



St. Francis-Haiti Outreach
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NEWSLETTER

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This month's pictures show the new delivery table for Bob's clinic that was made possible by your generous support and a picture of the teachers from Our Lady of Pointe-a-Raquette Catholic School who were able to attend a recent teacher's training on the mainland.

News from Bob's Clinic

Due to the generous support of St. Francis parishioners we met our challenge goal of \$10,000 for Bob's Clinic! THANK YOU!! With the addition of the challenge money, we were able to raise \$20,121.50 for Bob's Clinic! Our support has gone immediately to good use! Dr. Jimmy was able to travel to Port-au-Prince to find a new delivery table for the clinic. Our funds helped to buy the table and transport it to La Gonave. By raising the money and allowing Dr. Jimmy to buy the table in Haiti, our help is more effective for the people of Haiti, similar to the "Buy Local" movement in the U.S. Money is spent in Haiti and helps their economy through support of the business that builds the table, and also through the jobs that the local Haitian business creates for Haitian citizens! It is much better for us to send the money than to try to buy a table here and ship it there! The clinic now has a wonderful new delivery table for the many pre-natal visits and babies that Dr. Jimmy delivers in Pointe-a-Raquette. Praise God for St. Francis Parishioners and their generous spirit!

News from Our Lady of Pointe-a-Raquette School

We had an exciting opportunity from September 16-25 to send 3 of our teachers from Our Lady of Pointe-a-Raquette School to a training session in Papaye, on the mainland of Haiti. The training was a collaboration between the Haitian Education Fund and the Hinche Bureau of Education (BDE). We were invited in part because the Diocese of Richmond twins with the Haitian Diocese of Hinche. Training was 10 hours per day. Teachers were divided in two groups: preschool and primary teachers. Subjects taught were math, experimental science, Creole, French and social sciences. Teachers from the Ecole Normale (teacher training school) were the trainers. We were able to send the teachers because of your generous support of our school. The report from the teachers was very positive and the training is ongoing for the next 3 years.

Our friends from Blessed Sacrament in Harrisonburg recently spent a day in Pointe-a-Raquette with the people of our parish and met Father Beneche. They celebrated a very special occasion while they were there. They brought the First Communion Rosary from Dr. Linda Kofeldt and presented it to the parish. The people of St. Louis Parish are very close to Linda, and in Fr. Beneche's own words: "Your permanent presence in the parish thanks to your rosary from your first communion was received with great emotion as a gesture of love for the people of Pointe-a-Raquette."

News about our December trip to La Gonave

Marie Thomas and Juliana and Madison Benner will be traveling to Haiti to visit Pointe-a-Raquette and our twin parish from December 5-12! The time is soon! The first part of our trip will be spent at the La Gonave Development Summit in Anse-a-Galets on the island of La Gonave. We will arrive Thursday afternoon and spend the evening on the mainland. Then we will cross by boat to the island on Friday morning to arrive at the Summit for lunch. The afternoon session will be introductions and updates on our work on the island. That evening and Saturday, we will form into working groups with specific focus, for example community health, agriculture, enterprise development, schools, water and others as identified. The point of the summit is to create and encourage synergy and collaboration among the organizations on La Gonave. We are looking forward to meeting the others who work on La Gonave.

On Saturday evening we will drive over to Pointe-a-Raquette so we will be at the parish of St. Louis for Sunday mass. We will spend the remainder of the trip in Pointe-a-Raquette visiting the school, Bob's Clinic and the people. We hope to do a small project with the children at school and to join in their celebration of the Advent season. Madison is interested in public health and will be working with Dr. Jimmy to begin a community health assessment. We are also very happy to meet Father Beneche. We will report about our trip to the parish sometime in January.

Please consider sending a Christmas card to your sponsored child. We are unable to bring gifts but a picture and note is very special. Please drop your card by the office or give to Marie Thomas by December 1. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, we are still in need of sponsors and would welcome your support.

Thank you so much for your support of the people at our twin parish of St. Louis. They appreciate everything we are able to do for them and pray for all of us at St. Francis each day. You are truly making a difference in so many lives, and Fr. Beneche and the people of Pointe-a-Raquette appreciate your support more than can be expressed. For more information about our programs, please contact Marie Thomas, 540-255-3166 or steuart@cfw.com.

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



by Beverlie Solange