



Diocese of Hinche
Vision, Priorities and Goals 2021 – 2024
March 2021
WITH UPDATES MARCH 2023

Vision:
Called to Be Renewed and to Transform

Priority #1 **Moving toward Economic Development**

Five Income Projects (Honey production, Farm produce, Food market, Cemetery, Auto repair garage) fully operational by 15 April 2024.

Bees and Honey

Progress:

- An office is established and a place to work on the beehives.
- There are 3 full time employees
- 1,000 Moringa trees have been planted. There is evidence that they will flower.
- By June – 5,000 more trees to be planted.
- As many trees as possible will be planted. In 2 years – another 20,000 trees
- Hives have been upgraded, some installed, more work and installations to come.
- 20 bee colonies (5 saved from an initial shipment and an additional 15 purchased)
- The first honey tasting will be this February!
- Leaves and seeds of the trees will be sold along with honey.
- Team members assisted in obtaining a shade to cover trees.

Challenges:

- Watering. Actions: manually pump until water from a lake on site can be obtained
- Animals entering tree territory. Cows, horses and goats all can destroy trees. Consequently, fencing is needed. This was a surprise – not budgeted.
- Hives security measures. 24/7 watchmen are a possibility.
- Ordering from France, US is a better source at this time.

Farm Market and Produce

Progress: \$200,000 from partner Caritas Spain expected in 4/2023.

Challenge: Estimated cost for the project is \$900,000. Therefore, other partners are needed.

- Caritas Spain works with Caritas local in helping farmers. But farmers find it hard to find a place to sell produce. Therefore, the diocese is solving a problem for the farmers.
- The Diocese will pick up a farmer's produce and bring it to the market. Sparing the farmer long trips. It is likely the diocese will meet farmers at the various parishes.
- 1 truck will drive a circuit through the diocese.
- The diocese will encourage farmers to work together in raising and bringing produce, but will also work with the small solo farmer.
- Market Building will have warehouse space. The warehouse will be for produce from local farmers and produce of the diocese. Some are expected to be sold to groceries in PoP.
- Another part of the showroom will be for products the diocese will purchase from PoP – rice, sugar etc, that cannot be found in Hinche. This will be for wholesale selling.

Planning Considerations:

- Farmers involved should have a bank account and the diocese puts money in their account. (Rather than any cash transactions.)
- Begin to lay out clear and consistent guidelines for farmers: for products, timing of deliveries, financial transactions, etc.
- Set up clear guidelines for running of the market: employee role descriptions, handling of products, working with customers, handling financial transaction, security, overall running of the market.

Farm Project:

- 22-acre property (adjacent to a parish, 2 hours from market) will be the site for growing banana trees. In April will buy small trees and plant 5,000. Also on the site there will be corn and vegetables grown. A hill will support more Moringa trees.
- It will take a year to get the first bananas.
- Due to perishable nature they will be both sold and made into banana chips.
- Will need watchmen and maybe fencing. Watchmen ideally would live on site in a small house built for them.
- This is a big project. Looking for every piece of land for agriculture.
- It is to make food available and be an income for the diocese.
- Last week Fr. Lee (sp), newly ordained, left to study agronomy at university in Cap Haitian.
- Later, he will work with Fr Facius on agriculture projects.

Park of Life Cemetery:

Progress:

- 760 meters of concrete fencing, 2-meters high, has been completed.
- Working on landscaping and the roof on the chapel.
- Last 3 -4 months – things slow – cannot get materials from PoP
- Dream: open in summer 2023. Make it functional to open even if not perfect.
- Sisters and Brothers of Incarnation are partners.

Challenges:

- The aim is for complete enclosure. This is expensive but necessary.
- Cannot find local bulldozers and backhoes for landscaping.

Garage:

Progress:

- Have the master plan for the property
- Raymonde, CFO, looked at other 2 other garages in Port au Prince. The people there will help with information/advice as we go forward.
- Bishop met with young engineer whose is working on the plan. He will meet with team when the plan is completed.

Challenges:

- Financial resources are needed to begin this project.

Priority #1, continued **Moving toward Economic Development**

Increase the Pastoral Fund to \$100,000 annually through local giving by 30 June 2024.

- Update early 2023: Project is delayed.

Priority #2 **Equipping the Lay Faithful**

Provide 70 – 80% of Catholic families with a bible and biblical documents by 31 December 2021.

Progress:

- Bibles are not yet available due to supply issues for bibles in Haitian creole. As of January 2023: Still waiting for Old Testament translation from the committee (have NT). They are behind.
- Objective is to provide scriptural tools, therefore the diocese pivoted to supplying parish leaders with breviaries and training leaders in their use for small groups.
- Switched to Breviaries and distributed these to all the parishes. Bibles are now available – but not Catholic translation bibles.
- Lay leaders who received training pray at least twice a week with others in their parishes.
- Some priests include breviary (morning prayer) in the daily mass.
- Collaboration of the pastors continues to be important.

Goals on Hold for this Priority:

1. **Diocesan Radio station reaches entire diocese by 1 March 2024.**
2. **Support 10 students over 4 years with a university scholarship by 1 August 2024.**

Priority #3 **Leading with Pastoral Care**

Increase pastoral and administrative skills throughout the presbyterate (evidenced through assessment measurement tool) by 31 August 2024.

- Spring 2022 training postponed to October 16 – 21, 2022. Speakers cancelled due to turmoil caused by unsafe roads. Cancellations continue, however bishop and priests are meeting as a group regularly.

Train all Chapel Directors in best practices of leadership (reaching 150 per year) by 31 August 2023.

- **Progress:** About 50 people were trained as charismatic leaders. They were trained for parishes: as spiritual animators, to help people in need pray, for leadership during novenas (especially before patronal feasts). Future training: liturgy, biblical study, catechesis, music and dance.