



# Hôpital Sacré Coeur C R U D E M

Issue 5

April 2005

## UPDATE from Haiti

This spring finds us busier than ever. One could say that we are victims of our own success. Due to the generosity of our many benefactors and supporters, we have the resources – staff, medicines, equipment to provide good care, so people flock to us from near and far. This is good



news as that means more people are receiving the care that they need; however, it has stretched the capacity of the hospital

to its bursting point. We are literally bursting at the seams!!!

To take care of all the patients we have a capable, enthusiastic group of young Haitian physicians. Late this fall Dr. Emmelyne Emmanuel joined our staff as a general practitioner to replace Dr. Lukette Lamour who received a scholarship to study Hospital Administration in Belgium. Seven social residents, (health professionals doing a year of service after receiving their degree) three physicians, one dentist, one pharmacist, and two nurses joined us in December. Upon their arrival, the residents rolled up their sleeves and dug right in, they have been of enormous help in helping to take care of the patients who just keep on coming. Our attending staff and residents make a great team!!!

After a summer break, September saw the return of the Medical Volunteer Teams including specialists in Maxiofacial, Orthopedic, General Surgery, Gynecology, Urology, Ophthalmology, and Pediatrics. The specialty services provided by the

Volunteers enable the hospital to provide a full array of medical services making specialty care accessible to especially the poor.

In October, Sr. Christine Casey, from the British Province of the Daughters of Charity, joined us here at HSC. Sr. Christine's expertise as an educator has proven particularly helpful in re-invigorating the care provided by the Nutrition Center. In the short time she has been working at the Nutrition Center wonderful things have taken place!!!

In December, the HSC, due to a strike at Justinien Hospital in Cap, was inundated with patients especially maternity patients. The Maternity staff worked double shifts, postponed vacations and holiday time off to meet the needs of the patients. There were Moms and babies everywhere – every bed was filled even in the Recovery Room.



On a sad note, HSC said good-bye to Mr. Mentor, Administrator. With much mixed emotion, he said "au-revoir" to his friends and collaborators and traveled to Miami to join his wife and son. He will be remembered for his distinctive laugh that often rang out and will be appreciated for his efforts in organizing and upgrading the quality of

the work of the housekeeping and guardian staff.

On a happy note, after almost of year of battling the bureaucracy, a shiny new pick-up finally arrived to augment our rather broken down motor pool (two pick-ups held together by "bubble gum and rubber bands")

*Dr. Chalumeau, Marie Ange Barella, sr. Christine, Raymond Pierre-Louis, Sr. Joanna, Sr. Martha*

## IN MEMORIAM

CRUDEM and the Haitian people lost a very dear friend last year. Msgr. Robert M. Krawinkel, pastor of Annunziata Parish in St. Louis, died October 4, 2004. He was a priest for 46 years and the well-loved pastor of Annunziata for the past 17 years.

In 1990, shortly after he became pastor, Msgr. Krawinkel visited CRUDEM. From that time until he died he was an ardent supporter of CRUDEM and the Haitian people. Few people know that he was responsible for constructing a double use building in the very remote village of Ciamite. The people had no chapel and the children were unable to access a school. During the week, Msgr.'s one room building is used as classrooms (a curtain is used to separate the room into two so there can be upper and lower grade levels) and on Sunday, it becomes a chapel.

Msgr. always encouraged his parishioners to support the CRUDEM Foundation. There were constant reminders from the pulpit and in the bulletins to give to CRUDEM. And he, himself, gave. When he learned that he had a fatal illness he called and informed us that he was going to cash in his life insurance policy worth nearly \$35,000 and donate it to CRUDEM. He requested that the donation remain anonymous. His final wishes included that memorials be directed to the Vincent de Paul Society or to CRUDEM.

Monsignor's love for the poor was unconditional and intense. He tried to help in any way he could. He gave of his own funds. He cajoled others to give. He encouraged support through any means available to an individual whether by volunteering or by introducing other people to the need at hand. He had a great and giving heart, a warm and generous nature, and always a twinkle in his eye. CRUDEM bids farewell to a dear friend.

"What the eye does not see, the heart cannot feel"

- old Haitian proverb

We left Florida on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and caught our first glimpse of Haiti as the plane circled to land at the Cap Haitien airport. We were overcome by its beauty. The mountains and beaches are spectacular.

Sister Joanna was the first to greet us on landing. She impressed us with her driving skills on the ride to Milot. It was quite an adventure! Our slight trepidation was soon dispelled as we met each staff member. The Haitians we met had an openness, dignity and strength that was evident and amplified by their warmth and charm. We soon felt comfortable and right at home.

On the way to the Citadel, the Palace and on our daily walks to the hospital, many of the Haitian people accompanied us, speaking with great pride of their history and love for their country. It was clear that everything anyone did for them was greatly appreciated and nothing was taken for granted.

