Introduction

Dear friends and benefactors,

Four years ago these days, on January 12, 2010, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, bringing death and destruction to the island.

As it happened in the past after the eruption of the volcano in Goma (Democratic Republic of Congo) in 2002, and the 2004 Tsunami in Sri Lanka and India, the local Marist communities swiftly took the initiative of helping the population, and along with them, the entire Marist Institute got involved.

In the case of Haiti as well, donations arrived from all over the world, and the Institute’s General Administration added what remained of the Tsunami Fund1, while the Marist Brothers locally suggested some reconstruction projects which could contribute to the development of the country in the areas of schooling and attention to young people.

The FMSI was at the center of the entire initiative: it participated in the fund collection campaign, examined the projects to be financed, distributed the money that was raised, and monitored the various financial operations. This report is mainly aimed at thanking those who contributed with their generous donations, besides giving an account of how the Haiti Fund was invested. The following pages explain the use of the Fund up to December 2013.

The process of reconstructing the country and improving the living conditions of Haitians has certainly not ended, nor the Fund is exhausted: the projects will continue in 2014, and also our work.

A piece of good news is the fact that the Haitian people never give up. The large open market of Port-au-Prince – with thousands of people coming and going, buying and selling, within a myriad of little stalls – gives evidence of this day by day, as well as the many children who come and tell you their dreams. The average age of the Haitian population is 21 years. At the FMSI we know for sure that the future of the country depends on the education and social promotion of young people.

Br. Mario Meuti, January 12, 2014

1. See the specific note in the “Cash flow statement” below.
It was 4:53 p.m. on January 12, 2010, when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti. According to the United Nations, this seismic activity affected around 4 million people – namely two-thirds of the population – causing almost 250 thousand deaths.

In those few tragic minutes four years ago most of the houses, schools, hospitals and essential services in the vast area of the earthquake were destroyed or severely damaged.

At present, 4 years later, experts and external observers still hold that, for several reasons, there is still much devastation: Haitian institutions are weak, many major donors have not kept their promise, and the Government alongside with the international community has not been able to establish clear priorities for action.

It is known to all that Haiti has experienced recurrent outbreaks of cholera after the earthquake (none other than the UN has been accused of spreading it), especially after the effects of hurricanes Isaac and Sandy in the autumn of 2012, when the rains caused the overflowing of sewers. It is also known that before January 12, 2010, most Haitians had no access to running water, proper sanitation, health care, and many other services, so the earthquake and the other disasters only worsened the situation.

Various civil society organizations have taken coordinated action and asked the government to allocate land for house construction, and to make proper use of the reconstruction funds. They have also insisted that the government must consider the needs of the most vulnerable people, to which politicians never pay enough attention.

The Marist works, being far from the capital and then disaster area, recorded no serious damage. Nevertheless, the Marists worldwide took action to raise funds and aid for the population, thinking beyond the immediate needs.

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The response of the Marist Institute

The FMSI got fully involved in the Haiti operation: from the very beginning, in fact, it joined the discussions of the Western Mexico Marist Province (under whose jurisdiction the Marist communities of Haiti fall), and of the Marist General Council, in order to coordinate the resources collected by the Marists worldwide, and respond in the best possible way to the enormous needs of the country through medium and long-term planning.

The goal was to help the Marist Brothers in Haiti participate in the reconstruction and improvement of their country. Therefore, it was not only a matter of bringing immediate aid to those who were suffering from the earthquake disaster, but of undertaking wide educational projects aimed at fostering development and permanently improving the living conditions, particularly of children.

The Marist Institute asked the FMSI to channel the aid, in dialogue with the Province of Western Mexico and the Haiti Sector. All resources collected by the Foundation were to be invested in educational projects for the benefit of children and young people, and implemented once the emergency was over, while those who wanted to offer immediate help were invited to direct donations to other international agencies.

The FMSI therefore participated in the fundraising operation, contributed to the evaluation of projects, and became the central agency overseeing the funding process.

To participate in the RECONSTRUCTION of the country, to foster DEVELOPMENT, to improve the LIVING CONDITIONS.
The first projects

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SCHOOL AT MERCERON

Merceron is a small town 35 kilometers from Port-au-Prince. There are four neighboring towns in the area (Hatte Drouillar, La Perrière, Merceron, and Joineau) whose features radically changed after the earthquake. About 4 thousand people live there, and the area was deprived of an elementary school when that of La Perrière was destroyed. The Sisters of Jesus and Mary, who have promoted a project to reconstruct the school, believe it should be built at Merceron because – as Sister Isabela Sola explains – “most children live there, the parents are willing to cooperate, and there is enough space to build a soccer field”.

