

AID AGENCIES

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ricane season.

Isaac Boyd, an emergency shelter expert for CRS in Kenya who now advises the agency in Haiti, said numerous organizations are trying to determine how to move thousands of homeless Haitians to more secure locales, primarily outside of Port-au-Prince.

Admittedly, Burpee said, the movement of thousands of people can pose a problem for the rural communities and small towns receiving them. She said any plan must include funds for additional food delivery, health care and support for schools as the rural areas absorb hundreds or even thousands of people.

She also said she expects that CRS will have less of a presence in the capital at some point, leaving agencies with the expertise to lead the reconstruction effort.

"Our traditional expertise is in rural areas with latrines and potable water ... with education, agriculture, livelihoods. So we can work in some of the rural areas that are overloaded

with internally displaced people and help those people find livelihoods," she said.

For now, for those staying in the city, CRS has contracted with a firm in the Dominican Republic to provide 400 portable toilets at tent sites. The toilets are being provided under a \$1.5 million contract that calls for the company to clean the toilets daily and has built-in penalties if toilets are found unsanitary, Burpee said.

The Haiti program is Catholic Relief Services' largest, running at about \$30 million annually prior to the earthquake. Through Feb. 9, CRS had raised \$41.7 million for Haitian earthquake relief, reported John Rivera, the agency's director of communications.

Caritas Internationalis, a Vatican-based confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social services organizations from around the world, had raised \$25 million for earthquake relief, Mougín said.

Through Feb. 3, donations to U.S.-based relief agencies have totaled more than \$644 million, according to statistics gathered by The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEW ORLEANS' ONGOING RELIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI:

► Contributing \$25,000 toward an airline flight coordinated by Catholic Relief Services to bring a rotating team of doctors from the University of Maryland shock trauma department, medicine and other medical supplies to Haiti.

► Coordinating a Haitian Outreach Meeting Feb. 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., O. Perry Walker High School, 2832 Gen. Meyer Ave., Algiers. Goal: to provide local Haitians with a resource list to share with Haitian friends and relatives; give a presentation on the stages of disaster recovery; provide counseling by mental health professionals to Haitians suffering loss and anxiety due to the earthquakes. (504) 620-3163.

► Encouraging local participation in the Haitian-

government-sponsored days of prayer Feb. 12-15 commemorating the one-month anniversary of the earthquake.



► Working with Caritas Internationalis to coordinate the immediate, transitional and long-term earthquake response, as well as to strengthen support of local Church partners.

► Continuing efforts with Catholic Relief Services to provide housing and emergency

shelter kits (also with Caritas Haiti), sanitation, food and more. Among CRS' work so far: 4,579 metric tons of rice has been distributed to 184,856 families, with a goal of reaching two million people over a 14-day period.

► Registering Haitians living in the New Orleans area for Temporary Protected Status through the U.S. Government and establishing a hotline - (504) 310-6933 - for Haitians needing help monitored by Kettly Prophete, a Creole-speaking Catholic Charities immigration clerk and outreach worker.

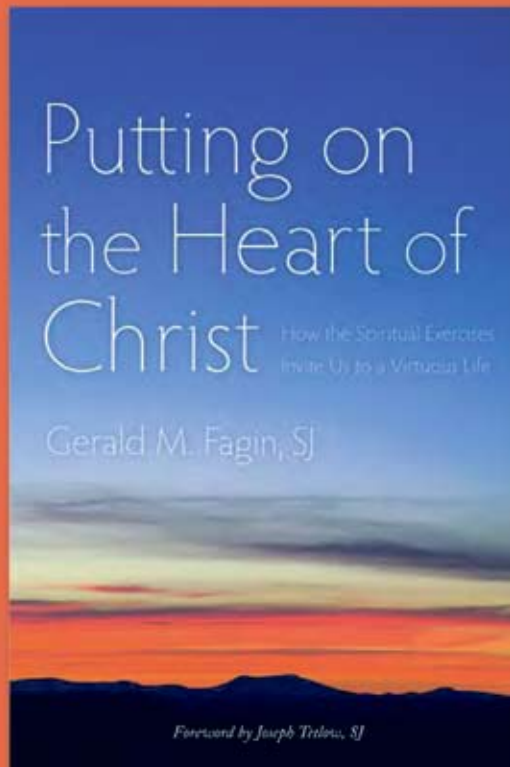
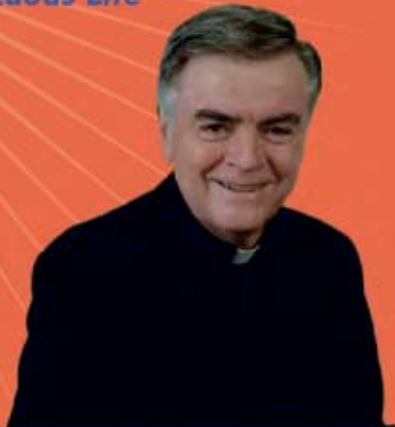
► Local JustFaith groups through the Office of Justice and Peace involved in letter-writing campaign to local and state officials regarding debt relief, trade preferences and other social justice concerns.

LOYOLA INSTITUTE FOR MINISTRY

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BOOK DISCUSSION AND SIGNING

The Rev. Gerald M. Fagin, S.J., Sr. Noël Toomey, O.P., and the Rev. Mark Thibodeaux, S.J., will discuss Fr. Fagin's new book:

Putting on the Heart of Christ: How the Spiritual Exercises Invite Us to a Virtuous Life



Sunday, February 28, 7 p.m.
St. Charles Room
Danna Student Center
Reception to follow

Fr. Fagin's book will be on sale at the event; proceeds will benefit the Loyola Institute for Ministry Scholarship Fund.

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