



St. Francis-Haiti Outreach
P.O. Box 2563
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NEWSLETTER

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This month's pictures show the 2014 Northwest Diocesan Haiti Gathering and Dr. Jimmy at St. Francis!

News from La Gonave

The new school year started on September 15th! Through your generosity we are able to help the families with the fees for school and the costs for supplies, books and uniforms. In Haiti, the school day begins around 7:00 am and ends at noon. The children are fed in their classrooms and then return home for the afternoon. The teachers are happy to be back in school as well!

We appreciate the sponsor "Words of Wisdom" that have been returned to us, and we are in the process of translating those to post in the classrooms. How important it is for the students to know that you care! Thank you for joining this essential work as these children are prepared by their teachers to become leaders in their communities. These are exciting times and we are very grateful that YOU are accompanying us on this journey. Thanks again for your giving. Your generosity is over-whelming to us and we are ready for the challenges of a new school year!

News from Bob's Clinic

BOB'S CLINIC CHALLENGE of \$5,000 was met!! Thank you to all who contributed! We were thrilled to be able to share this exciting news with Dr. Jimmy!

We hope that many of you were able to meet Dr. Jimmy Forte when he was visiting the parish this past weekend. We were so fortunate to have him visit and we heard of the many new developments in the clinic. Bob's Clinic serves approximately 29,000 people from the south side of the island of La Gonave. Many of the people live in very rural areas and it is difficult for them to travel to the clinic. The Haitian doctors have begun a new process for addressing the needs of those who live in rural areas. The doctors are going out to visit the families in their homes. This opportunity for the doctor to visit a home gives him an insight into the family living conditions and environment so that he can treat and teach the members of the family preventative measures. For instance, a doctor can see that the family living condition is conducive to intestinal worms, and if one member of the family already has this intestinal condition, the rest of the family can be treated so that the situation is dealt with immediately. Visiting the families at home also allows the doctors to compile a good health history of the family. If there is a history of diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, or mental illness, this allows the doctor to educate the family on these diseases and to be aware of the onset. Dr. Jimmy is hoping to begin visiting families soon. We are exploring ways with the parish to bring an intern to work with him on this. It is difficult for Dr. Jimmy to leave the clinic since he is the only doctor.

Trip to La Gonave

From November 6-13, Lisa and Maggie Olshove, and Marie Thomas will travel to LaGonave to visit the parish of St. Louis and the people of Pointe-a-Raquette. They will be visiting the school to see the children and bring new books and supplies. Maggie and Lisa have planned some activities to engage the children. A teaching supervisor from the Diocese of Hinche will also visit the school while they are there to do some teacher workshops and observation. Fr. Beneche is gathering some of the leaders of the parish of St. Louis so that there can be a joint meeting and discussion of all projects with the parish leaders. We are very excited to be going and ask you to keep us in your prayers!

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.

Northwest Regional Haiti Gathering: This past Saturday morning, about 40 participants from several parishes who twin with parishes in Haiti, gathered in Assisi Hall for our annual gathering, put on this year by St. Francis. The theme for the meeting was “**Mâché Ansanm**”, or “Walk Together”. The twinning relationship is a “ministry of presence” and a community development partnership between the people of St. Louis and our parish, St. Francis. The day started with a beautiful Haitian Hymn and introductions of the parish ministries. Jeff and Karen Adams shared their own experience of being missionaries in Uganda in their talk, “Giving from our own poverty: The Spirituality of Missions”. Often we go out “in mission” to be Christ’s hands and feet to those less fortunate, to bring Christ to them and bring them closer to him; however, more often, it is those we “feel” we need to serve who bring us closer to Christ. We should not seek so much to bring Christ **to** them as to seek Christ **in** them, for by “walking together” with them in faith, they lead us closer to Christ.

Justin Myers, Director of Global Ministry & Regional Coordinator (and newly appointed interim Director of the Office of Social Ministry) from the Diocese of Richmond Diocese spoke about the new initiatives in the Parish Twinning Program. The Richmond Diocese is advocating the use of an accompaniment model of development that builds human capabilities and capacities within the communities through education, economic development and improved public health. This model keeps us focused on the needs of the people and allows for the best use of our resources. Our purpose is not to “rescue” our twin parish or tell them how and what to do, but to listen to them. The Haitians truly understand their own needs and our job is to listen and help them to access resources to facilitate their needs. Other information on sustainable projects, writing grants, and the Haitian perspective from Dr. Jimmy made for a very worthwhile morning! The event ended with a delicious meal of Haitian rice and beans, picklez, quinoa salad, fruit, bread and brownies! Many thanks to all who participated!

Do not forget the “**Honor with Books**” program when you are thinking of honoring loved ones this coming holiday season! 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



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

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Questions? Email: stfrancishaitioutreachministry@gmail.com