



**Paroisse Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus**

**Gaspard, 4<sup>ème</sup> Section de Saint-Louis du Nord**

**Diocèse de Port-de-Paix**

*Téléphone : (+509) 4737-1103*



Dear benefactors, the community of Gaspard through my writing's thanks you for all that you have contributed so far as a contribution to its advancement for several decades already.

I am Father Honoré Julio, the new head of the administration of the parish of Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus de Gaspard after the appointment of His Excellency Mgr Charles Peters BARTHELUS, Bishop of the Diocese of Port de Paix. I am the replacement of Father Champagne Guerson who worked as he could to maintain the faith and the presence of the church in a community where living and security conditions were very precarious.

I first went to Gaspard for Ash Wednesday for my first visit. I already felt the desire to make Church that animated people through the welcome they reserved for me. When I started doing this assessment, it was March 13, 2022. I came to accompany the community definitively. But you won't get my letter right away because there's no internet network here and I can't even place a phone call. In addition, I must first do the evaluation on a notebook because it is not possible to recharge my phone and computer.

Fuel is very expensive, I bought it only for masses to put in a generator loaned to a private individual. Ours broke down a very long time ago from what I was told. I came with a technician to tell us what the problem is. That's why just before flaunting all the needs, the urgency for me is the installation of a renewable energy source and the establishment of a fixed internet network. This will allow me to stay put and not enter the city too often and focus on what I need to do in the community, because smoking is indispensable in our current society.

**I thank you already for the attention you are going to give to this request.** I found a school under construction. Only part of the base of one of the two buildings is completed. Because of the security situation in October, some of the students had gone to Saint Louis du Nord.

We can give thanks to God because there is a great improvement. Some students have returned, others are waiting for the end of the school year. But I believe that some will not come back there are also children who lived in other places who came to Gaspard the forecasts



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I have to make are for the academic year of September. The teachers have not left, they are there. Teachers' salaries are not yet paid for the period from January to March. Fr. Champagne had paid until December. I cannot ask those who have remained to pay because they do not have the means.

The Gaspard dispensary is functioning as before. He also received those who arrived from the neighbouring communities of Jean Clair. The pharmacy does not have a supply of medicines. The roof drips almost everywhere in the rooms. The laboratory is not functional. Salaries are not yet paid from January to March. Our nurse cannot stay asleep as water is also dripping into the dormitory. For the church and the presbytery, there too, there are redevelopments to be made. No fridge to preserve meats and fruits. Some dishes were also missing for cooking. We bought a few as it was necessary to prepare food and for snacks at meetings.

Our plumbing system is not working and the water pump is not in service. The kitchen and the house of the staff also drips, If it rains, they will not be able to stay there. We are at altitude, it rains quite often and it is quite spawning. I also have to pay the staff for the period from January to March.

I haven't been there yet to Jean Clair but I met a community leader. He told me that many people left the area from November last year. Armed civilians robbed and vandalized the rectory and clinic. For this year, from February, the population begins to return because the burglars have gone elsewhere.

We are waiting a little for the evolution of the situation but the need for care is glaring. I saw a pregnant woman who came from Jean Clair for a consultation. If the situation allows us, we intend to carry out mobile clinics if we have the means. I think we will have to rebuild some things but to make you an inventory I have to go to Jean Clair. It's not possible yet I have to wait a bit. Maybe I will tell you next month. The parish also has a bakery which is the only one in the area but it does not work. You have to go to Saint Louis du Nord to buy bread. It would be nice to put it back into service. The roof and the oven are not in condition.





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The parish also has the only corn mill in the section. The roof has been removed and is not in use. The parish hall and the Church were built about twenty years ago. The roofs are not in good condition. For the parish church the water falls directly on the altar when we celebrate. I experienced it on Monday, March 14. The car is almost ten years old. The roads are in very poor condition and often there is a lot of water and mud on the way. Rust eats away at the chassis. It must be resolved. Springs and shocks are in poor condition. There are services to do but I was content to arrange only the battery, headlights and part of the braking system. Given inflation it is quite expensive as well as everyday products.

Professionals find it difficult to come to Gaspard when you have a job to do because you have to do a good part of the road on foot. The costs of their travel are quite high. This was the case when it was necessary to bring a technician for the generator. Dear benefactors, I believe that it may not be possible to solve everything in the parish. I will try as best I can to mobilize the community to take action. I count on the generosity of each of you who, in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, set aside his hard-earned money in the service of brothers and sisters in a distant land. I will make sure to spend every penny sent and to make you aware of every penny.

What must be built above all are first the men and then the buildings.

**That is why my pastoral priority is the formation and physical and spiritual accompaniment of the faithful. For this I count:**

- **Ensure ongoing formation through weekly, monthly quarterly and semi-annual meetings for all categories of the faithful.**
- **Accompany the sick and needy.**
- **Accompany in the education of children.**

These are the 3 points on which I need your help. I will shortly report on some of the expenses made with the amount I found.



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Receive greetings from me on behalf of the entire parish community of Gaspard. Good time of Lent. I implore upon you the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ through the intercession of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus.



*P. Honoré Julio*

P. Julio Honoré, Director