The construction of six classrooms, an administrative office, and a set of bathrooms began in January 2011, with an initial contribution from the Spanish Marist NGO SED (Solidarity/Education/Development) and the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. The FMSI (which, as mentioned above, was in charge of managing the funds of the Marist Brothers’ General Administration) contributed with 40 thousand euros.

The school, now completed, welcomes about 240 children from Merceron and neighboring villages.

The project’s final report reads: “Our project was to promote primary education in the rural area of Thomazeau de Merceron by building a school, providing a daily meal to children, and also training the teachers. This required, first of all, a secure point of reference, a well-constructed building, safe against hurricanes and earthquakes. It also required raising people’s awareness about the importance of education, involving everyone in the education effort, and this is now happening because the building’s maintenance and the school management are a direct responsibility of the local people.

An Association which sells rice to a local wholesaler, who is also involved in the school project, was organized with peasants from the four villages of the area. The Association deposits part of its profits in a special account, which is only used to pay the teachers’ salaries and cover general expenses. The school has also become a place for meetings, parent gatherings, Association assemblies, etc. In short, all these activities in the community are generating hopes of redemption from the usual situation of poverty and isolation”.

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EXPANSION OF THE SCHOOL OF NOTRE-DAME-DE-LA-NATIVITÉ

This is a secondary school owned by the Diocese but directed and managed by the Brothers through the Marist Province of Western Mexico. A large number of people from Port-au-Prince have poured into the region after the earthquake, and are staying with relatives or friends. The school of Notre-Dame-de-la-Nativité, which already exceeded 40 students per classroom, has been invaded by new requests, and consequently the idea of enlarging the school, which was already under study, gained momentum. Three new classrooms were built by the Province of Western Mexico in late 2010; the second stage of expansion was financed by the FMSI, precisely with the Haiti Fund. It allowed

the construction of more classrooms, a multipurpose room, an equipped computer lab, and the purchase of 20 computers. A basketball court, a new set of restrooms, and an arcade around the classrooms have also been built.

We have finally installed an electricity generator, because the area is not covered by the national power grid. The total amount donated by the Haiti Fund was 160,087.12 euros.

With all the new additions, the school has improved and increased its service, gradually moving from 300 to 400 students. Although it is still failing to meet all the requests for education, it offers at least its sport facilities for all the young people from the area.

The Marist Province of Western Mexico subsequently added a new meeting room, and an office for pastoral and educational activities.

A VISIT TO HAITI IN MAY 2011: NEW PROJECTS TAKE SHAPE

Angela Petenzi (FMSI Project Coordinator) and Angélica Alegría Formoso (Solidarity Coordinator of the Western Mexico Marist Province) have carried out a joint visit to Haiti. It was aimed at supervising the earthquake fund projects already underway, and at studying the new proposals submitted by the local Marist communities. Luis Barba Berlanga and Nancy Walker Olvera, from the Mexican Kóokay Association – specializing in community development projects and sustainable technology – also participated in the visit. This Association donated a solar panel system to power the Marist School of Latibolière, and offered its help to develop drinking water and electricity projects using environmentally friendly technologies.

The work started in Port-au-Prince, where the visitors witnessed the effects of the earthquake and the situation of the numerous people still living in tent cities. The group visited the World Bank and the European Union offices to take a closer look at their cooperation programs and funding opportunities.

The visit continued in the Marist communities of Dame-Marie, Latibolière, and Jérémie. Brother Antonio Cavazos, coordinator of the Haiti Sector within the Western Mexico Province, welcomed the group. In Dame-Marie they were able to assess the expansion work underway in the school of Notre-Dame-de-la-Nativité, and verified the need for new structures in addition to those contemplated by the second stage of the project.
At Latibolière, a village 12 km south of Jérémie, the Marist Brothers run a diocesan secondary school, Collège Alexandre Dumas, named after the celebrated author of The Three Musketeers and The Count of Monte Cristo, of Haitian ancestry. Students from different villages in the middle of the woods arrive here every morning after walking several kilometers; most of them are able to attend the school only thanks to the scholarships donated by the Brothers’ community.

The main architect of this initiative has been Antonio Cavazos, a Mexican Brother who has spent many years in Haiti and has managed to create an international donors network. But perhaps what most attracted everybody’s attention was Brother Laurent Beauregard’s experience in this school regarding the child workers, which will be discussed later.

