Made for Greatness
Help the Church in Haiti Build Bright Futures

CrossCatholic.org/transform-kobonal
A Labor of Love

The Joseph family’s ramshackle house tells a heartbreaking story. You can sense it from the dwelling’s leaky metal roof; in the front door that slants at sharp angles; in the crumbling earthen and newsprint walls. While it’s crudely constructed, you can tell it was built by a dedicated but impoverished father — a man desperate to protect and care for his family despite his extreme poverty.

The house is undoubtedly a labor of love — but it is also a painful daily reminder of how challenging life is on the margins of society.

Renald Joseph is a poor farmer who does carpentry work on the side, sawing wood for doors and other building projects, and he used scraps from those jobs to build this humble dwelling. As he explains it, “We have nowhere else to go, so we make do with the little we have. Still, we pray to God because he alone can change lives.”

As a good father, God grieves for his children in Haiti and wants a brighter future for them. We believe he is calling on his Church and faithful disciples like you to be his instrument of mercy, offering families the help necessary to break free from the cycle of poverty.

In his encyclical Spe Salvi, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: “Man was created for greatness — for God himself.” At Cross Catholic Outreach, we believe greatness is inherent in all of God’s children, including our poor brothers and sisters in rural Haiti. We also believe the solution families like the Josephs need to reach their full potential begins with you. As you read on, you will learn more about our mission to help the Church in Haiti serve poor communities and open doors to greater opportunities. In empowering the work of those ministries, you can build bright futures and forever change struggling families’ lives!
Executive Summary

Description
This important project will empower families in Haiti to achieve the greatness that God has in store for their lives by supporting critical poverty relief programs designed to restore hope, health and holistic healing.

Purpose
Father Glenn Meaux is a champion of the poor in Haiti, and he has faithfully served and evangelized rural communities plagued by material and spiritual poverty. His Kobonal Haiti Mission plays a major role in transforming the lives of impoverished families.

Location
Kobonal, a remote farming community in the Diocese of Hinche in Haiti’s Central Plateau.

Campaign Goal
$1,456,066 will empower families to achieve greater self-sufficiency and realize their God-given greatness. See a complete financial summary on page 14.

Campaign Highlights

- **HOUSING**: Change lives by building 28 homes and repairing 50 existing homes so 638 people can have a safe place to live.
- **WATER**: Quench the thirst of 2,086 people by drilling three new wells and repairing five existing ones.
- **EDUCATION**: Help children achieve their dreams by helping 1,600 students attend primary school and providing 500 secondary and university students with academic scholarships.
- **MICROENTERPRISE**: Empower 1,180 men and women with low-interest microloans to run their own small businesses and improve their station in life.
- **FOOD**: Fill stomachs with 272,160 protein-rich Vitafood meals and distribute monthly food staples to 250 of the poorest families to fight Haiti’s hunger crisis.
- **AGRICULTURE**: Support an innovative farming program to give parents the supplies and training to feed 1,600 primary school students.

*Shine the light of God’s greatness on Haiti’s poorest families!*
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*Placide Batner, his wife, Yvovise Prophète, and their family outside their dilapidated home. Placide knows that safe housing and clean water will help his children achieve greatness. Learn more about his dreams for two of his daughters on page 8.*
SECTION I

THE NEED

Renald, introduced on the inside cover page, stands at the crooked entrance to his family’s makeshift home. Renald’s greatest desire is to provide his wife and children with a safe place to live.

“I pray for the Haitian people, especially for the least, so they might have a more serene future, without misery and without violence.”

POPE FRANCIS, JUNE 2022
Poverty in Haiti: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the typical housing situation of poor farming families in Haiti?
A: In Haiti’s rural communities, houses are commonly constructed from mud, sticks, and scraps of metal and plastic. These dwellings are fragile, leak when it rains and do not have modern bathrooms, so families are often forced to practice open defecation outdoors. There is no mortgage system in rural Haiti, so families traditionally build and repair their homes over the course of several years — again, mostly using scavenged materials.

