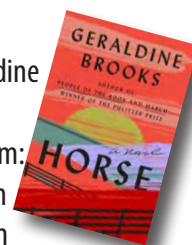
Thursday November 30 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Please check Monday's email for the Zoom Link.



A Novel Idea Book Club

Our November book selection is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. Join the discussion on **November 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom**. From Goodreads.com: A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history For more information and a list of upcoming books, please [CLICK Here](#). Contact the office at 860-756-4034 or email info@spsact.org if you need the Zoom Link and we will forward it to you.



Anointing Mass and Luncheon

Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Parishioners wishing to receive the Sacrament of the Sick are invited to an Anointing Mass in the church on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 11:00 AM. Parishioners as well as their family members and caregivers are invited.

There will be a luncheon held after the Mass in the Franciscan Center. If you plan to attend the luncheon, please RSVP by scanning or clicking on the QR Code below which will take you to <https://spsact.org/lunch-rsvp-november-2023/>, and filling out the form. You can also call our parish office at (860) 756-4034 to let us know how many will be accompanying you and any dietary restriction or allergies. (Please RSVP by Monday, November 13, 2023 so that we can be sure we to have enough meals for everyone.)



We encourage anyone coping with chronic illness or disease (heart, cancer, respiratory ailments, diabetes, etc.); those with the disease of alcoholism or other addictions; those suffering from any mental health issues; anyone facing surgery; those experiencing aging with its limitations, fears and isolation; or any others who are seriously ill to join us together with family members and caregivers that day.

Clare Gallery

Join us for Clare Gallery's final 20th Anniversary exhibition panel discussion on **Sunday, November 19, 1-2 PM**. The new exhibit **Color and Identity: A Visual Conversation**, reveals national artist Stanwyck Cromwell's ongoing artistic journey. Panelists will include the artist; John Motley, past president of the Amistad Center for Art & Culture and of the Wadsworth Museum of Art; and Fiona Vernal, Associate Professor, History and Africana Studies at the University of Connecticut.

The SFO Meeting

Is God calling you to live a life of love, peace, and holiness in the model of St. Francis of Assisi?

Join us for our gathering in the lower level of the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at St. Patrick-St. Anthony on Sunday, November 19th, to learn more about **The Secular Franciscan Order**. Our meeting starts at 2:00 and we will be celebrating our Memorial Service to remember deceased friends, relatives and members of our fraternity. All are welcome.



Advent Daytime Retreat:

The Art of the Jesse Tree

Tuesday, December 5

Begin your Advent Retreat Day with our 12:05 Mass.

Come over to the Franciscan Center for a light lunch from 12:30-1:00 PM.

The presentation and prayer will take place in the Center from 1:00-4:00 PM.

Join us for an afternoon in early Advent as we explore the various ways in which the Jesse Tree has been pictured from the Middle Ages to the present day in illuminated manuscripts, stained glass windows, painting, and sculpture. Afterwards, we will create our own Jesse Tree with specially designed "ornaments" representing the men and women who figured prominently in the history of ancient Israel, leading to Joseph and Mary and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Presenter: Fr. Tim Shreenan, O.F.M.

\$25.00 includes lunch; please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Jesse-Lunch> to register.

\$20.00 for presentation only; please go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Jesse-NL> to register.

Incarnational Inspiration

Tuesdays, December 12 & 19 following the 12:05 Mass

Advent is a magical time of anticipation. It's like the excitement of walking past that shiny little package under the tree that has your name carefully written on the tag. Let's explore this blessed season as we pray and reflect on Mary's journey with God Incarnate using the magnificent stained glass windows in our church. Their vibrant colors and symbols will guide us into the Advent journey with the Holy Family.

Co-facilitators: Pat Curtis and LouAnn Warren
Free Will Offering



2023 Giving Tree

It's all most time! Parishioners may remember that because of COVID-19, we used the concept of a Gift Registry to allow parishioners to choose a gift for an individual from one of the programs that the Local Giving Tree supports. Because of its success, we chose to continue our Gift Registry.



Over the next few weeks, a brief description of each program's support for our neighbors in the Hartford area will be described.

The Gift Registry is available this weekend, November 18 and 19. Access is available by going to www.spsagivingtree.org. Instructions will be provided along with important dates once you enter the Local Giving Tree page.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

4th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) will be observed during the 5:00 PM Mass on Sunday, November 19, 2023.