We would like to thank Dr. Kelly\* for allowing us the opportunity to visit Haiti and work alongside the wonderful people at Hôpital Sacré Coeur. Their eagerness to teach and learn is an inspiration to all of us. We learned much about Haitian culture and history – and hopefully they learned a bit from us.

The two of us now know what the expression "a full heart" means - for that is what we felt on leaving. We were given much more than we gave. We look forward to returning next year and for many more years to come.

Leah Miller, R.N.

Maria Goudreau, O.R.T.



The authors were part of a nine-person ophthalmology team from western Massachusetts who were at CRUDEM during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January. Dr. Reynold Monsanto, the 10<sup>th</sup> person in the above picture (on the far left), is a Haitian eye doctor who joins the group each year to learn the latest techniques.

\*Dr. Peter Kelly, an ophthalmologist from Wilbraham, Massachusetts is a member of the CRUDEM Board of Directors

## President's Remarks

The heart warming stories in this newsletter from CRUDEM are a good antidote to the steady beat of bad news that the media brings to us every day, whether it be a tsunami in southeast Asia, genocide in Africa or floods, hurricanes and armed uprisings in Haiti!

Recently we received a letter from The Friends of the Children of Haiti, a group based in Bartonville, Illinois. They wrote, "our clinic is in Cyvadier, near Jacmel, on the southern coast of Haiti (about 100 miles as the crow flies)...Sacré Coeur is far from Cyvadier but the patients that we have sent to you have returned to tell us how kind and attentive you are to them. You take care of them. God bless your work in Haiti and the wonderful volunteers that help so many people". I am happy to see letters like this because they affirm that Hôpital Sacré Coeur is carrying out our Christian ministry to the sick- poor.

In January, a protocol was signed by the Archdiocese of Cap Hatien and the CRUDEM Foundation. The document formally granted to the CRUDEM Foundation the responsibility for operating the Hôpital Sacré Coeur. In view of the current situation in Haiti



*Dr. Flynn and Son Excellence Mgr. Hubert Constant, O.M.I.*

and our plans to enlarge the hospital, both Archbishop Constant and I agreed that we should put in writing what has always been recognized since 1993 when the CRUDEM Foundation was first started in St. Louis.

The strong St. Louis connection with CRUDEM is highlighted in this issue of the newsletter by the tribute to the late Msgr. Robert M. Krawinkel and the wonderful honor bestowed on Dr. Ted Dubuque by his peers at the American College of Surgeons meeting in New Orleans. Dr. Frank Scarpa, one of our surgical volunteers from Greenwich, CT., nominated Dr. Dubuque for this award.

Every other year the Board of Directors of the CRUDEM Foundation meets in Haiti and interacts with the hospital staff. Our meeting there in late February was a revealing one. Dr. Bernes Chalumeau,



*Visitors to the Mission House in February.*

our Medical Director, gave a comprehensive view of the hospital and described the need for additional facilities to care for the dramatic growth of our patient population and to accommodate the medical space needs of our medical and surgical volunteers. We hope to have plans finalized soon so that we can begin a capital campaign during the latter part of this year.

Finally, I want to say thank you to all of the friends of CRUDEM who have opened their hearts to the Haitian people by their generosity during the past year. It certainly has been a trying one, but our success is because of your help. Mesi anpil!

Tom Flynn MD  
President, CRUDEM Foundation

## Statistics

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Outpatient Visits	29692	36470	51081
Hospital Admissions	2421	2975	2766*
Deliveries	580	581	840
Surgeries	846	1149	859*
Prescriptions	68418	83757	106992
Laboratory Tests	32186	50703	70561

*\* specialty teams unable to come to Haiti during 1<sup>st</sup> part of year because of armed insurrection.*



Thank you to the anonymous donor who made this newsletter possible.

# The Mobile Clinic

February 18, 2005 A day at Choisieul...



examining



weighing



waiting



socializing



questioning



observing

The mobile clinic project has treated many thousands of patients over the past year. They represent the poorest of the poor. The first clinic started almost eighteen months ago in Choiseul, a rural village of 2800 people set on a steep mountainside. The people farm the land but have little or no income. The road to Milot is so steep, the elderly, young mothers with children and the very sick are unable to reach the hospital. The lack of funds is another obstacle.

The photos on these pages were taken on a recent clinic visit to Choiseul. Sr. Joanna Danson, D.C. and three health aides journeyed 4 miles from the hospital up a steep mountain road to an old chapel where they set up shop for the day.

The people came in groups of two, three, or more, spanning the age range from very young to quite old. They were orderly and respectful as they waited patiently, obviously grateful for the opportunity to receive care.