Q: How does global inflation impact rural Haitians?
A: Haiti has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world, and the country is particularly vulnerable to inflation and price volatility. The war in Ukraine has disrupted global markets for food, leading to price surges in Haiti that have pushed families deeper into poverty.

Q: Are there any environmental concerns in Haiti that impact poor families?
A: Haiti’s poverty has been exacerbated by a series of natural disasters, including tropical cyclones, flooding, landslides, droughts and earthquakes. Most recently, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti’s southwest Tiburon Peninsula in August 2021, leaving hundreds of thousands of people in need of humanitarian aid. These environmental concerns have also impacted agriculture, with the most severe impacts on small family farms.

Q: From a historical perspective, why is there so much poverty in Haiti?
A: French colonialism has undoubtedly contributed to the Caribbean nation’s long battle with poverty. In 1804, Haiti became the first country in the modern world led by former slaves. During its transition to independence, Haiti agreed to pay an indemnity of 150 million francs — the modern equivalent of $21 billion — to repay slave owners who “lost” their property. Haiti was shunned by many countries during this critical period, leading to a cycle of debt, corruption and widespread poverty.

Adnerson, the youngest child of Renald and Andrelie Joseph, stands inside their dilapidated home.
Poverty in Haiti: By the Numbers

More than 2 in 5 Haitians — 4.6 million people — face acute food insecurity. Lack of income-earning opportunities is cited as one of the main reasons, along with poor harvests.

Nearly 1 in 4 Haitians lack a clean drinking water source.

More than 1 in 3 Haitians don’t have access to modern sanitation facilities.

Nearly 2 in 5 Haitian adults can’t read and write, with illiteracy rates higher among women.

Children born in Haiti today will grow up to be only 45% as productive as they could be if they have full access to education and health care.

96% of Haitians are vulnerable to hurricanes, earthquakes and floods. The August 2021 earthquake destroyed 54,000 houses and damaged 83,770 buildings.
Focus On: The Kobonal Haiti Mission

When Fr. Meaux first came to Kobonal in 1989, he was deeply troubled by the magnitude of the poverty. Hardly anyone owned the land their fragile dwellings occupied. No one grew gardens or raised animals. Very few employment opportunities existed for the unskilled population, and mothers and fathers couldn’t afford enough food for their children.

“There was no agriculture, there was no irrigation system. It was a wasteland,” recalled Fr. Meaux.

But the greatness of our Lord was ever-present in these bleak outskirts, and Fr. Meaux knew the only way to change the material poverty in the region would be to address spiritual poverty. He celebrated Mass every Sunday and opened a small Catholic school, beginning with 50 students.

As the school expanded to two campuses and the Mission continued developing programs to meet families’ needs, another change began to take place — spiritual transformation. Families abandoned voodoo practices and embraced Christ. Broken families were reconciled, discord gave way to brotherly love, and hundreds of people walked for miles every Sunday to hear the Word of God and receive the Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. Meaux’s all-Haitian missionary team, led by Mission Administrator Bernard “Bingo” Philo-Jacques, has transformed the Kobonal Haiti Mission into an extended family rooted in the traditions of Catholic Social Teaching. In just one generation, Kobonal has become a community linked by faith, worship and upholding the dignity of neighbors.

We believe this is just the beginning of what God intends to accomplish in Kobonal and the rural villages beyond. Much more can be accomplished with your help, as Kobonal’s families seize the greatness God has in store for them!

The Kobonal Haiti Mission is located in the Diocese of Hinche in Haiti’s Central Plateau.

Bingo first joined the Kobonal Haiti Mission in 1992 as a primary school teacher. He later became the school’s principal, and today he serves as Mission administrator.
SECTION II

THE PLAN

Your support can ensure that Jesilène Pierre, 34, will continue receiving monthly food staples from the Kobonal Haiti Mission. Jesilène uses these staples to prepare meals for her husband and four young daughters.

"May the Risen Lord bless you and all who carry out your good works, those who contribute financial support, and may he abundantly bless those who depend on Cross Catholic Outreach for help and hope."

