



St. Francis-Haiti Outreach
P.O. Box 2563
Staunton, VA 24402-2563

NEWSLETTER

August 2014
Volume 8 No. 3

SAVE THE DATE—
Saturday, October 11:
Haiti Outreach Gathering
and Sponsor Appreciation

We are planning a special event after 5 pm Mass to celebrate our generous sponsors! Plan to join us!



This month's pictures show the graduation of the 2014 Kindergarten class from Our Lady of Pointe-a-Raquette School ! Also pictured is part of the new library at the school with secure cases installed!

News from La Gonave

The 2014 Kindergarten Class celebrated graduation on June 20th! 22 graduates celebrated with a wonderful party for the entire school. School is not in session for the summer months and will reconvene in mid-September. However, your generosity allows us to continue to feed the children each day during the summer. Fr. Beneche has arranged camps in the morning and the children eat at noon and then return home. The camps also allow us to pay the teachers during the summer.

As you see in the pictures, the library is up and running and will be available to the children and the teachers at the school with the new school year. The books will be kept in the secure glass and wood case which was built by a parishioner of our twin parish. The Haiti Outreach Committee is offering a new way to help support the library by launching an “**Honor with Books**” program. We are very fortunate to have the dedication of committee member Diane Pekala to oversee this new initiative. Read more about the program on the other side of this newsletter and see how easy it is to help!

Richard Joseph of the Diocesan Education Office in Hinche is visiting St. Francis this Monday, August 4. Members of the Haiti Outreach Committee and Parish Council, and other interested parishioners will have dinner with him Monday evening. He has been instrumental in working with us to facilitate the training of the 3 teachers from our school. We look forward to welcoming him!

Typically, the summer months constitute the “rainy” season on La Gonave and is a very important season as the cisterns are refilled, crops grow more easily, construction work can be better accomplished because water is needed to make concrete. This year, the rainy season has not come in force and this creates many hardships for the people. Please keep our brothers and sisters in Pointe-a-Raquette in your prayers as they deal with this difficult situation.

News from Bob's Clinic

A painful mosquito-borne virus that has been spreading rapidly across Haiti and the rest of the Caribbean since its arrival in the hemisphere in December has hit the island. The common signs of chikungunya (pronounced chik-en-gun-ye) are painful joints and a high fever. The people appreciate that they can come to Bob's Clinic to see Dr. Jimmy and the nurse as they recover. There is no real cure and thankfully, it is not fatal. Patients usually recover in about 2 weeks but ibuprofen and IV fluids are important. Luckily, once infected you cannot get the virus a second time.

Men anpil chay pa lou. Many hands make the load lighter. Bondye beni ou. God bless you.
For more information about our programs, please contact Marie Thomas, 540-255-3166 or
stfrancishaitioutreachministry@gmail.com.



Honor with Books

A unique way to honor a special person & support future students!

Honor with Books provides a meaningful way to pay lasting tribute to a special person while making an important contribution to students at Our Lady of Pointe-a-Raquette School in Haiti. With a gift to the Honor with Books Fund, you will help to buy a new book for the library, provide instructional materials for a classroom, or help with teacher training. The gift supports a critical acquisitions need, and the loved one, friend, special teacher, or colleague will be remembered in a very special way.

Remember Honor with Books for:

- Graduations
- Memorial Tributes
- Professional Honors and Retirements
- Weddings and Anniversaries
- Birthdays
- Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparent's Day
- Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations

*Books are the carriers of civilization.
Books are humanity in print.*

-Barbara Tuchman

Recognition: When donors make a gift to the St. Francis Haiti Outreach Honor with Books Fund:

- A letter of acknowledgment will be sent to the honoree, or their family.
- The donor will receive acknowledgement by email, and receive a tax form in January.

The Opportunities

- \$25 will provide a new hardback book for the school library
- \$50 will provide instructional material for a classroom
- \$100 will send a teacher for additional training

How to Give

- Fill out the form below and mail to Haiti Outreach, PO Box 2563, Staunton, VA 24402-2563!
- Or to request a form by email, contact **Honor with Books** coordinator Diane Pekala at stfrancishaitioutreachministry@gmail.com or by telephone at 540.292.0549.



I enclose:

- ___ \$25 to provide a new hardback book for the school library
- ___ \$50 to provide instructional material for a classroom
- ___ \$100 to send a teacher for additional training
- ___ Any amount to put toward a new book

Make check to: St. Francis Haiti Outreach

Mail to: St. Francis Haiti Outreach, PO Box 2563, Staunton, VA 24402-2563

Acknowledgement Information

I would like to make this donation in honor/memory (circle one) of:

_____ FOR: _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

DONOR Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Email: _____