

With the passing of each day, the situation in Haiti continues to cry out for aid and assistance. People from many countries are helping in a variety of ways. We pray. Next weekend we will have a collection to provide relief to the people of Haiti. We do this because we recognize in the words of our 2nd reading that the people of Haiti are members of the Body of Christ. They and we are connected. And so we, like so many others, reach out to the Haitians in their time of devastation.

The Body of Christ has many members. All have value; all belong. Single persons, married couples, religious and priests are members. Widows, widowers, orphans and the homeless are members. Rich & poor, unemployed and employed are members. People who go to Church and those who do not; believers as well as atheists and agnostics are members of the Body of Christ. Criminals, terrorists, and mafia members belong. People who have had abortions, experienced divorce, struggle with addictions---all hurting people--- are members of the Body of Christ. The list is endless.

Paul elaborates on this image of the Body of Christ so that we will recognize we are all connected. Even the dead are members and so we pray for them at each Mass as well as in our private prayers.

It is our awareness that all are members of the Body of Christ that prompts us to visit the homebound in our community. We have a Prayer Line in which we join with those who are in need. We contribute to Food Pantries and serve at Food for Faith because the hungry are our sisters and brothers. At Thanksgiving we support members; at Christmas we are generous in the Giving Tree Project. We make a variety of donations to St. Vincent de Paul to assist our other members of the Body of Christ. And we have special collections here in the parish throughout the year. We do all of this because of our belief that we and others are members of the Body of Christ.

Is there anyone that I exclude from the Body of Christ? that I judge to be unworthy of my care and concern?

The GOOD NEWS today is that all are members of the Body of Christ. Not some, but all.

My sisters and brothers: what a relief that membership doesn't depend on us alone. It is a gift of God!