While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

LUKE 2:6-7
Celebrate Advent by Giving
Safe Shelter to Needy Families

Advent is a season of joyful expectation. We celebrate it while anticipating the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ — the light who eliminates the darkness. And as Jesus’ followers, we are also called to share this season’s hope with those desperate for good news.

Each Advent season, U.S. parishes join Cross Catholic Outreach to bring hope to poor Haitian families by providing safe and reliable housing. Once again, we’re teaming up with our trusted ministry partner Father Glenn Meaux at Kobonal Haiti Mission to build these houses. This is a practical way your parishioners can celebrate the birth of Jesus and bring glory to his name!

A new house represents a new beginning. Please celebrate this Advent by welcoming families home for Christmas! As you give joyfully, you will reflect the mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ, who gave the greatest gift of all — himself!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...

ISAIAH 9:2
More than 2,000 years ago, the Savior of the world was born in a manger with no safe place to lay his head. Today, thousands of Haitian families suffer the same fate. Some are homeless. Others live in broken-down shacks with dirt floors and stick-and-mud walls. Nothing like our homes, these hovels provide little protection from inclement weather or threats from the outside world.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and its people have been struggling under an incredible burden of poverty for generations. In the midst of a global pandemic, that poverty has only become even more challenging. While many of us have been able to quarantine in a comfortable house, others don’t have that luxury. Some have no home at all! By joining us and empowering one of our trusted Catholic mission partners, you will have a unique opportunity to move vulnerable Haitian families into safe, concrete houses.

As you read on, you will see that Cross Catholic Outreach’s “Homes for Christmas” Advent outreach provides your parish a tangible way to express God’s love — and restore hope at this wonderful time of year. Free liturgically themed promotional tools are available to enlighten and motivate your parishioners to put their faith into action by sheltering the homeless. We will be happy to send as many copies as you require. Just give us a call!

Please, help homeless Haitian families and those living in unsafe and unhealthy conditions find the safety, comfort and hope that a clean, sturdy house can provide. By blessing others in need, your parishioners will also prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus by putting his love into action!

Haiti at a Glance

- Population: **10,981,229**
- Yearly income per capita: **$817** (poorest in North America, 3rd poorest in the world)
- Literacy rate: **60.7%** (95.5% in U.S.)
- Infant mortality per 1,000 live births: **48.2** (7.5 in U.S.)
- Population below poverty line: **58.5%**
- Unemployment: **40.6%** (2/3 of the labor force do not have formal jobs)

Sources: The World Bank, Haiti Health Ministries, CIA World Factbook.
Meet the Desperate Need for Safe Housing

Veronique and Lucanier Joseph live in poverty, grieving over how their situation is affecting their seven children. The family is crammed into a small, stick-and-mud hut with a flimsy roof made of rusted metal sheets, as seen in the photo below. Veronique was born in the crumbling shack, and now she fears her children will follow the same path, always living in destitute conditions.

“When it rains, forget about it,” Veronique said, describing the rain coming through the holes in the roof and the floor turning into mud. “The house floods.”

Not only are these conditions uncomfortable, they are also unsafe and unsanitary. Her children are often sick with stomach ailments, colds and the flu.

Lucanier and Veronique do what they can to feed their children on a tiny income, and the dismal state of the local economy offers them little hope of changing their family’s living circumstances. Despite these hardships, Veronique doesn't give up. She prays daily, asking God to send relief, and works ever harder to provide a better life for her children.

Unfortunately, the situation Veronique and Lucanier face isn't unusual in Haiti. Thousands of other families are in the same dismal circumstances. They need safe shelter, but they don’t have the financial resources to escape the situation. *That’s why we need your help. You can help change Veronique’s story and answer her lifelong cry for relief.*

*When you join Cross Catholic Outreach to fund safe housing through Kobonal Haiti Mission, you will meet an urgent need by providing a safe and sturdy house for a family in need. Please — make this Advent season meaningful and welcome poor families home for Christmas!*

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*Due to limited travel conditions because of COVID-19, Cross Catholic Outreach is unable to visit our ministry partners at this time. For that reason, we're including information and stories from people helped by U.S. Catholics in past Advent projects and using photos provided directly by our partner, Kobonal Haiti Mission.*
Provide a House for Just $8,580

While every gift amount is valued and deeply appreciated, we hope your parish will considering funding the cost of an entire home at $8,580. Incredibly, a contribution of that amount will build a sturdy, four-room concrete house with a solid cement foundation and strong galvanized steel roof! The houses are even supplied with a small solar panel to provide indoor electricity.

Our plan is also to repair existing houses, and you can sponsor that work at a cost of $1,402 per house.

By supporting this outreach, you’ll also be building the faith of individuals and engaging the community. Typically, each family selected for repairs or a new home participates in the building process alongside a construction crew. This gives them the dignity of contributing toward their own house. They gain an important sense of self-worth and learn there is a God who cares about their needs and hears their prayers.

Please, be a part of this Advent miracle by engaging your parish in the effort to fund a durable new home for a family in need. These homes will empower them to break the generational cycle of poverty for good!
Our Partner: The Kobonal Haiti Mission

In addition to safe housing, the Kobonal Haiti Mission meets the material and spiritual needs of poor families through these transformative ministries...

Food and Nutrition

Kobonal’s most vulnerable families are given monthly food staples.

Medical Clinic

Volunteer medical teams regularly travel to Kobonal to provide services like dentistry and optometry.