Our TDoR observance will be led by the Open Hearts and Family and Friends LGBT ministries to remember all those Transgender and Non-Conforming gender folks who were victims of violence in the US and around the world in 2023.

You are invited to attend a wine and cheese reception following Mass in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry. All are Welcome.



COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

Does your ministry have an upcoming event or news to share?

Fill out your Communications Request on our website today! The form on our website sends your request to both Sarah (for the website / emails / social) and Carolyn (for the bulletin).

When we receive your request, we can decide the most effective way and the most effective timeframe in which to promote your ministry's news across all our channels. We have an overall view of the big picture of events that happen around the church and the center and when they occur. We keep this big picture in mind as we plan when events go to publication in the way that best meets the needs of the parish, all of our many ministries, and each specific event.

Please submit your request by going to <https://spsact.org/communications/> and allow us to do the rest!

Bulletin Deadline Changes:

Deadlines are changing for the holiday season. Please see below.

11/26/2023 Bulletin Deadline:	11/15/2023 at Noon
12/03/2023 Bulletin Deadline:	11/22/2023 at Noon
12/10/2023 Bulletin Deadline:	11/29/2023 at Noon
12/17/2023 Bulletin Deadline:	12/06/2023 at Noon
12/24/2023 Bulletin Deadline:	12/13/2023 at Noon
12/31/2023 Bulletin Deadline:	12/22/2023 at Noon
1/07/2024 Bulletin Deadline:	12/27/2023 at Noon

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Saturday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities:

Weekend Volunteer Opportunities

Weekends at St. Patrick – St. Anthony don't simply "happen". Many volunteers work together to help us gather as a community during and outside of Mass. Please consider whether these volunteer opportunities might be a way for you to share your gifts with us!

- Sacristan at weekend Masses
- Livestream camera operator at 4:00PM or 10:00AM Masses
- Front desk greeter in the church office before and during 8:00AM Mass on Sundays.
- Front desk greeter in office from 11:00AM to 1:30PM.

For more information, go to www.spsact.org/current-volunteer-opportunities/.

Watch Online:



<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Facebook>



<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-YouTube>



<https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Streamspot>

Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

Thank you so much to the St. Patrick-St. Anthony Faith Community for all your hard work and generosity in funding food purchases, baking, providing treats and loaves of bread, making sandwiches and preparing hot meals, and serving them. Together, as a community, we were able to provide 3,523 meals this October.



St. Anthony Bread for the Poor

We have been serving between 90 and 120 sandwiches per day Monday through Friday and 80 hot meals each week. Our need has increased. Please check out the volunteer opportunities below and go to <https://tinyurl.com/SPSA-Pasta-Bake> if you would like to volunteer.

A Pound of Pasta: There are plenty of opportunities open for folks to drop off a pound of your favorite pasta dish - if you want to drop it off on the weekend before Mass we can pop it in the freezer.



Tuesday Meal Prep/Service: Help prep for the Tuesday meal process starts at 2:00 PM, serving starts at 4:00 PM let us know if you are interested in volunteering for either role!

We are looking to add to the baking teams to meet our increased needs. If you like to bake we have an opportunity for you.

St. Francis Bakers: Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday the sandwich servers distribute home baked goodies with the sandwiches. As mentioned above, we are serving 30 to 60 more people each day. So the need is there, if you would like to help us share the love through baking this is the Ministry for you. You are welcome to take on a particular delivery day and amount but random acts of baking are also greatly appreciated.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, November 11, 2023

4:00 PM Claudette Smith

Sunday, November 12, 2023

8:00 AM Daniel Laffin, III, 2nd Anniversary

10:00 AM William Curtis

11:45 AM Prayer intentions for Christians of the Middle East

5:00 PM

Monday, November 13, 2023

7:30 AM Intentions for the people of St. Genevieve Parish

12:05 PM Fred Schmiedeler

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Peter Leonard, 13th Anniversary and
Fr. William Daly, 20th Anniversary

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

7:30 AM

12:05 PM Hank Cleary, 2nd Anniversary and
Harold and Mary Cleary

Thursday, November 16, 2023

7:30 AM

12:05 PM For our parishioners

Friday, November 17, 2023

7:30 AM Filipe Gutierrez

12:05 PM Richard Szelenyi

Saturday, November 18, 2023

4:00 PM Survivors of Suicide

Sunday, November 19, 2023

8:00 AM William Grothaus

10:00 AM August West Linder, 20th Anniversary

11:45 AM Judith Cardoni

5:00 PM Robert Janulevicz

Please Pray for the Sick

Paula Molitar, Joseph Shertick, Greg Reed, Kathryn Eagers,
Tommie Henry, Cecy Mickey,
Syl Ciraulo, Mary Ertel, Mary Joyce
Castafero, Tim Hindman,
Bobby Lombardo, John Gannon,
Susan Degennaro and Deborah Godin.



