



### UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN HAITI



In view of the colossal damages that have occurred the Daughters of Charity (DC) and SSVPG(CGI) are jointly collaborating to provide relief assistance to the victims of the disaster. This joint effort will involve the participation of the DC and SSVPG and the latter includes the SSVPG members in Haiti and Eduardo Almeida, CGI International Territorial Vice President, in the region.

Eduardo, who is based in Haiti, will act as the liaison person between the DC and

SSVPG.

While some assistance will be provided at this stage but however the main thrust of the assistance will be focussed on the rehabilitation phase in reconstruction and assisting to rebuild the lives of the people. When the major international countries and aid agencies having provided the emergency assistance and leave the country then there is the enormous and challenging tasks ahead in attempting to follow up in helping the victims to re-settle their lives and this is where our main joint efforts of the DC/SSVPG begins. The leaders of the Vincentian Family (CM, DC, SSVPG, AIC etc.) who met in Paris these few days have endorsed such an approach.

We have been informed by Elismé Lesly, National President of SSVPG Haiti that 5 members died in the disaster. Some of the members whose homes have been destroyed are living in tents along with some of the poor families they are assisting.

CGI has sent an initial sum of E 10,000 to the Daughters of Charity in the Dominican Republic(Haiti nearest neighbour) and together with SSVPG Dominican Republic they will purchase food, water, medicines, cloths, tents etc. to be sent by truck to the DC in Haiti who will distribute the goods together with the local members of SSVPG Haiti.

The Dominican Vincentians have themselves also organised trips by truck to Haiti in distributing medicines, food and other supplies. Two ex-VinPaz members are in Haiti assisting in relief assistance work through another aid agency and will also offer their assistance to our relief work as required.

The DC/SSVPG will continue our pursuit in providing assistance and we will be providing news update on our CGI website. We are pleased to advise that in response to our appeal donations continue to be received in CGI, Paris, for the Haiti Disaster Fund. CGI will co-ordinate with the DC and we will render accountability for all funds used in the relief assistance.

Michael Thio  
Territorial Technical Commission Chairman