Clean Water

Kobonal families are given access to safe, drinkable water through water wells like these.
One of the Mission's most successful programs is animal husbandry. Villagers are given a cow or goat to breed. The first offspring is given to the Mission to continue the program, but the family is allowed to keep any additional offspring. In past years, this program was funded by Cross Catholic Outreach's donors. Now the program is entirely sustained by villagers returning animals to the Mission.

Kobonal School educates students from kindergarten through sixth grade. After students graduate from primary school, they're eligible to receive a scholarship for secondary school and university.

Aspiring entrepreneurs in the Central Plateau have been able to build their own small businesses.

Kobonal families work in a community garden, where they learn better farming techniques and build community spirit by working together. The food harvested is used to make lunches at Kobonal School.

To learn more about the Kobonal Haiti Mission, go to CrossCatholic.org/Advent to watch a special video!
A Proven Track Record of Effective Poverty Relief

When you join Cross Catholic Outreach in this life-transforming Advent project, you will empower one of Haiti’s most heroic missionary priests — Fr. Meaux. He founded the Kobonal Haiti Mission 30 years ago, and he continues to selflessly serve and evangelize in the rural community. The area was once plagued by poverty and spiritual darkness, but Fr. Meaux and the Mission have since brought hundreds of local families relief and hope. When the Mission began to meet the needs of the people through programs like safe housing, a spiritual transformation took place. Villagers abandoned voodoo and embraced Christ. The fear of curses was overcome by the joy of the Gospel. Broken families were reconciled, teenage pregnancy declined, discord gave way to neighborly love, and the people came together to hear the Word and receive the Blessed Sacrament.

Today, many of those villagers are now members of his all-Haitian staff, entrusted with showing Christ’s mercy to their neighbors and providing crucial services — such as house construction — that bless so many families. The strength of the ministry is that every program at Kobonal is infused with the Gospel and regular prayer, leading to lasting positive results.

“Through the sacramental life, you build the body of the Church. Through the process of the Gospel, the Eucharist, we build and transform the community.”

FR. GLENN MEAUX
To help you engage your parishioners with the great need of Haitian families, Cross Catholic Outreach can provide free promotional tools:

- **Activity Guide for Children and Families**
  The guide helps pastors, teachers and parents lead children through the spiritual journey of Advent while supporting poor families along the way. It is tailored specifically for Catholic schools and spiritual formation programs.

- **Bulletin Insert**
  Use this insert to educate and inspire parishioners. It briefly explains the program and shows how individuals and families can get involved. This piece is designed to fit in your weekly parish bulletin.

- **Poster**
  The poster is an excellent tool for communicating your mission within the parish and to advertise in your community, further increasing participation and sharing your vision with neighborhoods in your area.

- **Video**
  The “Homes for Christmas” video is a great way to introduce the “Homes for Christmas” Advent outreach to your parish. **You can access the video at CrossCatholic.org/Advent.**
Help Us Welcome Families Home for Christmas!

You can provide safe shelter to needy families by making “Homes for Christmas” part of your Advent observance this year! By unifying your parishioners around the challenge of raising funds to build and repair homes, you will give them an opportunity to put their faith into action.

Will you help us build safe houses for Haitian families in need? Please — give generously and help us transform lives, families and communities in the name of Jesus Christ!

Levels of Giving

- **$8,580 Gift of Love**
  Provides a home for a needy family!

- **$4,290 Gift of Joy**
  Combines with another parish’s gift to provide a home!

- **$2,145 Gift of Peace**
  Four gifts at this level provides a home for a needy family!

- **$1,430 Gift of Hope**
  Six gifts at this level provides a home for a needy family!

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

**Acts 20:35**
Why Give to Cross Catholic Outreach?

1. **We Are a Catholic Ministry.**
   We serve the poorest of the poor around the world by channeling aid through dioceses, parishes and Catholic missionaries. This cost-effectively helps the poor break the cycle of poverty while advancing Catholic evangelization.

2. **We Have Received Pontifical Approval Serving in Collaboration With the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.**
   The Holy Father, through the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, has officially approved Cross Catholic Outreach by conferring canonical status on the ministry. Official approval of Cross Catholic Outreach’s statutes offers to the world a universally recognized “seal of approval” — proclaiming that Cross Catholic Outreach is operating in accordance with the highest standards set by the Church.

3. **Our Ministry Is Based on Catholic Social Teaching.**
   Our priority is to help “the poorest of the poor.” This was the teaching of Jesus as well. In the famous judgment scene in Matthew 25, Jesus commends his followers for serving him as they ministered to the hungry, homeless, sick, imprisoned and poor. It is an expression of the servant model of the Church and is underscored in the teaching of the Second Vatican Council.

4. **Ministering to the “Poorest of the Poor” Is Part of Catholic Tradition.**
   This ministry of caring for the poor was institutionalized in the great monasteries of the first millennium as the religious cared for orphans, the sick, the elderly and the poor. From the monasteries, the ministry of caring was brought back into the cities by Catholic leaders who established orphanages, hospices and many other centers for health and social services. Later, lay and religious associations, such as those begun by St. Vincent de Paul, expanded this work.

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**More than 95% of our budget goes to program services.**

- Program Services 95.25%
- Administration 2.77%
- Fundraising 1.98%

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**Our Promise to You!**

Proceeds 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.
Our Mission

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

How We Serve

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.

Good Stewardship

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. These detailed accountability measures have earned us ongoing accreditation by the following organizations:

For detailed information about the Cross Catholic Advent program, go to

CrossCatholic.org/Advent