Remains of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Port-au-Prince after the earthquake
Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to introduce this Summary Report from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on our efforts toward reconstruction in Haiti. The January 12, 2010, earthquake left many Haitian cities in ruins and many of our faithful brothers and sisters without places or the means to worship. Catholics in the United States responded with unprecedented generosity in a special national collection to help the people of Haiti with emergency humanitarian needs and the longer-term reconstruction of church buildings.

The USCCB Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America was tasked with administering the funds from that collection going toward church reconstruction in Haiti. Collaborating with the bishops of Haiti and other sister churches, the Partnership for Church Reconstruction in Haiti (PROCHE) was created and we began the long-term work of setting up a structure that would efficiently, transparently, and safely lead to the reconstruction of parishes, rectories, convents, and schools.

This report contains examples of the work done so far and an audited financial report of PROCHE for the 17-month period ending in August 2012. The report is an example of our commitment to being transparent. We hope this and future reports will show the progress of getting the people of Haiti back into suitable worship spaces.

Please join me in thanking our good Lord for his generosity, guidance, and protection. I ask, through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, that God may bless all who through their financial donations are so generous in spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 earthquake devastated some of the most populated parts of Haiti, including Port-au-Prince. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed or injured and buildings were left in rubble. Among those killed was the archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, and among the buildings destroyed were hundreds of church buildings and chapels. The response by Catholics in the United States was unparalleled generosity. The special collection for Haiti relief brought in donations of almost $85 million in one weekend. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America (USCCB-SCLA) was tasked with administering 40 percent of the funds from the special collection, which were designated for church reconstruction. Working to rebuild in Haiti after such destruction is a daunting task. Collaborating with the bishops of Haiti and other sister churches, the Partnership for Church Reconstruction in Haiti (PROCHE for its initials in French) was created and the partnership began the long-term work of setting up a structure that could efficiently, transparently, and safely lead toward the reconstruction of parishes, rectories, convents, and schools.

Reconstruction began immediately and has been moving forward at an accelerated pace since 2012. The first two completed buildings were inaugurated this year: the new Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Grand-Goave, in January 2013; and the new headquarters of the Conference of Haitian Religious in Port-au-Prince, in May 2013 (financed by the Conference of Latin American Religious, and overseen by PROCHE).

Other hopeful events taking place are first-stone placements. These milestones signify the conclusion of much behind-the-scenes preparatory work, including acquiring permits, finalizing designs and budgets, and signing contracts so that construction can begin and move ahead as planned. The actual construction, in a way, simply continues the long road leading to a community having a worship space. First-stone placement ceremonies were held for four reconstruction projects starting in the summer and fall of 2013: the Sacré-Coeur Church in Port-au-Prince, in August 2013; the Multi-Use Hall in Jacmel, in April 2013; the Daughters of Mary novitiate in Port-au-Prince, in July 2013; and the St. Therese Church in Petion-Ville, in September 2013.

An important concern for any reconstruction and aid project is that accountability and transparency are maintained during all phases and in all aspects of the
The above graph displays the cumulative reconstruction funds granted, disbursed (by donors), and spent (by PROCHE-UOC) to date. We can see that the level of funding was modest and flat through the end of 2011 when a dramatic increase in the level of funding occurred, primarily fueled by USCCB-SCLA grant decisions. USCCB-PROCHE grants to date total over $10 million, of which only approximately $2 million have actually been spent. Understandably, disbursement and spending lag behind the grant awards, reflecting the actual operational capability of the network used by PROCHE and the normal project spending “S” curve. Since June-July 2012, when the first projects entered construction, we have seen a more or less steady increase in project expenditures. These are expected to increase sharply as more projects enter the construction phase.

The above PROCHE Statement of Contributions, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance is extracted from the August 2, 2013, year-end financial statements with the approval of the auditors, Mério-Pierre—Cabinet d’Experts-Comptables. They are available online at www.usccb.org/haiti.

Statement of Contributions, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balance*
Proximité Catholique Avec Haiti et Son Église (PROCHE)
(Period of 17 months, ending August 31, 2012) (in dollars)

Starting Fund Balance: $0
Contributions:

- Project-related contributions transmitted through the Apostolic Nunciature in Haiti $1,563,474
- Other donors 751,294
- Management fees 103,206
- Contributions in kind 37,768
  Total Contributions $2,455,742

Disbursements:

- Project costs 1,322,525
- Salaries, wages, and professional fees 518,178
- Office-related expenses 176,761
- Other expenses 13,827
  Total Expenses $2,031,291

Surplus for the period and fund ending balance $424,451

*The financial statements of Proximité Catholique avec Haiti et son Église (PROCHE) have been prepared by management and audited by Mério-Pierre—Cabinet d’Experts-Comptables, an independent accounting firm. They are available online at www.usccb.org/haiti.

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There are several projects that are in progress and will soon be finalized. One significant project, soon to be dedicated, is the Institut Diocésain d’Education et Promotion Humaine (IDEPH) School in Jacmel on the southern coast of Haiti. The USCCB and the German Catholic organization Adveniat funded the structural reinforcement of the building that was damaged during the earthquake. The total cost of the reinforcement is budgeted at almost $1.2 million. Other projects will soon follow and be completed.

Archbishop Wenski at the placement of the first stone for the Sacré-Coeur Church reconstruction, Port-au-Prince August 2, 2013.