We are here to serve you...

We are here to serve you. The programs and ministries listed below are just a sampling of our many offerings. Please go to www.spsact.org or call the Parish Office at 860-756-4034 for more information.

Baptism: Baptism of infants and young children may be celebrated during Sunday Mass and Group Baptisms on the 1st Saturday of each month outside of the season of Lent.

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate; 860-756-4034, EXT. 113.

Matrimony: The Sacrament of Marriage at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church are celebrated Friday and Saturdays. The Bride or Groom should contact *Carolyn Abramo, Wedding Manager; 860-756-4034, EXT. 111* or <https://spsact.org/wedding-request-form/> to begin preparation for Marriage, normally one year in advance and before any other arrangements are made for a reception.

Pastoral Care Outreach Ministry: We offer holistic care in collaboration with the parish staff (friars, ministry coordinators, and parish nurses). Members of this team are responsible for visiting parishioners at home or in long term and short term care facilities. *Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M.; 860-756-4034, EXT. 129.*

Prayer Network: The St. Patrick–St. Anthony Prayer Network consists of approximately fifty parishioners who commit themselves to praying daily for those in need. <https://spsact.org/prayer-network-prayer-request/> or Parish Office; 860-756-4034.

Open Hearts LGBTQ+ Ministry: This ministry consists of two Groups: **Open Hearts** holds monthly fellowship meetings, and **Friends and Family (LGBTQ+) Support Ministry**, which supports members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community.

For information on Open Hearts:

<https://spsact.org/contact-open-hearts-ministry/>

For information on Friends and Family contact:

<https://spsact.org/contact-form-for-friends-family-ministry/>

Volunteering and Outreach Ministry Information:

St. Patrick-St. Anthony invites individuals to give freely of their time and expertise in order to make a difference. Our volunteers participate in liturgical ministries as well as other forms of service to the church, the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry and the community at large. *Allison Holst-Grubbe, Director of Community Engagement; aholstgrubbe@spsact.org; 860-756-4034, EXT. 110.*

St. Patrick - St. Anthony Staff

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Timothy J. Shreenan, O.F.M., Pastor, tshreenan@gmail.com

Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Guardian, wbeaudin@gmail.com

Patricia Curtis, Pastoral Associate, pcurtis@spsact.org

Kristina DiDomenzio, Business Manager, kdidomenzio@spsact.org

Allison Holst-Grubbe, Director of Community Engagement, aholstgrubbe@spsact.org

Fr. Michael Johnson, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, mikeinbolivia@gmail.com

Fr. John Leonard, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, jleonard@spsact.org

Dr. Gabriel Löfvall, Director of Music Ministry, glofvall@spsact.org

Fr. A. Francis Soucy, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Senior Associate Friar, afsofm@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Sarah Christopher, Parish Communications Director, schristopher@spsact.org

Stacie Mawson, Saturday Receptionist, smawson@spsact.org

Barbara Sullivan, Saturday Receptionist, bsullivan@spsact.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Deborah Pelletier, Religious Ed Team Coordinator, dpelletier@spsact.org

Sarah Christopher, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Mary Gray, Family Program

Lauren Kasperowski, Traditional Program

Faith VosWinkel, Confirmation

Abigail Sheehan, 7th & 8th Grade

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Gilberto Lisboa, Church Custodian

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St. Patrick - St. Anthony and
The Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

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Just send your email address by text message:*
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.
 *Message and data rates may apply.*

Coming to the Aid of our Brothers and Sisters in Haiti

A Message from the Advocacy Subcommittee on behalf of our Sister Parish of Saint Geneviève

In the bulletin of November 5, we described on a personal level the evil terrorism that is afflicting our sister and brother parishioners at St. Geneviève along with just about all other Haitians. The advocacy effort that has been mounted with other parishes nationwide to persuade the US government to come to the aid of Haitians was also described. The following is a report of what has happened as a result of the advocacy effort.

Sanction the wealthy Haitians who are funding the gangs.

