

*Saint Thomas More Church
374 Middlesex Road
Darien, CT 06820-2517*

November 12, 2009

Dear Parishioner:

As some of you may be aware, Fr. Paul Carrier, S.J., a familiar face at this Parish, has been mentioned in news articles which referred to his role in raising funds for a now-defunct mission in Haiti known as the Project Pierre Toussaint. The former director of the Mission, Douglas Perlitz has been accused of child abuse.

A member of the Parish has raised questions about the involvement of Fr. Carrier and St. Thomas More in fundraising for this Haitian mission, which provided food and shelter for homeless boys.

The Finance Council takes seriously all questions raised by parishioners. As such, when questions were asked, we initiated an investigation of Parish fundraising on behalf of this Mission.

The Parish's Finance Council has researched this matter and identified the following facts:

1. In July 2008, Fr. Carrier, as part of a broader appeal for missions during Mission Cooperative Sunday, made an appeal for his work in Haiti.
2. During the second collection on that weekend, the Parish raised a total of \$8,534 of which \$4,300 was directed by donors to the Haitian mission referenced by Fr. Carrier.
3. Those funds were sent to the Connecticut Chapter of the Order of Malta, for the benefit of a mission in Haiti.
4. The remaining funds collected for Mission Sunday (i.e., \$4,234) were directed to the Office of Propagation of Faith, for disbursement to a variety of important missions.
5. Following Mission Sunday, two additional checks from parishioners, totaling \$550 (one made out to Fr. Carrier directly for \$50 and one made out to the Order of Malta for \$500) were received in the Parish Office and were then forwarded to Fr. Carrier for the benefit of Haiti.
6. All Parish and Diocesan policies and procedures were followed in the handling of these funds.

In response to the concerns raised by the parishioner, on October 3rd and 4th, Fr. Furey informed attendees at all of the Masses about the questions with regard to fundraising for Haiti, that Fr. Carrier had not been accused of any wrong-doing, and that the Parish Finance Council would investigate the matter and report the results to the Parish.

The following weekend, Fr. Furey, the Chair of the Parish Finance Council, the Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council, and one of the Parish Trustees met for two hours with the parishioner who had raised this issue and described how the funds had been handled. In addition, all of the information above has been shared with the authorities investigating this matter.

Father Carrier is not currently involved with any activities in the parish.

We thank you for your continuous support of the Saint Thomas More parish community.

Sincerely,


Reverend J. Barry Furey,
Pastor


Peter Frank,
Chairman, Parish Finance Council