On the "honor system", approximately one half of them would proudly produce a 5 gourde coin (14 cents) and place it in a cup on the table after their name had been called. The efficiency of Sr. Joanna's system was truly amazing to see. Using the health care aides on either side of her to get the history of the illness, and dispense instructions and free medications after she had examined the patients and made a diagnosis, she was able to move quickly from one patient to another. The medicines were readily available on the table behind the group. At the same time, another health care aide was in a corner of the room weighing patients, giving out vaccines and advising parents. Over one hundred patients were seen during the visit!

Another mobile clinic site has been added – the hamlet of Carremilot. Two other villages, Thibeau and Carre de Pere, now host prenatal clinics. This has been quite an accomplishment in view of the past year's difficulties – armed insurrections, floods, and hurricanes – that have afflicted the northern part of Haiti!



We hope to set up another clinic in the near future if funding can be obtained. The budget for our Mobile Clinic Project is a formidable one since medicines are free and we need a new vehicle. The Sisters' seven-year-old car is on its last legs and is not large enough to transport seriously ill patients back to the hospital. We have been awarded a challenge grant by the Raskob Foundation for the project. Hopefully, one or more of our friends will help us rise to the challenge and achieve our goal.

## STAFF PROFILE

Therèse Blaise, also affectionately known as 'Toy' has worked at CRUDEM for over 35 years. She was born in Coronel, a small district near Thibeau and originally came to Milot to work with the Sisters of the Holy Cross, then with the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and for many years now has been the housekeeper for 'Pavillion St Louis', the visiting doctors' residence at CRUDEM. Therèse does a wonderful job of preparing the residence for the arrival of visiting medical teams. She ensures that everything is spic and span and that the visitors have all they need to make their stay as comfortable as possible.

Therèse has witnessed incredible growth and development of CRUDEM and Hôpital Sacré Coeur



**Therèse Blaise**

over the past four decades. Therèse remarks *"We the people of Milot have been very blessed to have the hospital and the Crudem volunteers who have helped us in so many ways over the years. Many Haitian people in this poor country are alive today because the people associated with this place have come and continue to come."*

Therèse has two adopted daughters – Ketty Blaise, now married and living in Cap Haitien and Angelita Blaise who is 12 years old and sitting the "Certificate" State Exams this year. Therèse lives with her family in the village of Milot. Therèse says *"If God continues to give me good health, I will continue as long as I can in the service of Crudem."*

Therèse, we thank you on behalf of all the volunteers for your wonderful service over the past 35 years.

## Dr Marielle Cintellus

Dr Marielle Cintellus, the Internist at Hôpital Sacré Coeur since January 2004, grew up in Gonaïves, a city on the west coast of Haiti and completed her primary and secondary education there. Throughout her childhood she dreamed of becoming a doctor. She states *"I was always attracted to medicine particularly because it gives*

*an opportunity to take care of people and to alleviate their suffering."* She attended the Medical Faculty of the State University in Port au Prince and after graduation she specialized for three years in Internal Medicine at HUEH (the State University Hospital) in Port au Prince.

Dr Cintellus runs a diabetic clinic and cardiovascular clinic each week at the hospital. With a smile she describes her job and how she loves her work particularly interacting with the patients in the clinics and taking care of those hospitalized. She remarks that many of her patients have heart problems or infectious diseases, HIV and AIDS in particular. She feels close to those who are sick and can often be seen checking on patients on her time off.

Dr Cintellus supervises the Social Residents (especially the 3 doctors currently completing their residency at Hôpital Sacré Coeur) and calls on them to assist her in her examinations and treatment of patients. She speaks English and makes herself available when necessary as an intermediary between the visiting medical teams and the local Haitian medical personnel. She appreciates the knowledge that is shared when the foreign medical teams visit and comments that she is always trying to increase her knowledge in order to better serve the sick.

When asked why she likes working at Hôpital Sacré Coeur, Dr Cintellus responds *"The Hospital is well organized and there is good collaboration among the medical personnel. The sick feel that they are in a good hospital and so they have confidence in the doctors, that helps us to do our jobs better."*



## CONGRATULATIONS DR. DUBUQUE

The American College of Surgeons presented its prestigious Surgical Volunteerism Award for 2004 to CRUDEM's own Dr. Theodore J. Dubuque, Jr. (below, left), in New Orleans. The award is given "in recognition of those surgeons committed to giving something of themselves back to society by making significant contributions to surgical care through organized volunteer activities."



Dr. Ted certainly gave something of himself! For 16 years, he traveled to Haiti at least four times a year. His first trip lasted six months. Subsequently, he returned with each new physician to introduce the volunteer to the hospital and the staff and acquaint him or her with the Haitian culture. Besides performing many surgeries himself, Ted recruited and scheduled volunteers, outfitted the empty operating room, procured supplies, and medicines, and initiated fund raising efforts to help sustain and improve Hôpital Sacré Coeur. From an eight-bed clinic, the hospital has become a 64 bed general hospital with two fully equipped operating rooms, 10 permanent Haitian staff doctors and a total staff of 150 people. (The hospital has become the largest employer in the town of Milot.)