MOST REV. RONALD W. GAINER
BISHOP OF HARRISBURG AND CHAIRMAN OF CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS
A Blueprint for God’s Greatness

The Kobonal Haiti Mission is an oasis in a rugged and poverty-stricken area of Haiti. Thanks to the Mission, God’s love shines so brightly there that it cannot be contained. In fact, many of Kobonal’s children have grown up to become financially secure, faith-filled men and women who are sharing God’s greatness throughout Haiti.

Carlot Sylvain is an example of the ministry’s transformational power. The 26-year-old health care worker now treats patients at mobile medical clinics throughout Haiti’s Central Plateau, but he grew up in the community of Mathebonite, where extreme poverty had been common before the Kobonal Haiti Mission was founded. Blessed by the Mission, Carlot attended the Kobonal School from preschool through sixth grade, and during that time, his education was supported by Cross Catholic Outreach benefactors like you. He also received a scholarship from Cross Catholic Outreach for his secondary education and to attend the University of Notre Dame in Hinche, Haiti, where he majored in medical biology.

When Carlot was attending college, he told us, “I have a dream because my parents did not have the opportunity to do what I’m doing now. If I can continue, I will save lives not only in Kobonal but [also] in surrounding areas.”

Today, Carlot’s dream has been realized! He is saving lives — and soon, he may be a source of spiritual healing as well. Carlot has been discerning the priesthood and is preparing to begin seminary.

We are grateful for faithful friends like you who have supported Carlot’s education and faith formation through the years — and with your help, the Kobonal Haiti Mission can continue to play an important role in shaping Haiti’s future by blessing future leaders like Carlot. In the following pages, we’ll share the Mission’s multisector strategy and how you can support life-changing outreaches.
Fr. Meaux has a bold and cost-effective plan to build 28 stormproof homes and repair 50 existing homes for the most deserving families, prioritizing widows with children and families touched by extreme hardships, illnesses and disabilities.

It may seem hard to believe, but a contribution of just $12,220 will build a four-room concrete-block house with a solid cement foundation and galvanized steel roof. Each home will come equipped with a solar panel to provide indoor electricity as well as an outdoor latrine. These simple but sturdy homes represent a life-changing gift to those who have grown up in abject poverty.

The Faveus family, pictured above, is a powerful example of the transformation that takes place when a vulnerable family moves into a safe home. Thanks to improved health, Margueritte can focus on running her small grocery store while her husband, Michel, drives a taxi. Their children are happy, healthy, rested and prepared for school, and the youngest no longer battles frequent illnesses. Most importantly, this safe structure has rekindled their faith in God and brought them closer to the Church.

Right now, 78 Haitian families are waiting for a similar blessing. Let these families know their Father in heaven loves them and has heard their prayers!

Help break the generational cycle of poverty by building and repairing 78 homes for families in need!
CLEAN WATER

Water is life, and the Mission needs your help to drill three new wells and repair five existing wells that will deliver refreshing water to thirsty communities. Over the past three decades, the Mission has helped bring dramatic improvements to Kobonal, but many rural communities lack access to clean, safe water sources. Instead, they depend on contaminated rivers and wells for drinking water.

Your support will serve the daily water needs for about 1,137 adults and 949 children who currently face great challenges to their health and well-being.

The wells will make use of free-standing 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 to a community fund that can be tapped if the wells need repairs. 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 each community when you join these efforts and help make the long-anticipated dream of clean water a reality!

Made for Greatness | Roselande and Fifi Placide

Placide Batner has big dreams for his daughters Roselande, 16, and Fifi, 2. He wants them to do well in school so they can attend university. The gift of clean water would help children like Roselande and Fifi achieve their goals. Safe water would protect them from dangerous waterborne illnesses like typhoid fever, malaria and cholera. It would also allow girls and boys to attend school more regularly by eliminating the time-consuming task of fetching water from distant sources.

