“No Room at the Inn”
Catholics Unite
to Build Homes for Poor Families in Haiti

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

LUKE 2:7

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Your parish can build sturdy homes for Haiti’s poorest families!

This Advent, unite with other Catholic parishes across the United States to build sturdy, concrete homes for the poorest of the poor. By involving your congregation in “No Room at the Inn,” the Cross Catholic Outreach Advent Campaign, you can give homes and hope this Christmas season!

Project Summary:

- Pwoje Espwa (Project Hope) is an expansive Catholic ministry, providing food, shelter, education and medical care for poor families near Les Cayes, on Haiti’s southwestern coast.
- This Christmas, Pwoje Espwa needs the help of American Catholics to build sturdy homes for poor families.
- For just $5,520 per home, your parishioners can build concrete two-bedroom homes, with durable roofs for families in need.
- Beneficiary families will help with the construction process, contributing sweat equity to develop a sense of personal ownership and pride.
- Your parish will receive a report about the homes built through this Advent Campaign.
- Families are waiting for safe shelter — join us now!

This Advent season, your parish has the opportunity to reach out to the “least of these” on Haiti’s southwestern coast. By opening your heart to destitute families, you can provide shelter and care for Jesus himself. Please — make room at the inn and give the gift of safe shelter to the poorest of the poor this Christmas!

“I was a stranger and you invited me in…”

MATTHEW 25:35
**THE NEED:**

Madelaine Needs a Dry Place to Lay Her Head

“Whenever it rains, we have no place to go. Water comes in from all directions. Our clothes get wet; the stuff on my table gets wet. We just huddle up together.”

This is how Madelaine Lormeus describes life in her “home.” A single mother of two, she lives in the impoverished community of La Roche ("The Rock" in Creole) outside of Les Cayes on Haiti’s southwestern coast. Her house is made of wood scraps, pieces of tin and a collection of sticks. It could fall to the ground with the next strong breeze.

Madelaine works long, hard hours washing clothes and doing any odd jobs she can secure. Earning only two dollars a day, her small income is barely enough to feed her children, much less build a new home.

“Of all the things I need in life, a house is the big necessity. After that, I don’t need to ask for anything more,” Madelaine says.

Thousands of impoverished Haitian families find themselves in similar situations. Like Madelaine, they live in dilapidated shacks, makeshift shanties or temporary structures where they struggle to survive against the elements — if, that is, they’re fortunate enough to have any home at all.

The first Christmas, the Holy Family found themselves in similar circumstances. Jesus was born in a dank stable because there was no room for him in the inn. **This Advent, your parish has the opportunity to make room at the inn for our Savior by opening your hearts to poor families like Madelaine’s in Haiti, through the Espwa housing ministry.**

**Dear children,**

*let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

1 JOHN 3:18
Cross Catholic Outreach invites your parish to build homes for vulnerable families this Advent season through Pwoje Espwa (Project Hope). Founded as a small outreach to street children in 1998 by Fr. Marc Boisvert, Pwoje Espwa has grown into an expansive Catholic ministry providing food, shelter, education, medical care and the love of Christ to thousands of poor families near Les Cayes, Haiti.


Espwa builds two-bedroom, sturdy, concrete homes with durable roofs, strong enough to withstand inclement weather for just $5,520 per home. Participating families are required to help with the construction process, contributing sweat equity to develop a sense of personal ownership and pride.

Home recipients are introduced to the hope of Christ through compassionate Catholic supporters who open their hearts to those in need. Families like Madelaine’s are welcomed into a safe, dry home and come to understand there is a God who cares about their needs — physically and spiritually. With a new home, families receive a renewed sense of dignity and self-worth — empowering them to break the generational cycle of poverty.

**Espwa’s Holistic Ministry**

Pwoje Espwa’s goal is to provide holistic support for poor families and children in southwestern Haiti. Here’s a snapshot of their dynamic ministry:

- **Espwa Village**: An orphanage that cares for 447 orphans and vulnerable children.
- **Housing**: Each year, Espwa builds homes for poor families — strengthening the family unit and giving them a firm foundation.
- **Prison Ministry**: Fr. Marc feels called to visit prisoners and equip them with job skills before they are released.
“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

MATTHEW 25:40

More than 2,000 years ago, the Savior of the world was born with no place to lay his head but a manger. Today, there are thousands of Haitian families who have no place to lay their heads but on muddy dirt floors, with nothing but sticks to protect them from the outside world. Families like Madelaine’s are the “least of these,” and they’re waiting on the kindness of compassionate Catholic parishes to help them in their moment of need.

By answering and opening your hearts to the “least of these,” you can provide shelter and care for Jesus himself. Don’t miss this special opportunity to unite with Catholics across the U.S. to turn the impossible dream of owning a safe home into a reality. Please — make room at the inn and give the gift of safe shelter to the poorest of the poor this Christmas!

Sponsorship Levels:
- $5,520 Love Sponsor — Provides an entire home!
- $2,500 Joy Sponsor
- $1,000 Peace Sponsor
- $500 Hope Sponsor

“A house is much different than a garden, because once you plant and harvest a garden it is over. But a house lasts for a lifetime and its walls serve as a constant reminder of those who built it.”

Benatu Numa, contractor for Pwoje Espwa
Tools for Clergy

To help you communicate the great need of Haitian families to your parishioners, Cross Catholic Outreach can provide free promotional tools upon request:

- **Activity Guide for Children**
  The guide helps 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 involve congregants. 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**
  Our poster is an excellent tool for communicating your mission within the parish and it can also be used to advertise in your community, further increasing participation and sharing your vision with neighborhoods in your area.
Cross Catholic Outreach is truly a Catholic organization…

with distinguished bishops serving on the board of directors. Catholic parishes all over the United States are partnering with Cross Catholic Outreach and support our projects to assist missionaries throughout the world. Our organization has a special alliance with the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the Vatican’s relief agency. Through this collaboration, hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants have funded projects in the Middle East, Haiti and areas of Southeast Asia that have experienced catastrophic emergencies and natural disasters.

Through prayer and obedience, we seek to be good stewards of God’s gifts…

by maximizing the amount of aid given to those in need and stringently limiting organizational overhead costs. Cross Catholic Outreach multiplies each dollar donated by partnering with caring corporations that donate millions of dollars in medicines, food and other goods to the poor.

Our field staff regularly visit sponsored programs to ensure that mission parishes have the specific resources they need to best serve their communities. We diligently strive to eliminate waste, achieve measurable success and ensure all donations reach their intended use within the mission programs. We make an Accountability Assurance Pledge to donor partners, promising to provide transparency and clear documentation concerning the use of all donated funds. Our mission is to be good stewards in serving the “poorest of the poor” with the gifts God provides through his people.

Our Promise to You!

Proceeds from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this campaign incurred during the current calendar year. If project costs extend into next year or beyond, sufficient funds from this campaign will be carried over to cover those expenses. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the campaign, the excess funds, if any, will be used where needed most.

Cross Catholic Outreach
2013 Financial Impact

More than 95% of every dollar spent goes toward helping the poor.

- Program Services: 95.8%
- Administrative Expenses: 2.3%
- Fundraising Expenses: 1.9%

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Pope Francis greets Cross Catholic Outreach President Jim Cavnar.

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