The last stage of the visit was the small city of Jérémie. Since the Marist Brothers arrived there in 1985, they have carried out social activities and entertainment programs for children and young people, who often have no other place to meet but the streets. They have started an agriculture and livestock production project, conceived and promoted by the Marist University of Mérida (Mexico), and would like to spread it among the local population.

Another important proposal to the FMSI regarding the Haiti Fund emerged from the conversation those days: building a Youth Community Center to offer social, recreational, and sport activities, plus educational support for children who have left school, adult literacy courses, and initiatives for the advancement of women. It is also a suitable place to carry out training courses for teachers and to disseminate new teaching materials, of which there is great need in all locations visited. “Because – Angela writes at the end of her visit – the harder and most time-demanding work in Haiti is not to remove the earthquake rubble, but the obstacles that so far have led to poverty and to the social exclusion of a large part of the population”.

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SCHOOLING PROGRAM FOR CHILD DOMESTIC WORKERS - Brother Laurent Beauregard’s after-noon school

Part of the Haiti Fund was allocated to the initiative directed by Laurent Beauregard, a Canadian Marist Brother who is committed to a literacy and school reintegration program for vulnerable children, using – as mentioned above – the Alexandre Dumas school facilities in Latibolière.

Schooling for these children takes place during a three-hour period in the afternoon when the regular classes are over. Many of them are domestic workers in the families to which they have been “entrusted” because they are orphans or come from very poor families.

Attending school is almost a dream for these children, who carry out exhausting tasks in the houses where they live and in the fields all day round, sometimes at the limits of slavery. Some of them could not even be enrolled in school because they have no birth certificate.

Brother Laurent’s afternoon program in the Alexandre Dumas School offers primary education to these children so that they can eventually attend normal schooling. It also offers a supplementary meal to combat malnutrition and enhance learning, recreation activities, and a health education project which has helped prevent a new cholera outbreak. It also provides for the inscription of undocumented children in the municipal register.

The first contribution from the Haiti Fund in 2011 (8,782 euros) covered the teachers’ salaries, books and educational materials, uniforms, the school lunch, recreation materials, and the administrative practices at the registry office. The contribution was repeated in 2012 and 2013 (12,620 and 13,316 euros respectively) and the activities are currently underway. The FMSI is committed to continue supporting the afternoon program in the future.

Educational activity as a whole in this project is constantly linked to the work of assistance and social promotion, seeking greater impact on the living conditions of children. Many of their learning difficulties are due to low self-esteem, to the feeling of “not being as capable as others”. The program intends to help them move from the feeling of abandonment to that of being looked after in the best possible way. For this reason, classes shall not exceed 20 students.

The Marist Brothers visit the families hosting child workers and pressure them to recognize the children’s right to schooling. At the same time, they raise the local community’s awareness by asking them to report other children who are in the same situation.
He is a Canadian Marist Brother born in Ville-St-Pierre, Quebec, in 1934. After a number of years teaching in the schools of his Province, he spent nearly all his life outside his native country. In his own words:

“In 1968 my superiors asked me if I would accept to be Sub-master of Novices in Save, Rwanda. I spent around ten years in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 1978 I was called to Rome and worked there for six years as part of the brothers’ ongoing formation team. In 1986 I was asked to lend a hand in the new foundation of Haiti. I’ve been here since then”.

3. It was called Second Novitiate, for Brothers from 35 to 45 years of age.
“When I was Director of the Dame-Marie elementary school, I saw many children who were not able
to enroll in school because their family had no money. So I timidly started inviting these children to
come to school in the afternoon. Then I was appointed to Latibolière, and I went on doing the same
thing, that is, in the afternoon I taught the children excluded from regular classes to read, write and
count.

Our lessons begin at 2:00 p.m., but I get there at 1:00 p.m. to start reading with those who arrive
early. In this way they learn faster. Some children arrive as early as noon, which indicates their
yearning to learn. In this last period I have also been preparing around fifteen children for Baptism
and First Communion.

On Sunday afternoons I go to the mountains around here to visit people who live in terrifying poverty.
I feel helpless in the face of this situation and every time the idea of giving up comes to my mind...
But then the following Sunday I hit the road again to go and meet them, and also bring the Eucharist
to those who wish for it. In spite of all this poverty, I meet people with great dignity and courage. The
Haitians are strong people who know how to face life, and never lose hope for better days. I do my
bit in a mission that gives me great satisfaction, and I entrust it to Jesus and Mary every day”.

“We have 50 students aged between 8 and 20 in our afternoon school. They are divided into two
classrooms: first and second year. Most of them are children, called ‘ti Moun’ in creole, who come
from the mountains – sometimes very remote – and who find accommodation in host families that
usually have no blood ties with them.

