

St. Francis of Assisi
St. Louis King of France



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WALK TOGETHER

St. Francis-Haiti
Outreach Ministry

118 N. New Street
Staunton, VA 24401

NEWSLETTER

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Haiti Outreach Week is February 1-February 7!

**JOIN US FOR HOLY HOUR ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT 6 PM FOLLOWED BY HAPPY HOUR
AND FOR OUR ADULT ED PRESENTATION ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AT 10 AM!**



News from St. Louis Parish, Pointe-a-Raquette, Haiti

The Haiti Outreach Ministry recognizes the vital importance of prayer. We pray for one another; we pray for our sponsors and donors; we pray for our partners in Haiti and the Haitian community there; and we ask others to pray for us. Prayer is essential in building healthy partnerships, advancing the gospel, and seeing communities around the world become more like the Kingdom of God.

Recently, Fr. Augustin sent us a WhatsApp message from Haiti. In it, he asked, "How can I be praying for you? What are the needs of the parish of St. Francis?" The Lord had prompted him to get in touch to simply identify prayer requests that he could bring to God on our behalf.

THE WOMEN'S CHOIR PRACTICING FOR MASS

If you know anything about Haiti, you know that it is a hard place to live, having a history of natural disasters, disease, poverty, government corruption—and a lack of sufficient infrastructure and rule of law. Yet, a dear brother in Christ from such an environment is concerned about our needs here...and is lifting us up to God in prayer. How humbling. How convicting.

So this month, we are inviting you to pray for Fr. Augustin and St Louis Parish in a special way during the upcoming **HAITI OUTREACH WEEK!** Praise God for the beautiful people there who cling to Christ in an inspiring way.

- Pray for the school to continue to be a beacon of light and hope in the community.
- Pray for Bob's Clinic to be a hub of education and outreach to the community.
- Pray for an extended time of peace and political security to come to Haiti.
- Pray for the development of a vocational school which is a dream of Fr. Augustin's so that young people might enrich their community economically, socially, and spiritually. **THANK YOU!**

Marie Thomas and Angie McFarling have rescheduled their trip to Haiti for early April. They welcome any St. Francis parishioner to join them to visit our twin parish of St. Louis! Hope and Faith are at work there!

We continue to visit to demonstrate that by our “ministry of presence” , St. Francis Parish has not forgotten them, that YOUR generosity and love is FAITHFUL, and that we care enough to come and be with them and HOPE with them!

News from Bob’s Clinic

The clinic is truly a gift to the people. Fr. Augustin recently sent us the following:



*We are fine with the grace of God. We are writing to you this evening to thank you for hearing our cries and working with us for the purchase of the flyboat. Many thanks to Rotary Club for their support. The flyboat is one of the largest projects carried out by St Francis Parish for the benefit of St Louis Parish of Pointe-a-Raquette. Thanks to the flyboat, the Parish does so much service to the community and saves so many lives. It is truly a blessing for the community. The day before yesterday, thanks to the flyboat, the doctor saved the life of a mother and a premature newborn. The doctor performed the birth on the sea in the flyboat. And the sea was rough. We transported the newborn and the mother to another hospital in the mainland. Now the newborn is placed in an incubator to wait for the full 9 months. He concludes: Unfortunately, the doctor did not take a photo during the delivery!! **Imagine a birth on the open sea!***

The picture shows the community helping to send the patient off!

News from St. Louis King of France Parish School

The school is growing and expanding. Fr. Augustin and the parents voted to continue the school to the 9th grade. More funds will be needed to pay the teachers. We supply teacher salaries through generous donors and part of the sponsorships. If you know anyone in your family or group of friends who might be interested in sponsoring a student, please let us know!

The picture show the school at the morning flag-raising!

IMPACT 100

We will continue the success of **IMPACT 100**!! Watch for information in February giving you the opportunity to engage in active partnership with St. Louis Parish!! To review: **IMPACT 100** investors are invited to participate in this giving circle with a gift of \$100. The funds from **IMPACT 100** investors will be pooled to create a fund of \$10,000, the direction of which will be decided by the majority of this group through a voting process. Last year, the investors funded the improvement of the clinic laboratory. This year we will focus on the fund for a new school building.



Economic Development We work always to encourage the people of La Gonave, Haiti in their God-given capacities to build a strong and stable community. The Famn Vanyant program and the Business Grant program are aimed to help community men and women develop their capabilities so they can improve their lives through economic opportunity. We need continued support for the women of Famn Vanyant and for small business grants—To help create jobs is a wonderful gift to give!

Thank you from Father Augustin, the people of St. Louis Parish and the Haiti Outreach Ministry

Father Augustin and the people are always so appreciative of what St. Francis does for them. They look forward to a visit from you! Please consider traveling with us!

Any questions? Please contact us at stfrancishaitioutreachministry@gmail.com or call Marie Thomas (540-255-3166) or Angie McFarling (540-569-6041). Thank you always for your love and support!

Men anpil chay pa lou. Many hands make the load lighter. Bondye beni ou. God bless you.