

## Haiti Awareness Immaculata IHM's Haiti Committee CLM Summer Program

St Laurence School

February 10, 2011

The Immaculata Haiti Project Committee invited Beverly Lucas to share her experiences and love for the Haitian people. Beverly, a Philadelphia lawyer has been involved with Haiti for over 20 years. As a member of the United Methodist Church of Germantown, Beverly has accompanied many groups to work there on various projects. She is also a founding member of the Philadelphia Friends of Fonkoze founded two years ago.



Sister Lorraine McGrew greets Beverly Lucas



Pictured are the Sisters who form The Immaculata IHM Haitian Committee:  
Sisters Marian Smith, Cathy Nally, Joan Louis, Joanne Wallace, Beverly Lucas, (guest speaker) Lorraine Bruno, Paula Jameson, (kneeling): Mary J. McGarrity and Christine Remington. Along with the gracious hospitality of

the Sisters and staff at St. Laurence, the Committee welcomed about fifty sisters for the presentation.

The evening began with prayer led by Sister Mary McGarrity and centered around the DVD *Eyes of a Haitian Child* provided by Eileen Coleman, IHM (Scranton). The impact of this presentation was obvious in the silent reflection which followed. After several minutes, those present shared their reactions with one another.

Sister Cathy Nally introduced Beverly Lucas remembering how hospitable she had been when Cathy, Paula and I first attended the meeting to form the Philadelphia Friends of Fonkoze.



Sister Regina Schuyler and the Sisters who work with Haitians at the IHM Literacy Center at Incarnation Parish in North Philly joined us along with Jean Baptiste, a graduate of the program who now teaches and accompanies other Haitian on their journey towards citizenship. Many other Sisters from various missions added their support.

Over the years, four of our Sisters have traveled to Haiti and we hope to continue

sending Sisters to see first hand what we can do assist the Haitian people in becoming self-sufficient. The program that we are currently sponsoring is Fonkoze's CLM summer camp program. This effort is geared towards providing opportunities for the children whose mother's have begun the climb out of extreme poverty through the *Path to a Better Life (CLM)*. Last summer, when the program began, 997 children in the rural areas received the benefit of meals, drinking water, instruction and play so that they would become involved in learning along with their mothers. We are targeting this program by our efforts to raise enough funds so that these little ones will have hope for the future.

After a brown bag supper and sharing, Sister Rose Yeager gave a brief and informative explanation of the OSP/IHM committee and Immaculata / Haiti committee.

Sister Mary J. McGarrity then reported on the funds raised during the last year. As we move forward, Sister invited all present to continue their efforts to raise funds for Haiti and especially for this new venture, the CLM summer camp program. Sister assured everyone that it will be well monitored and is truly in keeping with our call to serve the most abandoned poor. Let us pray for Haiti.

