

Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Ertha - Missionary Speaker from Haiti

Ertha Papillon Returning to Visit Our Lady of Peace Next Weekend

Ertha visited Our Lady of Peace five years ago in August, 2017. She has fond memories of her visit and feels blessed to return this year. Through her [Our Lady of Perpetual Help Foundation](#), Ertha founded and operates an elementary school and an orphanage for the poorest of the poor in the Duchity, Haiti area.

Ertha will speak at all the Masses next weekend. She will share her story and the story of the people she serves. Recovering from the August 2021 earthquake that destroyed the main orphanage building has been the focus over the last year.

There will be a collection after each Mass to benefit Ertha's efforts. Checks can be made to **"Our Lady of Peace"** with **"Haiti-Ertha"** in the memo. On-line donations can be made on the Our Lady of Peace website.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Elementary School

- 460 of the poorest children attend the only Catholic school in the area. Most cannot afford tuition.
- 99% of the children pass the state tests (only 50% for entire country).
- Key to quality education is quality teachers.
- Price inflation in Haiti as well as earthquake damage has added to the burden, reducing ability of families to contribute to their children's education.
- \$8,500 is needed to assure quality teachers going into the school year. (~\$19 per student)



Enthusiastic teacher and children



Ertha's orphanage children --- Thumbs up!

MAR-DAV Orphanage

- 25 children in the orphanage.
- Ranging in age from 5-17.
- The cost of food has tripled in the last year.
- Help is needed to assure the operation of the orphanage over the next year.
- Cost on a per child basis:
 - Food \$80 per month.
 - Caretakers, cook \$79 per month.
 - Education \$300 per year (includes tuition, books, uniforms, and shoes).



Ertha's Story

**Ertha did not seek her mission in life ...
God presented it to her and she responded.**

Ertha Papillon founded a school (1998) and an orphanage (2006) in a southwestern Haiti rural area to serve the impoverished, malnourished, and orphaned children in her Trois-Bois community outside the village of Duchity.

Working with Mother Teresa ... a powerful influence.

She was schooled by Catholic Sisters, who taught her to teach, to lead others in song, to sew, and to serve our God in all ways ... always. Ertha was further educated in Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince and became a nurse. While there, she worked for a short time at a hospital with Mother Teresa. She was moved by Mother Teresa's self-less acts of love and her inner joy of serving God. When Ertha returned to her parish, Ste. Marie Madeleine, she began serving others in any way God asked her to serve.

God always brings people together to lighten the load in some way.

In 1998, Ertha began teaching impoverished children in front of her home. She taught them during "play time" and gave them a snack. A few children became 35 children, and then 85! Today Ertha's pre-school, elementary school, and secondary school provide 460 Children with a quality education.

In 2006, a grandmother brought a newborn to Ertha to care for, as the child's mother died during childbirth. Shortly after that, another mother died delivering twins, and Ertha was entrusted with their care. Ertha realized that God wanted her to start an Orphanage. The Orphanage today has 25 loved children.

As God's plan has been revealed, no matter how difficult the road, any pain has been overridden by joy! Good Fridays are always followed by Easter Sundays.

August 2021 Earthquake impact on Buildings



The "Temporary Shelter" is still in use



Second orphanage building during repair and construction completion

The orphanage sustained severe damage from the 2021 earthquake. The main building was not repairable. A temporary shelter was built. A partially completed second building was repaired and very recently completed. The next step is to add two large rooms to the second building.

The school suffered roof damage. Repairs have been completed. 40 additional benches are needed for students.



Elementary school building grades 1-6 with new roof