They are used in all kinds of work. They are mostly orphans of various ages, with no birth
certificate or schooling, deprived of affection, treated with no consideration, and with a strong
sense of inferiority. They are called ‘ti mon sèvis’ or ‘rest-avèk’. I believe there are more than three
hundred thousand in Haiti. It is really a form of slavery, but it doesn’t seem to scandalize anyone
here...

One day, while a child was reading together with me, I noticed that his pants were torn in several
places. I asked him if he had brawled with someone. He answered in all simplicity: ‘No, it’s the mice
that make holes in my pants!’

One of our children lives with his grandparents, while his mother is totally absent. How can a
child grow up in these conditions? He has indeed developed a number of defense mechanisms...

Another child says he cannot come to school because he has no shoes to put on his feet... Yet
another arrives late because he has to work in the fields early in the morning and gets back at two
in the afternoon completely exhausted... Some come from afar, crossing rivers and climbing up
mountains, to finally arrive here all wet but with a great smile! How brave they are!

There is a child who always comes with his little sister. They spent three days under the earthquake
rubble in January 2010. The child’s leg was pinned against the dead body of another sister of
his. When they found him in that position, the foot was in terrible shape and doctors wanted to
amputate, but the child said: no way! They managed to perform a meticulous surgery on him, and
he is now able to walk and attend our program. However, he still has traumas that distract his
attention...

Who are the kids of the afternoon school?

4. Ti (petit) = little; moun (monde) = people; ti moun = little people, kids, children (translator’s note). 5. Sèvis = service; ti mon sèvis = service
children. Rest (reste) = stay; avèk (avec) = with; restavèk = “stay-with” child (translator’s note).
STORIES OF THE “LITTLE DOMESTIC WORKERS”

» GP, 9 years old, Latibolière
She lives with her mother and grandmother, both unemployed, and for this reason she is not treated well at home. She eats only once a day, and must do little jobs for the neighbors.

» ML, 8 years old, living a few miles from Latibolière.
She is a very poor girl who never met her mother, and whose father died recently. ML is now at the service of the family she lives with, sleeping on cardboard in a corner of the house, getting up very early to do the cleaning, washing the dishes, doing the laundry in the river, and going for firewood to the forest. She gets something to eat at noon...

» NM, 8 years old, Latibolière
A child who lost his mother and was abandoned by his father. He is at the service of a family. NM works very hard, and must get up early to clean the house and courtyard, fetch water, take care of the animals, and find something to eat. His self-esteem is practically inexistent.

» JGD, 9 years old, living in a village near Latibolière
He was born into a very poor household and was sent to live and work in another family. JGD has no bed and sleeps in a corner of the house. He must get up early to clean, fetch water, wash the dishes and pick fruit from the trees. He cooks for the family at noon, but is undernourished and has health problems.

» NT, 9 years old, Latibolière
NT is always smiling. She lost her mother, and then her father abandoned her on a road. She is at the service of a family who takes very little care of her. NT sleeps from 9:00 p.m. to 4:00 in the morning. Then she must light the fire, sweep the house, wash the dishes, and do the laundry... She is a smart girl, and manages to eat twice a day, but she is still undernourished and unhealthy...

But the most beautiful thing is to see the evolution of this little world. We greet every child arriving at school with a handshake, expressing respect for them and a sense of dignity. It is a small but important gesture for us. I must say that the children are happy to be in our program. A sign of this is the fact of arriving well before school starts at 2:00 p.m. to do some extra reading and ask for an explanation to the things that haven’t figured out”.

Br. Laurent Beauregard
CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY CENTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FOR THE TOWN OF JÉRÉMIE

An important part of the Haiti Fund was allocated from the beginning to the creation of a Community Center in the area of Caracolie, Jérémie.

The construction of the structure is now underway. Designing a building that could be antiseismic, resistant to hurricanes and other natural disasters was not easy. Therefore the project went through a long study phase, and it finally set out with the construction of the foundations at the end of 2013.

The complex will include a primary school, and will also be used for literacy courses, associational and social activities, update courses for teachers, and small-scale experimental production activities. The general goal is the social promotion of children, young people, and women in the area, which after the earthquake found themselves poorer and more vulnerable than ever.

