

Lent IV Sunday April 3

The Tree Project Grows – Many Partners Emerge

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16 (NRSV)

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. Not one after lighting a lamp puts in under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Since the people of St. Etienne's first began planting the trees, they have planted over 90,000 trees. That's a lot of trees but it still is not enough for everyone. All the trees they planted and want to plant cost a lot of money. Remember the people in Haiti are not rich. They have very little. They knew they would need help. So they told their story. They told people about their dream. People in the United States heard about their dream of forests on the mountains and sent money to them to buy the sacks and the fertilizer, the seeds and the barbed wire for fences.

And people did more than send money. Some people went to Haiti to help plant trees. Young people from St John's Church in Glyndon in the Diocese of Maryland went to Haiti, to St. Etienne's and worked with the young people who live there. Together they have worked in the Pepinye. They fenced the land, prepared the land and planted the saplings. When they finished working, then they had time for fun. They went to the beach and to a Haitian National Park.



Young people from St. Etienne's and from St. John's

Have you ever planted a tree seed? Did it sprout? Did it grow?

Would you like to help the children in St. Etienne's plant more trees? That is a very big job and next week we will talk more.

Prayer: O Creator, you make us each in your image and yet with unique gifts for the building up of your church and community. Help us to offer ourselves to each other and to your work in the world in ways that satisfy and delight us and make the work we do a light for others. All this we ask in your name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.