

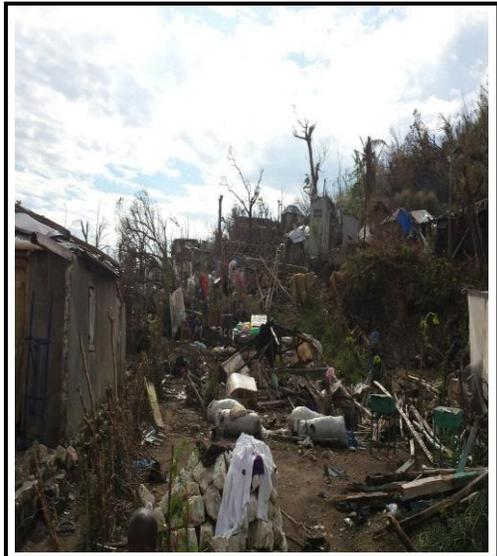


St. Francis-Haiti
OutreachMinistry

118 N. New Street
Staunton, VA 24401

NEWSLETTER

November 2016
Volume 10 No. 2



This month's pictures show damage sustained by the community of Pointe-a-Raquette and by a community in the mountain area that the parish of St. Louis also serves.

News from Pointe-a-Raquette

Fr. Augustin reports that while the hurricane-force winds and rain reached Pointe-a-Raquette, they were spared much of the flooding and destruction that was experienced in the mountains on the island. The mountain villages were decimated, and several lives were lost. The immediate need was to help to feed the communities. With the generosity of so many of you, Father was able to purchase 359 bags of rice, 100 bags of beans, and 200 gallons of oil to create food kits distribute to the people. He appreciates SO much our love of the people. Father is working with the communities to identify and prioritize the needs. There is much work to continue, and Father says a priority is to repair the drinking water system with galvanized pipes. He wants this to be a community- driven response and will begin to mobilize the community to help each other rebuild their homes.

Concern remains going forward as the Haitian families lost much of their livestock and food security is at risk. We will continue to work with Father for the good of the community and will keep you updated.



Bags of Rice delivered

News from Bob's Clinic



With the hurricane, the instance of cholera threatens and it is important for the people to be careful where they find water, and that they treat the water before drinking. The clinic is reaching out to the villages in the mountains to treat any cholera, and to prevent its spread. Always fearful of contracting cholera many suspect the water might make them ill but they have nothing else to drink. Here, Dr. Jimmy is participating in a mobile clinic.

On other exciting news, Dr. Jimmy became a father of Hum Carlens Fort on September 22! Mom and baby are doing very well!!



Carlens Fort

News from Our Lady of Pointe-a-Raquette School

The first day of school for the children was on September 12th! We have a growing attendance and dedicated teachers. The school fared well in the storm and the students are back in classes. Thank you for your prayers for them! Father Augustin shared that he is continuing to work with the older youth in the parish as they graduate from our school. There are 5 young people who are involved in the current goat project made possible by the gift from the Vacation Bible School in 2015. Father plans to grow this project and add others such as planting mango and coconut trees, not only for the fruit but to teach conservation and the need for trees. Father Augustin stressed the importance of saving the trees and protecting the island. He is living by example and has purchased a propane stove for the rectory—cutting trees down to make charcoal is their biggest threat. He is educating the community about protecting the environment and encouraging them to do the same. He also has several dreams that he shared with us during his visit. He would like to establish a vocational school for the community

so that young people are able to learn a trade such as electrician or plumber, etc. While he was here, we took him to visit the Woodrow Wilson Rehab Center to see their Work Force Rehab programs and the Buffalo Gap FFA program. He was very interested in how the programs work and we are very grateful to Wendell Coleman of WWRC and Shirley Kaufman of the BGHS FFA program for taking time from their busy schedules to meet with us. Father Augustin's great and final dream is possibly some day to build a new school.

Thank you from Father Augustin and the Haiti Outreach Ministry

Father Augustin was so touched and humbled by your gracious reception and hospitality for him during his visit in late September. He sent me the following to share with you: *When someone offers gladly to help out in any way, it brings you such good feelings and brings sunshine to your day. When someone knows just how to make you smile and cheer your mood, it brings you warmth and joy and fills your heart with gratitude. When someone says, "I understand," your cares seem so much lighter-When someone takes the time...it makes your whole world so much brighter. Thank you so much—all of you—for your love and hospitality. May the world always be as wonderful for you as you make it for others!* Fr. Augustin

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



Please join us in our continuing ministry to the people of St. Louis Parish in Haiti.

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons of giving approach, consider these ways you can help.

1. **PRAY:** Join us in praying for Haiti during a Holy Hour in the Adoration Chapel on Sunday, November 20 from 2-3 pm. We are praying for stability and hope for families across the country as they conduct their Presidential elections.
2. **LIGHT THE LIFE OF A CHILD:** Please consider sponsoring a child in honor of a loved one as **a CHRISTMAS GIFT that will give twice!** The school would not exist without your sponsorships. Please know how much your generosity is appreciated! **A sponsor form can be found on the Church website at:**
http://stfrancisparish.org/haiti_sponsorship_form.pdf
3. **INVEST IN THE COMMUNITY:** Help to build a strong, resilient community with an investment in honor of a loved one this Christmas through the Honor with Books PLUS program. **An investment form can be found on the Church website at:**
http://stfrancisparish.org/haiti_honor_with_books_form.pdf
4. **BUILD UP BOB's CLINIC:** Help to equip the clinic to keep families strong and healthy in the face of increasingly unpredictable events. The clinic model works. Help bring it to more people as you honor a loved one. **A donation form can be found on the Church website at:** http://stfrancisparish.org/haiti_bobs_clinic_form.pdf
5. **STAY IN THE KNOW:** Join our Ministry Team! Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 28 at 6 pm in Assisi Hall. We will have a Haitian meal of Rice and Beans followed by our meeting. Stay informed and active!! **For more information about our programs, please contact Marie Thomas, 540-255-3166 or email us at**
stfranchishaitioutreachministry@gmail.com to let us know you will attend the meeting!

**Thank you for standing with us in prayer and support
for our friends and partners in Haiti.**