



Kobonal Water

Providing safe, clean water to poor villagers

— Kobonal, Haiti —



And let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said,
“Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”

JOHN 7:38



We are a Catholic ministry

that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.



Project Synopsis

Description

This project will support Kobonal Water and will build community well stations for 112 families.

Purpose

To prevent unnecessary illness and needless deaths from waterborne diseases by providing destitute families with access to safe, clean water.

Location

Kobonal — a remote farming community in the Diocese of Hinche in Haiti's Central Plateau.

Cost

\$35,302 is needed to fund the construction of two community well stations in Morique (Kaka Towo) and Rode I (Fort Rozoley) and repair five existing wells. The total cost includes drilling, installing a pump, managing the well, and providing hygiene and sanitation education to community members.

Highlights

- Father Glenn Meaux established Kobonal Haiti Mission more than 30 years ago to serve and evangelize a community plagued by poverty and spiritual darkness.
- Over the past three decades, the Mission has helped bring dramatic improvements to rural Kobonal, but much more could and should be done because many families have not yet received help with their needs.
- Hundreds of villagers in Kobonal lack access to clean, safe water sources; instead they depend on contaminated rivers and wells for drinking water.
- With support from friends like you, Fr. Meaux will provide Kobonal's most destitute families with community well stations. The hand pump wells inside the stations are freestanding, with no holding tanks.
- Each well has a cement wall around it for security and is open certain hours during the day.
- The water is free for the users, but they are encouraged to give a token amount that is put into a community fund for repairs on the wells.
- Members of the communities have volunteered their time to help with the construction — ***but we need your help to get the project started!***





The Need

When Fr. Meaux and his missionary team arrived in Kobonal in 1989, he was deeply disturbed by the magnitude of the people's poverty.

Hardly anyone in the village owned the land their fragile huts occupied. No one grew gardens or raised animals. Very few employment opportunities existed for the unskilled, uneducated population, so very few families were able to earn money to buy food.

During the rainy season, the women and children would gather water from the plentiful streams and rivers — but the water was obviously tainted. During the dry season, people resorted to digging holes in the sand in order to find water. “There was no agriculture, there was no irrigation system, there was just literally no hope at the time,” Fr. Meaux recalls.

With this sense of hopelessness, it is easy to see how Kobonal earned its reputation as the “darkest corner of the Diocese of Hinche.” In addition to suffering hunger and thirst, the people were also starving for spiritual guidance. Entrenched in superstition and occult practices, few had ever heard the name of Christ.

This is the challenging ground on which Kobonal Haiti Mission took root. Over the past three decades, the Mission has helped hundreds of families improve their lives, but Fr. Meaux's heart breaks every time he sees a mother or child living in a dilapidated shack or gathering water from a murky stream. He wants to bless these struggling families with stability and hope.

“As Catholics we must extend our hands to help our brothers and sisters in need,” Fr. Meaux says. So he is committed to bringing clean water to the people of Kobonal.

Haiti at a Glance

- Population: **11,067,777**
- Yearly income per capita: **\$817**
(Poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, 3rd poorest in the world)
- Literacy rate: **61.7%** *(95.5% in U.S.)*
- Infant mortality per 1,000 live births: **42.6** *(7.5 in U.S.)*
- Percentage of population below poverty line: **58.5%**
- Percentage of population that has clean water: **58%** *(47% in rural areas)*
- Unemployment rate: **40.6%** *(2/3 of the labor force do not have formal jobs)*

Sources: The World Bank, Haiti Health Ministries, CIA Factbook.



The Program

This appeal on behalf of the poor families living in the Kobonal area will also help fund the construction of **two clean-water wells and repair five existing wells** to serve the daily needs of about **408 families** who currently face the greatest challenges to their health and well-being.

The people in these villages will not only use the water for drinking and cooking, but also to sustain important gardens they depend on for food and income.

The wells will make use of freestanding hand pumps, and the families in each community will choose a leader to oversee and perform maintenance on the equipment. Each well will have a cement wall around it for security and will be available daily during specific hours of operation. The water will be free, but the benefiting families will be encouraged to contribute a token amount to a community fund that can be tapped if repairs are every needed on the wells. Contributing in this way will also give villagers a sense of ownership and pride in their community.

Anticipation is mounting for this project, and volunteers have already stepped forward to offer their help with the construction of the wells. Now, all that's needed are the funds for drilling, purchasing pumps, constructing a pump house to store supplies, and training community members to handle maintenance of the new facilities.

Imagine the excitement that will sweep through the community when you and other American Catholics join these efforts and help make this long-anticipated dream a reality!



The typical Mission well is a manual hand pump surrounded by 8-foot walls and accessed by a metal door with a lock. About 52 families will share it.



Help Now!

As Fr. Meaux has said, “As Catholics, we must extend our hands to help our brothers and sisters in need.”

We agree. We believe God is reaching out to faithful benefactors like you to empower the Kobonal Haiti Mission and transform the lives of poor families that live in the Central Plateau.

The life-changing work of Fr. Meaux and the Kobonal Haiti Mission can touch hearts and draw souls to Jesus Christ — but only with your financial support.

It was Jesus who said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

Join with us! Show your wisdom and commitment to the Lord by making this investment today!

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2021, the close of our ministry’s fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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