



College
of Arts
& Sciences

Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences
16 West 16th Street, room 714
New York, NY 10023
Tel: 212-261-1576
Fax: 212-261-1680

August 21, 2019

Reverend Monsignor Ogé Beauvoir
Executive Director of Food For The Poor
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Dear Monsignor Beauvoir:

The purpose of this letter is to convey, in lieu of authentication, the history of the contents that my colleague, Dr. Maryse Prézeau, bequeathed to Food For The Poor, via her cousin, Mr. Daniel-Gérard Rouzier, currently the Chairman of the Board of that organization.

I was a member of the team of scientists charged in November 1990 with the identification and exhumation of Pierre Toussaint by the Archdiocese of New York. In that capacity, I applied my years of research and experience in forensic science and anthropology in the delivery of that endeavor, which was documented in an article published in 1997 by the team, currently available on line [S J.Turkel 1997 (with J.V. Taylor, R. DiBennardo, B.E. Byland, A.D. Goldman)]: The Discovery, Exhumation and Identification of the Remains of Pierre Toussaint (1766-1853). Proceedings of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences]. I can, therefore, attest to the veracity of two important facts related to the contents.

First, the material that I gave to Dr. Prézeau is from the soil that was in direct contact with Pierre Toussaint's bones in the grave. This soil, which may have been mixed with his decomposing flesh, is associated empirically with Pierre Toussaint's body to the extent that it was scraped from his bones. These bones were subsequently returned to the NY Catholic Archdiocese and placed in the crypt of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Second, I can truthfully attest that I personally brought the soil to Dr. Prézeau, a woman of Haitian descent who had expressed an interest in my work and was then my colleague at NYIT. She recently reached out to me when she decided to pass on the soil that I had given her to Food For The Poor in Haiti, via her cousin, and requested that I send you a notarized letter as the original collector and donor of the soil.



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I deeply appreciate the fact that the collected soil will reach its final destination in Haiti, the native land of the Venerable Pierre Toussaint.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer Jay Turkel".

Spencer Jay Turkel, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences

sturkel@nyit.edu

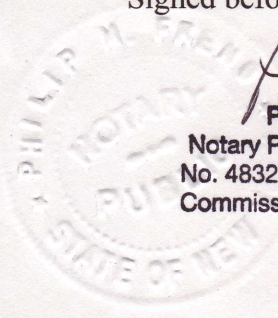
212-261-1643

cc: Mr. Daniel-Gérard Rouzier
Chairman of the Board, Food ForThe Poor

Signed before me on August 21 2019 (Notary Public)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip M. Freno".

PHILIP M. FRENO
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 4832985, Qual. in Queens Co.
Commission Expires July 31, 2019



Maryse Prézeau, Ph.D. 188 Beverly Road, Chester, NY 10918-2329
Phone: 845-629-7943 mprezeau@icloud.com

August 22, 2019

Mr. Daniel-Gérard Rouzier
Chairman of the Board
Food for the Poor
Port-au-Prince, HAITI

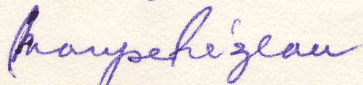
Dear Daniel,

It is with a deep sense of humility that I bequeath to Food for the Poor a sample of the soil that Dr. Spencer Turkel gathered from the bones of the Venerable Pierre Toussaint, which he gifted to me when we were colleagues at NYIT in the 1990's. You are in possession of his notarized letter to Monsignor Ogé Beauvoir, in which he provides information related to that initial gift with details on his participation in the exhumation process of Pierre Toussaint's remains and his personal presentation of this gift to me.

Given my Haitian heritage, I have over the years treated this gift with the respect and honor that it deserves. I have always kept intact the original vial and its contents since Dr. Turkel had personally handed to me. I can also attest to the authenticity of the materials contained within, as I received them, because I carefully ensured that the vial remained unopened and inaccessible to anyone. Since I received it, it always occupied a safe place, first in my office at NYIT and later in my home. As we remain united in prayer, I rest assured that Food for the Poor will preserve the integrity of this gift and provide accessibility to future generations of our beloved Haiti.

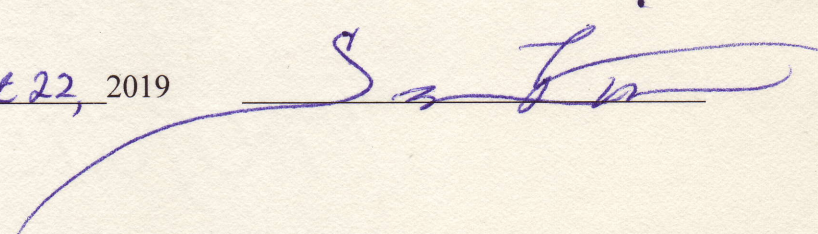
May God continue to bless you and Food for the Poor for all that you do in the name of the Lord.

Warmest regards,



Maryse Prézeau, Ph.D.
Retired VP for Students Affairs
And Professor of Humanities at NYIT

Sworn and signed before me on August 22, 2019



SANDRA P WILLIAMS
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 02VV16344067
Qualified in Orange County
Commission Expires June 27, 2020