

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE  
**SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA**  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**INFORMATION NOTE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN**

**Haiti.**

Members of the 900 year-old Sovereign Military Order of Malta make a promise to aid the poor, welcome the homeless and care for the sick, regardless of religion, race, origin or age. *Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum*. This promise is evident in the work of the Order in Haiti, with which it has diplomatic relations. The Permanent Observer recently led a visit of members of the Order to review the works of the Order of Malta there, on the north coast of the Country.

The delegation was greeted by UN peacekeepers at the airport and throughout the visit of the entire area; the UN peacekeepers' presence was very visible and very important. Cap Haitien was calm and functioning, after the recent period of great difficulties.

In Milot, a village near Cap Haitien, the Order of Malta operates a 64-bed hospital, Hopital Sacre Coeur. This has been a beacon since it was opened as an 8-bed hospital in 1986. It is staffed with 160 Haitian doctors, nurses and staff, 170 medical and surgical volunteers a year and three members of the Daughters of Charity religious order. Each of the 51,081 out-patients who visited in 2004 was treated with dignity. The line starts forming at 6 am for medical care. Volunteer surgical teams come from the United States, including cardiac teams that perform open heart surgeries. Recently, a team of eleven doctors, numbering several cardiovascular surgeons, came from the famed Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and performed delicate, life-saving operations. All of the doctors work as volunteers, donating their time and expertise to the hospital.

There is a nutrition center connected to the hospital where malnourished children are referred for daily meals. 35% of the children under five are malnourished. The Order of Malta supports the Crudem Foundation that runs Hopital Sacre Coeur with funds and donations of medicines, drugs, medical and surgical equipment. The Order also supports a food program at two schools in Milot and in the countryside in Thibeau. The teachers had noticed that the children could not pay attention because they had not eaten and had walked many miles to school. Knights and Dames of Malta from the three Associations in the United States provide funds and support for the works of the Order in Haiti.

In addition to Hopital Sacre Coeur, the Order of Malta sponsors two remarkable projects in Cap Haitien: one is a center for boys who live on the street. They come to bathe, eat, and find a haven. There are about 50 or more boys: from 8 to 16 or 17 years of age. The other project is a sheltered village outside of town with houses and classrooms where about 50 street children live and go to school and learn woodworking or a trade as well as math, language and history.

New York, March 8, 2005

(Due to technical problems, this Information Note is being redistributed on March 22, 2005)