



## THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

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Date: January 14, 2010

### **Diocese Home for Two Haitian Priests**

Bishop James V. Johnston, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, will hold a press conference this morning, Thursday, January 14, 2010, 11:45 a.m. at The Catholic Center addressing the disastrous earthquake that rocked Haiti.

Two diocesan priests, Fr. Rodolphe Balthazar and Fr. Rahab Isidor, natives of Haiti, were traveling to their home country when news of the destruction began to trickle out.

Although in the capital of Port au Prince, Fr. Rodolphe has been unable to make contact with his family. A reliable family friend has informed Fr. Rodolphe that his mother, a brother and niece have survived the disaster.

Fr. Rahab was making a connecting flight from Florida to Port au Prince when he learned of the earthquake in Haiti and subsequent cancellation of his air flight.

“I could not believe it when I saw on the Airport TV some very disturbing images of dead bodies and destroyed buildings.... The Archbishop of Port au Prince, Joseph Serge Miot, is dead in his office while chatting with his Vicar General (Archbishop Miot was my philosophy teacher for 2 years and was the dean of the faculty of Philosophy of the Grand Seminaire Notre Dame d'Haiti), and also I was his occasional driver for 2 years, which developed a friendship between us while I was a seminarian. The major seminaries of Haiti were completely destroyed with seminarians and priests teachers, thousands of people died.”

A special collection will be taken at all Masses across the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau this weekend to aid the people of Haiti. Funding will go to support the humanitarian aid provided by Catholic Relief Services.

Fr. Rodolphe Balthazar was ordained to the priesthood in June, 2000 and served as a priest in residence at St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield until he returned to Haiti earlier this month.

Fr. Rahab Isidor, ordained to the priesthood July, 2006, serves the diocese as parochial administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Billings.