

SG 27-2024

Rome, 6 April 2024

**Subject: Request to pray for Haiti**

Dear Confreres,

Greetings of peace and hope of the season of Easter. I write these few lines to request you to pray for our confreres in Haiti, the country which is being destroyed by the bandits due to its political instability. Below is the extract from the letter of Fr. Jean Jacques, SMM, the Provincial of Haiti.

1- A country currently ruled by armed bandits

Since March 2, Prime Minister Ariel Henry left the country to go to Kenya in search of the support of an international police force to help fight armed gangs. Since then, he has been forced to resign. These same bandits broke all the prisons and threw all the prisoners out, there are more than 9,000 of them reinforcing all the gang centers. They burned, set fire, killed everything in their path. Everyone is targeted: church, religious communities, They did a lot of kidnapping, religious men and women, priests. At the moment, there are no leaders in the country.

2-A country on the verge of civil war

Bandits attack banks, loot stores, burn churches and schools. the population is on the move in certain areas, people find themselves in the streets losing everything. Many families form camps in spaces where there are 200 to 300 families deprived of everything. Bandits often attack people who have a monopoly on business and this results in injuries and deaths.

3- On the verge of suffocation

With this situation, the international airport of Port-au-Prince is closed, no communication with provincial towns, nothing can be taken out of customs. Everything becomes excessively expensive and rare. Prices have increased by 200 to 300%. Even water is becoming difficult to find.

4- Our confreres in Haiti

We have been doing our expression of the cross every day for more than 3 years, visits and meetings are almost impossible except by Zoom or WhatsApp. We are already very exhausted by this situation. The provincial house is surrounded by bandits, there are at least 5 gang centers very close to our house, as well as the Turgeau communities. I live every evening with a small suitcase containing the important documents and the archives have been digitized. The bandits when they enter a house, they burn everything. Our Scholasticate since last October has been moved, providence has helped us. The scholastics are currently staying in a house that the sisters of Sainte-Union gave us last year, they have 17 scholastics.

Dear Confreres, this is the critical situation of Haiti. To express our closeness to people of Haiti and especially to our dear confreres who live in fear and uncertainty, I request the entire congregation to pray for them that the country may come back to the normalcy as soon as possible. May our Blessed Virgin Mary protect them from all dangers.

Happy feast of the Annunciation



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM  
Superior General