Quench the thirst of 2,086 people and draw souls closer to Christ’s Living Water!
The educational programs offered through the Kobonal Haiti Mission are also having a profound impact on the lives of the poor. When children are equipped with a high-quality Catholic education, they are armed with the knowledge, skills and spiritual foundation to improve their station in life. In the U.S., public schools are free and accessible to all. This is not always the case in Haiti, especially in rural villages. For many students, Catholic schools are their only option to receive an education — and their only chance to rise from extreme poverty.

Thanks to friends like you, the Kobonal Haiti Mission was able to expand its Mathebonite school campus in 2021, and today, its two campuses are able to educate 1,600 students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Right now, children in Kobonal need your help to continue the momentum with their education so they can break the cycle of poverty and make their dreams come true. Your support will allow 1,600 students to attend primary school and will provide 500 scholarships for students in secondary schools and universities.

Made for Greatness
Etienne Woojedson, 6th Grade Student
“My favorite subject is math because it’s universal. I would like to be a doctor when I grow up because my country needs doctors.”

Help Haiti’s children achieve their God-given greatness through the gift of a Catholic education!
Normally, Belatrice Joseph would have had to rely on loan sharks if she wanted to pursue her dream of running her own business. Had that been the case, the one in town would have charged her 12 percent interest each month!

Fortunately, Fr. Meaux has developed a wonderful alternative through the Kobonal Haiti Mission — a microenterprise program that offers low-interest loans to help families launch small businesses and achieve grater self-sufficiency.

With your help, this program will award 255 larger loans (an average of $500) and 925 smaller loans (an average of $100) to poor entrepreneurs. Like Belatrice, many of the entrepreneurs intend to begin by selling food and other necessities such as corn, beans, rice, salt and soap. Others may use loans to buy and resell goats, pigs and hens. All these business models are effective in Haiti and are easy to grow.

To ensure success and help participants develop their potential, training classes will also be provided in money management and business skills. This special care has proven successful, according to Fr. Meaux, who reports that 98 percent of the loans are paid back in full. The funds are then reinvested back into the microenterprise program so more families can participate.

**Empower women and men to run their own businesses and achieve greater economic independence!**

*Belatrice Joseph operates her own storefront and sells rice, oil, sugar, flour, butter and other items. She used her profits to buy land and livestock and says she enjoys giving back to families in the community who are less fortunate.*

**How the Process Works**

1. Families apply to participate in the program.
2. Beneficiaries are selected and invited to attend an introductory meeting.
3. Participants attend a special training to learn about business principles and how to save money.
4. The loan requirements, repayment schedule and contract are reviewed with each beneficiary in detail.
5. Loans are distributed to participating families.
6. A program representative meets with participating families every three months for continued training and monitoring.
Adjusted as a percentage of one’s typical income, the cost of a plate of food in Haiti is equal to a New Yorker paying $73.76 for a single meal. (Source: The United Nations World Food Programme) To address Haiti’s hunger crisis, Cross Catholic Outreach wants to help the Kobonal Haiti Mission to continue distributing monthly food staples to 250 of the community’s poorest families. Supplies of cornmeal, beans and oil will help protect the most vulnerable members of society from malnutrition.

We also have a goal of shipping a container packed with approximately 272,160 Vitafood meals — but we need your help to make it happen. These specially formulated meal packs are rich in protein and contain key vitamins and nutrients to energize, strengthen and improve the health of vulnerable children and families.

Fr. Meaux’s agroforestry outreach is what “farming God’s way” is all about — teaching biblical principles along with proven management and agricultural techniques to improve crop yields. This unique program engages parents by teaching them proven farming methods, and together, they will assist on the Mission’s six farms to grow fruits and vegetables and raise pigs to feed the 1,600 children who attend the Kobonal Mission schools. Schoolchildren will have hands-on opportunities while studying agronomy, the science of soil management and crop production. Families will also be able to transfer fruit trees from the Mission’s nursery to their own plots of land, which will enrich their diets and strengthen economic independence.