The construction of this Community Center is a very important milestone for the Marist Brothers: having adequate premises will help them institutionalize, give continuity to, and expand the activities they have been carrying out for years in Caracolie at the service of children and young people. Jérémie, as indeed the entire island, is anything but economically developed; on the contrary, the living conditions inevitably resent the effects of poverty. This becomes evident if we consider some of the data about the country: 18.9% of the children below 5 years are underweight; only 48.7% of the population can read and write; there are more than two million working children (from 5 to 14 years of age), just to mention some of the more striking data. It must also be said that a large section of the population lacks basic services, such as drinking water and sanitation. We must add that there are not many trained teachers in the country, and that young people (the average age of the population is 21.9 years) suffer most the effects of all the uncertainty the country is facing. Although in many cases women are the head of the family, they enjoy a lower social status, and have less job opportunities; as a result, many families suffer from chronic malnutrition. The children at risk are many indeed: orphaned, abandoned, or too poor to attend school, they often live in a situation of misery and exploitation.

The ambition of the Marist Brothers is to turn Caracolie into a driving force to promote a participative and organized social life. Having a place to gather as a community, play and learn should help the children and young people of Jérémie to achieve greater human maturity and improve their life conditions. It is therefore not only a matter of emerging from the rubble of the earthquake, but also of laying the groundwork for a more developed society.

The figures below give an account of the funds collected by the FMSI, of the money sent to the General Administration of the Marist Brothers, and of what remained of the Marist Institute’s Tsunami Fund on February 9, 2010, which was subsequently allocated to the Haiti disaster fund. Immediately after the earthquake, in fact, the FMSI was appointed to channel the aid that was being collected across the Marist Institute, in collaboration with the Province of Western Mexico and the Haiti Sector. From the outset, the aid was intended to fund educational projects for the benefit of children and young people, which were to be developed during and especially after the emergency.

The response of the Marists worldwide to the tragedy of the Haitian people has been very generous: up to the date of publication of this report, the money raised amounted altogether to 459,316.04 euros. The amount spent on projects was 319,653.61 euros, while three are still 139,662.43 euros to be invested, which have been allocated to the completion of the Jérémie Center in 2014.

Note. The donations were made from 2010 to 2013, partly in euros and partly in US dollars. For practical reasons, the figures in this report are all in euros, and the exchange rate applied is 1 euro = 1.32 US dollars. The use of a formal exchange rate explains the discrepancies with figures provided in other reports. The same applies to the money spent on the different projects.

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - HAITI EMERGENCY FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME in Euro</th>
<th>459,316.04</th>
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<td>FMSI</td>
<td>120,621.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
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<td>Ex Tsunami Fund</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE in Euro</th>
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<td>84,848.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| REMAINING in Euro                  | 139,662.43 |

7. The Tsunami Fund was collected by the Marist Institute to bring aid to India and Sri Lanka after the devastation caused by the tsunami that struck South Asia on December 26, 2004. At the completion of the reconstruction projects in both countries five years after starting the Fund, the remaining money was allocated to the Haiti post-emergency fund by decision of the General Council of the Marist Institute.
Donations arrived from various parts of the Marist Institute: Administrative Units, communities of brothers, schools, solidarity offices and NGOs, alumni, friends, and supporters of the Marist work across the world. An important contribution came from the Marist Sisters.

### Project expenditure in Euro

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>319,653.61</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Donors

MARIST PROVINCES
» Marist Province of Iberica
» Marist Province of Central America
» Marist Province of Central-West Europe
» Marist Province of New Zealand
» Marist Province of the United States
» Marist Province of Santa María de los Andes
» Marist Province of Compostela

MARIST COMMUNITIES
» The Marist Brothers’ General House community (Rome, Italy)
» Marist community of Sainte Marie (Paita, New Caledonia)
» Marist community of Lisbon (Portugal)
» Marist community of Montalembert (Lyon, France)
» Marist community of Fürth (Germany)

MARIST ENTITIES
» Marist College (Ashgrove, Australia)
» Colegio La Inmaculada (Valladolid, Spain)
» Kinharvie Institute of Facilitation (Glasgow, UK)
» College-Lycée Montalembert Notre Dame (Lyon, France)
» Institut Sainte Marie (Couvin, Belgium)
» St. Henry’s Marist College (Durban, Sudafrica)
» Marist School of Cham (Germany)
» Maristen-Fuersorge-und Missionsverein (Germany)
» MAPS Mission (Australia)

OTHER ENTITIES
» Marist Sisters
» Parish of Furth (Germany)

PRIVATE DONORS
» Carmine Iodice (Italy)
» Carlos Rojo (Spain)
» Br. Teófilo Minga (Portugal)
» Marinette Badoud (Switzerland)
» Br. Jean-Claude Christie (Switzerland)
» Andrea Marrazzo (Italy)
» Ida Knott (Germany)
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