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Press Release

St. François de Sales Hospital, established in 1881 and destroyed in an earthquake in 2010, is to offer state of the art care as a teaching hospital but it was missing a Chapel.

Manchester NH, September 18, 2014: The Dioceses of Manchester (New Hampshire), along with Sacred Heart Church's in Natick and Quincy Massachusetts answered the call to provide furnishing, furniture and religious clothing to provide for a Chapel in Port Au Prince, Haiti recently. Knights of Columbus members and Insurance agents in New Hampshire mobilized to provide the required labor in moving the items to staging areas in North Andover, Ma for shipping recently.

A enormous warehouse in North Andover, Ma is the unlikely location today for a gathering of people working to make difference for those still suffering from the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010.

Those gathered today are present for a Blessing over the gifted items which include nearly everything necessary for a proper chapel to be located at the hospital. From pews to Altar furnishings to confessionals, items are being marshalled for packaging and the short trip across the water to Haiti. The items, provided by Catholic Churches located in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts, will be shipped to the St. Francois de Sales Hospital in Port Au Prince. Following its rebuilding, the hospital is being established as a teaching hospital.

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Barbara Miles, Diocesan Archivist, with a Confessional being donated by St Joseph's Cathedral in Manchester.

Reaching out to the Church was a natural reaction for IMEC, a USAID-Registered Volunteer organization operating in 90 countries worldwide. IMEC, with its army of volunteers, is putting the final touches on the massive amount of equipment that will be shipped pre-packed, room by room, with everything from hospital clothing to delivery room equipment that will be used to outfit the hospital.



A few examination rooms of prepackaged equipment at the IMEC packaging and shipping facility in North Andover awaiting shipment to Haiti.

After discovering that the “Chapel” necessities were missing, representatives from IMEC reached out to Catholics in the North East, who quickly identified the needed items and mobilized resources needed. Volunteers from the Manchester Diocese, including the Diocesan Archivist and Knights of Columbus members from Council 92 (Manchester) and State Insurance agents, quickly identified, readied, and moved the needed items from New Hampshire to the shipping location in North Andover.



Pictured: (L) Rafael Peschiera, Knights Insurance Agent and (R) Anton Kaska, Knights Council 92 with a donated tabernacle shown loading a vehicle with donated items.

.The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization, was founded by Father Michael J. McGivney in the United States in 1882, and is named in honor of Christopher Columbus. In 2012, Knights contributed 167.5 Million dollars and volunteered over 70 million hours of their time to charitable causes.