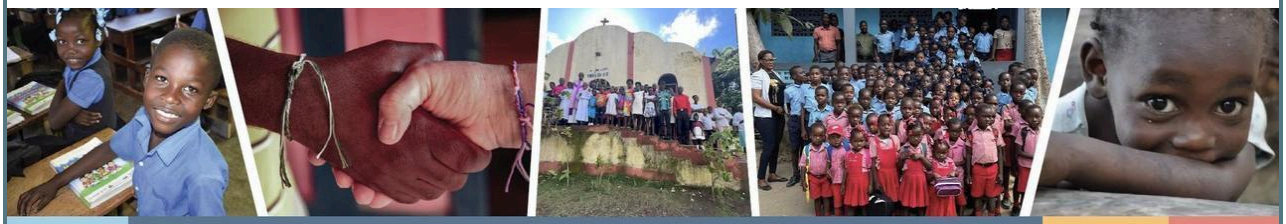
PARISH TWINNING PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAS

Sharing God's Love in Haiti and Latin America



PTPA May 2025 Newsletter:

The Legacy and Faithful Commitment of PTPA Continues to Grow Stronger.
A Great Move Forward for PTPA!

Dear PTPA Friends,

There is so much good and exciting news to share! This month's newsletter highlights the following:

- Soon to Be Announced: PTPA's New Leadership
- How a U.S. Parish Uses the Benefits of PTPA to Promote More Twins
- Meeting the Increasing Challenges Facing Latin America
- Sharing Best Practices
- Highlights About the Upcoming PTPA National Conference

We have an exciting update. Soon, we will introduce our new Executive Director, and share with you her faith and commitment to the mission of PTPA.

We were blessed to have former Executive Director David Siler lead us over the past two years. We are now grateful that we can move forward in confidence with a new Executive Director, who has extraordinary experience and a passionate commitment to our mission.

More information is coming soon. Our new leader will assume the position officially on July 1, and will join us for the upcoming 2025 PTPA National Conference in Nashville, August 15-17. Don't miss this opportunity to meet our new Executive Director at the conference, as she helps set and keep



JOIN US FOR THIS MOMENTOUS EVENT!

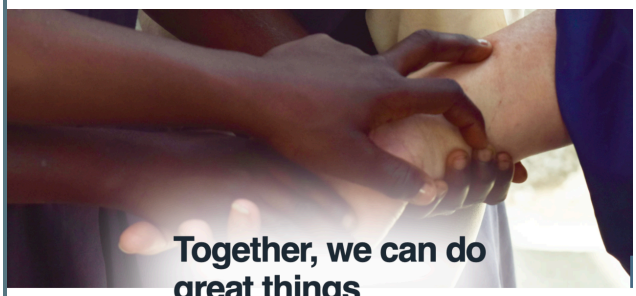
- Click here to view the preliminary agenda
- Click here to register at an Early Bird Rate!

- Click here to take advantage of a discounted lodging rate at the Inn at Opryland
- Click here for additional Conference information

We're Here to Help You Make a Difference.
Together, we move forward with great faith, hope and confidence.

PTPA Resources & Services to Help You Twin

The How's & Why's of the Essential Nature of Twinning:





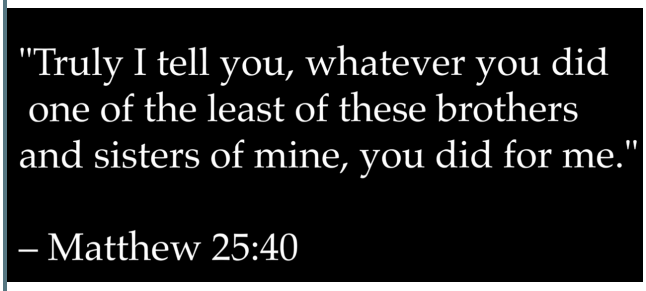
As the late Pope Francis told us, "*Solidarity finds concrete expression in service, which can take a variety of forms in an effort to care for others." Service "looks to faces (of the most vulnerable), touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even in some cases 'suffers' that closeness and tries to help them." (Fratelli Tutti, 115).*

More than 200 parishes in Haiti and Latin America have reached out to PTPA to express their need and desire to be twinned with a U.S. parish. Given that only about 6% of U.S. parishes are involved in twinnings, we believe the potential to form new relationships is enormous and more important than ever in these challenging times.

In the words of Cardinal Chibly Langlois, Haiti: *"The Parish Twinning Program is a blessing from God. It maintains communion, leads to sharing, provokes conversion and a change of heart and it develops mutual understanding. Through the sharing of human spiritual and material resources, both twinned communities grow together in charity."*

Twinning is a ministry of presence:
hand in hand, mind to mind, heart to heart and soul to soul.

How a Parish Uses the Benefits of PTPA to Promote More Twins





The 9-minute video, **linked below,** was produced by PTPA member David Murphy and his son, Josh, following a visit to Les Cayes & Jeremie, Haiti. Cardinal Chibley Langlois, Bishop Joseph DeCoste and many priests and religious sisters cry out, seeking solidarity with their brothers and sisters in Christ in the US, to stand with them during this long season of crisis. Please incorporate this video into your efforts to help PTPA attract other US Catholic parishes to develop a relationship with a Haitian parish.



