



JOURNEY TO HAITI

■ CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOCUS

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

Humans are social by nature. We need each other. Like the early disciples, we are called to come together and grow as a community—in our classrooms, church and families.

ENCOUNTER ANDRISE

“Education is the foundation of everything,” says Andrise, who’s been a first-grade teacher at a small Catholic school for 11 years. It’s the same school she attended from first through sixth grade, in the community she calls home in northern Haiti.

Andrise says the opportunities at Notre Dame set the course for her life. But a lot has changed since she was a student. New teaching techniques and resources are changing how students learn—and how teachers teach. “We use poems, dances, songs—all sorts of activities to help the students improve their literacy,” she says.

And Catholic Relief Services—working with the Catholic Education Commission in Haiti—is leading the way. Every student receives a new workbook to practice their reading and writing. This is a big change from before, when students had to copy notes from the board. “Now, all the students are able to learn at the same time,” Andrise says. And she benefits too—from ongoing teacher training. Last year, the parish priest named her Teacher of the Year.

The new techniques are working: Andrise’s classroom is a high-energy place, and the students love school—and her. “They call me ‘my mother,’ and I call them ‘my son, my daughter,’” she says. “They’ve already promised that next year, when they’re in second grade, they’ll take time out of their recess to come and visit me.” For a teacher like Andrise, seeing the children grow not just as students, but as people, is the reason she goes to work each day.



Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS

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A good education doesn’t just benefit the student—it benefits the community, making home a safer, more inclusive place.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

Population: 10,110,019

Size: 10,714 square miles; slightly larger than Massachusetts

- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Eighty percent of Haitians live on less than \$2 a day.
- High population density, deforestation and decaying infrastructure make Haiti particularly vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes and floods.
- In Haiti, CRS responds to emergencies, provides agriculture assistance, supports education and works to enhance health care.



For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos and watch a video about Andrise at crsricebowl.org/stories.