The US House of Representatives approved unanimously via voice vote a bill that authorizes the federal government to sanction those who are funding the gangs. The appropriate committee of the US Senate has acted favorably on the bill, again unanimously via voice vote. The bill is now awaiting action by the full Senate and once that happens, President Biden will sign the bill.

Attention, then, will be on making sure that the government uses the authority that it will have and actually enacts sanctions.

Support the deployment of an international peace keeping force to Haiti to provide the safety, security and peace that Haitians need to re-establish a functioning government.

“My brother and sisters, in all sincerity I must tell you that I am impatiently awaiting the arrival of this peace-keeping force and the disappearance of the armed gangs who are making us suffer this hell. I suffer a lot and terribly because I cannot yet return to the parish to resume all my activities and help the people who are in such great need and which would be very precious to them.

If it were up to me I would return to Zorange tomorrow, because the community is impatiently waiting for me, but security problems are still raised. Until now,

The United Nations Security Council has approved a resolution that authorizes the deployment of a UN peace keeping force. Kenya has volunteered to lead the force and other countries have committed to supplying members for the force. The US has committed to fund the force and otherwise provide the logistics necessary for the deployment. The present expectation is that the force will be deployed very soon after 1/1/24.

Attention, now, is on making sure that the force is actually deployed and once that happens on making sure that the force acts effectively to establish and sustain the security, stability and peace that is required for the establishment of a functioning government in Haiti.

Stop the illegal shipment of guns from the US to the Haitian gangs.

Unfortunately, no progress has been made on this objective. This is particularly concerning because once the peace keeping force is deployed, the gangs will wound and kill some of the force's members with guns and ammunition smuggled to Haiti from the US. In addition, what we are asking the US government to do is what our Constitution and statutes require it to do: enforce the law. So, these efforts to stop the shipments of lethal resources that in the hands of terrorists are hurting so many people have to be redoubled.

As you can see, some progress has been made. It, however, isn't yet enough. So, **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.**

A Message from Fr. Gaby Noël, Pastor of Saint Geneviève

the bandits come and go in the community as they please; that is, security is still at stake even if they are not attacking the population at the moment. They have control of the community.

I can't take any of the roads to get to Zorange. I cannot get there by public transport because I will not be able to function without a vehicle, and I cannot get to the parish also with the parish vehicle since it was targeted by bandits. They wanted to grab it at all costs. In addition, you cannot travel with any car or private vehicle by any road to get to Zorange.” - Fr. Gaby

How You Can Help

Our legislators are interested in hearing from us and all have websites that include their contact email addresses.

- Go to cga.ct.gov and scroll down the page to the section labeled “Find your legislators”.
- Select your town from a drop-down menu.
- Select your street address from a drop-down menu.
- Enter your house number.
- Press “find” and you will be transferred to a screen listing your state and federal elected representatives.
- Click on the name of one of your national representatives (for example, Senator Richard Blumenthal).
You will be transferred to that person’s webpage where you will find a place (often labeled “Contact”) to send an email to your legislator.

Here is a template you can use to write your message:

Dear [NAME OF SENATOR OR CONGRESSPERSON]:

I am [YOUR NAME] and I live at [YOUR ADDRESS].

I am reaching out to you because I am very concerned about the horrible conditions in which the people of Haiti are living. Since there is no functioning government in Haiti, terrorist gangs actually rule the country. As a result, Haitians are afraid to sleep in their homes at night, send their children to school and even go to a place of religious worship. Many people including children have been kidnapped and murdered, over 20% of the population is homeless and food security is increasingly rampant. ***Nobody should have to live like that!***

The gangs are funded by wealthy Haitians who derive some of their wealth from Latin American drug cartels who use Haiti as a launching place for drugs that are smuggled into the United States. So, for both humanitarian reasons and national security concerns, the United States should take actions to alleviate the suffering being endured by Haitians.

Specifically, the US needs to:

- Sanction those who are funding the Haitian gangs.
- Keep its commitment to fund and provide logistics for the UN international peace keeping force that is being formed for deployment in Haiti
- Stop the illegal shipment of guns and ammunition from the US to the Haitian gangs.

I urge you, therefore, to:

- Make sure that the House approved authorization for sanctions is also approved by the Senate and signed by the President.
- Make sure that the Administration keeps its commitment to support the UN peace keeping force.
- Require the Administration to enforce the law and stop the illegal shipment of armaments from the US to Haiti.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.