Inspiring Stories & Best Practices from Missioners Having a Major Impact: Haiti Trip Report

Yves Archambault, PTPA Board Member and leader of St. Brendan Church Haiti Twinning Ministry in Atlanta, GA, went on a personal mission trip in March to Haiti.







Yves visited his friends, brothers and sisters at Our Lady of Fatima (“OLF”) in Bassin-Zim, Haiti. He participated in the opening and blessings of the parish’s new cafeteria/kitchen, funded in large part by St. Brendan’s, which was built next to the parish school that St. Brendan’s helped build years ago. He also met with OLF priests to discuss the transition from former OLF pastors Père Kenley and Père Bourdeau to the newly assigned pastor, Père Elan Benjamin. Yves also spent time with OLF’s agriculture committee and observed their amazing progress. He met with the OLF

Pastoral Council leaders and with the leaders of the Diocese of Hinche to discuss OLF parish needs and priorities, financing, and the impact of current U.S. policies on the future of Haiti. Notwithstanding the situation in Haiti, Yves believes that Bassin-Zim is peacefully progressing.

Yves found the new cafeteria one of the most impactful events at OLF.





All are welcome at the banquet of the Lord. Ensure children in Haiti have a seat at the table.

As he reported, every school day in Bassin-Zim, mothers brave the midday heat to tend to steaming pots of rice and beans. Their makeshift kitchen is protected from the elements only by torn canvas. As the sun beats down, the women dab the sweat from their brows and ignore the ache in their backs. They know their purpose is greater than any physical discomfort. They are responsible for feeding 300 students at OLF School. For most of the children, and even their teachers, lunch may be the only meal they will eat all day. One by one, they line up to receive a ladle of food. But there is nowhere for them to sit and eat. No tables. No chairs. Nowhere to clean the dishes and ensure proper sanitation. *Nowhere to pray together in thanksgiving for the nourishing food that has been so lovingly prepared for them.* Thankfully, the children and teachers now have a place to eat together as a community.

Report about PTPA Trip to Honduras with Food For The Poor






Several members of the PTPA Board and the PTPA Executive Assistant traveled as guests of Food For The Poor (FFTP) to San Pedro Sula, Honduras on March 31–April 4. We visited a PTPA twin parish in El Progresso, went to see some of FFTP's projects in Honduras, and met with Archbishop Michael Lenihan of the Archdiocese of San Pedro. The purpose of the trip was to get better acquainted with the work of FFTP in Honduras, to learn about CEPUDO, FFTP's partner in Honduras, and to explore how to establish a working relationship with the Catholic Church in Honduras.

CEPUDO's name is based on an acronym for its mission and work: *Capacitacion (training), Educacion, Produccion, Unificacion, Desarrollo (development), Organizacion*. Working together in Honduras, FFTP and CEPUDO build homes for those in need, help impoverished communities develop, provide education and training services, support homes for orphaned and abandoned children, provide food, supplies and medical care, and even more.

Following our trip, our goal is to identify new US parishes interested in a twinning relationship with a parish in Honduras and elsewhere in Latin America. Of our approximately 250 parish members, only about 30 are twinned with a parish in a Latin American country, with 6 twinning in Honduras; PTPA currently only has a few U.S. parishes twinned in Honduras. The need is tremendous. We hope and pray to find U.S. Catholic parishes who will be inspired to respond!

You can read more about Food For the Poor here, and CEPUDO here.





Please Let Us Know if You Know Parishes or People Who Want to be Involved.

More PTPA Resources



Don't Miss This Timely Opportunity to Network & Share Best Practices for Parish Twinning!



- Click here to view the preliminary agenda
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Best Practices: Share Your Informative & Inspirational Newsletters



As we've reported previously, consistent communication within your parish is vital to keep your parish twinning relationship in front of your supporters. One effective way to keep the passion alive for your parish twinning mission is to publish a regular newsletter.

In addition to articles related to PTPA itself, we are offering all PTPA members the opportunity not just to share stories, but also to share links to their newsletters if they would like us to share them with the full PTPA membership.

If you have a newsletter link, a story or other item that you want to be included in an upcoming PTPA newsletter or topics for our monthly zoom meetings, **click here to let us know.**

QUICK LINKS:

- PTPA Website
- PTPA Members Portal
- Donate Page
- Zoom Recordings & PTPA News
- PTPA Facebook Page
- PTPA FB Group Page
- PTPA YouTube Page
- Contact Us
- Email Us



Our Mission

PTPA is a Catholic, non-profit organization. Our mission is to live the Gospel by seeking, promoting, and supporting the formation, growth and development of twinning relationships between Catholic parishes in the U.S. and Catholic parishes in Haiti and Latin America.

"*I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.*" Matthew 25:40

Please Help us Live Our Story & Provide Our Services

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