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 Knott Scholarship Funds
 1340 Smith Ave., Suite 200
 Baltimore, MD 21209
 Michelle Burke, Director
 or fax to: 410-779-1259
 or e-mail to:
 KnottScholars@gmail.com

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 News about yourself, your family or other scholars: _____

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2011
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 inside!

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Knott Scholar News



Hope in Haiti

By Patrick Franks

The plane began its descent over the blue Caribbean water; blue as far as the eye can see, with green hills popping up out of the horizon. As we passed over land, blue water became blue tents, tin roofs, and dirt roads. I peered cautiously below as the riddled asphalt approached, until the plane came to a bumpy landing. The remains of airplanes not as fortunate as ours were strewn across the field beside the landing strip; a sight not comforting for any traveler. Accompanied by twelve others from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, I crowded into a bus to take us from the runway to customs. As we rolled past the cracks in the walls of the airport in the sweltering heat, I realized: I'm finally in Haiti.

For the next week, our group of thirteen students from the Archdiocese of Baltimore spent time in St. Marc, Haiti, located just over an hour north of Port-au-Prince. It is a small coastal city, full of one-story homes and a bustling market. For the people there, each day begins before the sun rose at five, and continues long into the night, whether or not they have power to light the streets. Despite the immense poverty in the country, nearly everyone wore a smile, and we experienced a warm hospitality that rivaled anything I had ever seen. We



Patrick (top center) with some of the young students at St. Marc's school.

spent the majority of our time at Les Bons Samaritains School, run by Dr. Mortel, a brilliant man and retired physician who spent most of his career in the United States and now gives much of his time and talent to the people of St. Marc, his childhood home.

What made our time at the school, and in Haiti, most enjoyable were Dr. Mortel's students. They are bright-eyed middle schoolers who walk miles each day to play, joke, and learn. They value their education more than anything, and truly appreciate the opportunity that Dr. Mortel provides for them. Although we would be up before six in the morning, some students would be already at the gate of the school, eager to learn, play, and just be around us. We taught them English and built crafts with them, and they taught us some

Creole and French (Haiti's two official languages). But the biggest lesson they taught us was what it means to be grateful for your education. Even when we headed to the nearby brand new James Stine College to help prepare for its fall opening, some of the

students walked three miles to help us clean the school: that's three miles to dust, mop, and fix broken desks. There is no greater sign of gratitude than what these children go through for their school.

There is much we all can learn from the children of Les Bons Samaritains School, especially the value of an education. These poverty stricken children endure so much for the chance to learn, a privilege that many of us take for granted. I urge my fellow Knott Scholars to be thankful for the incredible opportunities presented to us by the Knott Scholarship Funds, and to cherish the Catholic schools that have taught us so well.

Patrick Franks, a MIHJK Secondary Scholar, is a senior at Loyola Blakefield.

If you are interested in helping Dr. Mortel's foundation or Les Bons Samaritains School, please visit www.ighhopesforhaiti.org

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You can visit us on Facebook: Knott Scholars (and alumni) for news, events and updates!