



Radio Soleil

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CONFERENCE EPISCOPALE D'HAÏTI

Mr. Kermit Lamy
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Warrington, Pa.

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Dear Kermit

I guess I'm supposed to be gloomy, down-at-the-mouth, pessimistic. All the predictions seem to say that 1981 will be a year full of woes, both here in Haiti and around the world. Let alone the forecast for the two closing decades of the century - and of this millenium! Yet I somehow feel like St. Augustine as he tranquilly wrote his masterpiece "The City of God", while the Visigoths were besieging the gates of Hippo, his see city. For in that work he speaks long of the Finger of God that in broad lines directs human destiny. Oh, he leaves us with our freedom: the bad are free to work their meanness, and the good to work for a better world - but after Calvary and Easter, Evil cannot really win, in fact, has been roundly defeated for ever. Christ is Lord! And he has a game plan. And if we could see it, we would marvel at the beauty and the wisdom of it. We would never be defeatist again.

So with a heart full of confidence and faith in that Plan, I face 1981. Pessimism may be for others, not for me. God willing, this New Year will see the beginning of our relay system for Radio Soleil about which I've been telling you these last months. And also the start - even if so very humbly - of the first concrete steps toward the realization of that other dream, Notre Dame University of Haiti at Hinche. But I must await the naming of a new bishop for that Diocese before we can begin to make some more forward progress. Now that Bishop Decoste, the former Ordinary, is with God, he will be even more efficacious to see to the fulfillment of this mutual dream we had.

Here all is well personally. And Radio Soleil doesn't miss a day even though recent events affecting the News Media in Haiti have us worried. There has been a real clampdown on freedom of expression. The Church seems to be almost the only independent voice left. Please pray for me and the Radio Soleil staff that we may walk the narrow line between valor and prudence.

In closing, thank you for your holiday greetings and your generosity to me. You are such a part of the successes - humble as they are - of my missionary life.

In Christ,

Raymond Conard

Rev. Raymond Conard
Executive Director

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