



The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama

The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Bishop

January 13, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our hearts and prayers go out to our dear friends in Haiti. The strong earthquake that hit near Port au Prince yesterday afternoon has apparently done devastating damage to the city and many lives have been lost. We lament and weep with them, and we offer prayers for all affected and for the ministry of the Haitian church in this time of crisis.

We have just heard that Bishop Duracin and Edith are safe, she with a slight injury. Sadly, their home has been destroyed. The beautiful cathedral is in ruins, as is Holy Trinity School and the Convent of St. Margaret, all key Episcopal institutions in the heart of Port au Prince. Pere Val and Carmel are also safe, but there is considerable damage in the parts of Croix des Bouquets where our diocese is doing a great deal of ministry. It appears that a great deal of basic infrastructure has been badly damaged. It will take time to learn what the situation is with our many friends and ministry partners there.

As our companion diocese, Haiti is very dear to us and this news weighs heavily on our hearts. Please keep them steadfastly in your daily prayers. We will post updates to our website (<http://dioala.org>) on the situation there as we have news. News is also available through the Episcopal Church Center Website (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org>).

There will be many opportunities to offer aid to our Haitian neighbors in the days to come. The first response will be to send financial aid for immediate care and relief, such as water, food, shelter, and medical aid. You may send checks to the diocese or through Episcopal Relief and Development.

Our diocese will seek to offer all we can in assisting the Diocese of Haiti as they reach out to one another and to the people of their beloved country. I ask you to be generous.

May God bless Haiti in the difficult days to come.

Faithfully in Christ,

Henry N. Parsley