Now at Hôpital Sacré Coeur physicians have performed over 1250 surgical procedures annually and treat over 50,000 outpatients. The number of medical volunteers has grown to as many as 170 in a year. The hospital boasts a new modern laboratory and Haiti's first independent pediatric unit, separating children from adult patients for the first time in Haiti. Mobile clinics travel out from the hospital to reach the sick-poor who live in remote, hard to reach areas.

So much has happened at CRUDEM due to the vision, dedication, leadership, and generosity of Dr. Ted Dubuque. He gave not only of his medical and organizational skills; he truly gave of himself. We congratulate him on receiving the Surgical Volunteerism Award and add our very humble 'thank you, Ted'.

## Urology Team at Milot, Haiti

Our urology group was the first specialty team to arrive at CRUDEM in 2005. As in the past, it was an exciting and rewarding experience for the members of the team. Four of us had been to Milot previously: Regina Foley, R.N. of Point Pleasant, N.J., urologists Dan Burzon from Brick, N.J., Albert Assali of Fremont, California and myself. For anesthesiologist Ling bin Zhou of Manasquan, N.J. and Urologist Les Rainwater of Bismark, North Dakota it was a new experience.

We saw 75 patients in the clinic and performed 29 surgical procedures. Among the procedures were prostatectomies, hernia repairs, cystoscopies and circumcisions. Our patients ranged in age from 6 months to 79 years. Remarkably, there were only 2 female patients.



Accompanying us was Joseph Sokolowski, a pulmonologist from Medford Lakes, New Jersey who spent his days looking after patients with TB and asthma and teaching the local staff the nuances of lung disease treatment.

The operating room staff has not changed since my first visit in 1998. They have improved greatly, making our job easier than in previous years. One nurse, Immaculata, had been trained by Dr. Ted Dubuque in the late eighties and is still going strong!

The entire hospital staff and support personnel were cordial and extremely helpful. Much of this is due to the efforts of Sisters' Martha, Joanna, and Christine. Working tirelessly, they have created an energetic and hardworking staff with a high level of esprit de corps.

Our efforts to help the people of northern Haiti would not be possible were it not for the generosity of so many good people from around the country. It is a shame that only those of us who go there can see the smiles of gratitude and hear the heartfelt "merci" when our patients say "au revoir" when we depart.

Rudy Talarico, M.D.

*Dr. Talarico, a urologist from Spring Lake, N.J. is a frequent volunteer at Hôpital Sacré Coeur*

First time readers of this newsletter are probably wondering what CRUDEM means. It is an acronym:

**C**enter for the  
**R**Ural  
**D**Evelopment of  
**M**ilot

When the Brothers of the Sacred Heart came to Milot in 1968 and started building roads and bridges, constructing schools, medical clinics, a tile factory, a lumber mill and bringing electricity and clean water to the village; they called their mission CRUDEM.

In 1986 they built an 8 bed hospital with an operating room and called it Hôpital Sacré Coeur. St Louis surgeon, Dr Ted Dubuque was the first volunteer to arrive, and shortly thereafter with his childhood friend, Carlos Reese, Dr Dubuque formed the CRUDEM Foundation in St Louis to support the hospital. It is a 501(c) (3) corporation.

**O**ne of the many delightful stories that is part of the CRUDEM and Hôpital Sacré Coeur experience is that of Exantus Alcibert.

As a boy growing up in Milot, he attended the Brothers of the Sacred Heart school there. When the Americans came in 1994 and disbanded the Haitian police and army, they introduced a new police force. Exantus, a bright young man, easily passed the entrance examination and became a member of the new police force.



*Exantus Alcibert*

Two years later, when Dr. Dubuque and Dr. Flynn were both visiting the hospital, he came up to them and said he was leaving his job. They were surprised since it was one of the few paying positions in Haiti at the time. Exantus explained that he had, over the years, observed the American doctors who had come to help his people and he wanted to be like them. He had applied to medical school in Port au Prince and had been accepted!

Knowing that the cost of medical school was beyond his means, the CRUDEM Foundation offered him a scholarship on the condition that he would return and spend his medical career at Hôpital Sacré Coeur caring for his people.

Exantus will be graduating from medical school in June.



### Wish List

- ~Primary Care Center
- ~Laundry
- ~Physicians' Residences
- ~Ultrasound – Obstetrical
- ~Suction machines - 3
- ~Oxygen Regulators - 3
- ~Professional Gardening T ools  
(rakes-12, shovels-3, spades-3,  
pick-1, bucket with mop ringer-6, outdoor  
brooms-12, window squeegee-3,  
and floor squeegee-3)