Made for Greatness | Raymond Ewendy, 8th Grade Student

“Haiti suffers with the problem of soil erosion and food shortages. I am interested in becoming an agronomist (soil management expert) so I can help make the land more fertile so we can grow more fruits and vegetables.”

Help fight Haiti’s hunger crisis and provide students with brain-boosting school lunches!
The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

PSALM 145:6
SECTION III
HELP NOW

Your generosity will build bright futures for Haiti’s children and families, giving them the support they need to achieve God’s plan for their lives.

“In the name of the Holy Father, I want to thank all of the benefactors. To Cross Catholic [Outreach], I thank you so much, and in the name of the Holy Father, I give a blessing to you and your families.”

CARDINAL KONRAD KRAJEWSKI
PREFECT OF THE DICASTERY FOR THE SERVICE OF CHARITY
### Financial Summary

#### NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION
- **Contractors** *(mason, carpenter, surveyor)* $20,608
- **Construction Equipment** *(concrete mixer, generator, drills, etc.)* $6,352
- **Construction Supplies** *(solar panels and lights, sand, rebar, wood, paint, etc.)* $185,600
- **Roofing Material** $45,877
- **Staff Salaries and Benefits** $17,286
- **Maintenance and Transportation** $9,422

#### HOME REPAIRS
- **Construction Equipment** *(concrete mixer, drills, solar lights, etc.)* $8,969
- **Construction Supplies** *(paint, rebar, wood, paint, etc.)* $32,700
- **Roofing Material** $81,923
- **Staff Salaries and Benefits** $8,250
- **Maintenance and Transportation** $4,550

#### OPERATIONS
- **Mission Staff Salaries and Benefits** *(Mission director, accountant, secretary, security, etc.)* $153,278
- **Mission Improvements and Maintenance** *(water line and building repair)* $12,420
- **Travel and Transportation Maintenance** $25,854
- **Utilities, Supplies, Food and Additional Projects** $46,668

#### AGRICULTURE
- **Salaries and Benefits** $8,209
- **Tractor Maintenance and Fuel** $5,600
- **Food for Informal Workers** $13,896
- **Vegetable Seeds and Papaya Seeds** $2,799
- **Tools and Equipment** *(rakes, shovels, picks, etc.)* $1,992

#### EDUCATION
- **Scholarships** $60,000
- **Staff Salaries and Benefits** *(school director, teachers, cooks, etc.)* $149,902
- **Nutrition Program** $66,703
- **Education Supplies** $35,519
- **Spiritual Formation Program Supplies** $6,250
- **Teacher Training Workshops** $10,500

#### WATER
- **Drilling Contractors** $30,000
- **WASH Trainers** $1,019
- **Transportation and Maintenance** $750
- **Well Repair** $750
- **Pumps** $7,500
- **Security Walls** $4,500

#### FOOD
- **Destitute Feeding** $75,076

#### MICROENTERPRISE
- **Microloans** $20,000

#### MISCELLANEOUS
- **Clinic Operations** $6,000
- **Contingency** $30,000
- **Shipment of 272,160 Vitafood Meals** $20,000
- **Cross Catholic Outreach Project Management, Monitoring and Reporting** $239,344

**Total** $1,456,066
Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote in his *Summa Theologica* that the virtue of magnanimity is “stretching forth the soul to great things.” The magnanimous person takes stock of the gifts and charisms God has given — and uses them to be a blessing for others.

Your generous support will help Kobonal’s families discover the greatness that lies within so they can break the cycle of poverty.

**Total Amount Needed:** $1,456,066

**Levels of Giving**

- **$24,440** builds two homes for two families.
- **$12,220** builds a home for one family.
- **$6,720** provides 40 primary students with a Catholic education.
- **$3,500** provides 7 entrepreneurs with microloans.

*Joyfully give whatever amount the Lord places on your heart!*

To give online, visit [CrossCatholic.org/transform-kobonal](http://CrossCatholic.org/transform-kobonal)

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

MATTHEW 25:40
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.

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2023, 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.