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Photo by Marco Dormino, United Nations | CNS

The remains of the Catholic cathedral of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, is seen in a Jan. 15 handout photo provided by the United Nations. Officials with the Catholic aid agency Caritas in Haiti reported that most of the churches in Port-au-Prince had been destroyed in the Jan. 12 earthquake that rocked the capital.

## Local Haitians worry, pray for relatives

By Peter Finney Jr.  
Clarion Herald

Local Haitian Catholics, many of whom lost loved ones in the cataclysmic earthquake that rocked the impoverished island on Jan. 12, gathered for Mass Jan. 15 at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, seeking to support each other emotionally and spiritually and exchanging the latest bits of precious information.

Not unlike the uncertain days following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, many Haitians who attended the Mass, celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Shelton J. Fabre, said they had not been able to make contact with their extended families to ascertain their condition.

Most of the news that did get through was not good, said Fenelle Guillaume, who just last month led a small group

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Photo by Peter Finney Jr. | CLARION HERALD

Martin Gutierrez, right, executive director of neighborhood and community services for Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, talks to the local Haitian community Jan. 15 about the temporary protected status being granted Haitians living in the U.S. Fenelle Guillaume is standing next to him.