



**St. Francis-Haiti  
Outreach Ministry**

**118 N. New Street  
Staunton, VA 24401**

**NEWSLETTER**

**December 2019  
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**This month's pictures show Fr. Augustin with St. Francis Parishioners at the Blessing of the Animals during his October 2019 visit and Angie and Marie with Scholarship students Mirline Isaac and Roosevelt Mentor on their January 2019 trip.**

**News from Pointe-a-Raquette**

Fr. Augustin reports that while life was almost impossible in Port-au-Prince for the past several months where the streets were blocked, and protests became violent, the community on La Gonave remained peaceful. However, the chaos did have effects for them—merchants could no longer go to the market, and many stores are closed. The price of goods also increased dramatically. Concern remains going forward as the Haitian families face food insecurity. We will continue to work with Father for the good of the community and will keep you updated. The parish community remains vibrant in faith and worship. They are celebrating a grace-filled Advent Season and pray for all of us every day.

Marie and Angie had to cancel their November trip due to the unrest but are hoping to travel to visit the people in January 2020. Pray that this is possible!



**News from Bob's Clinic**

We thank all who contributed to the Bob's Clinic Challenge! We were able to raise more than \$20,000 which will help to sustain the clinic's good work by providing salaries for the doctor and nurses and support staff. The clinic has extended its outreach programs. Each week there are health classes at the school, and each Sunday after Mass, the doctors present Public Health information and education for the parish. The new doctors continue to be a beacon of light in the parish!

**News from Our Lady of Pointe-a-Raquette School**

The first day of school for the children was on September 12<sup>th</sup>! We have a growing attendance and dedicated teachers. The school opened an 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade class this year. We feel very blessed as many of the schools on the mainland have been closed due to the political unrest. Our students have had no disruption and continue to learn and grow! Thank you for your support and prayers for them! Even with the increased costs of food, we have been able to continue to feed the students each day. The Outreach Ministry has started a School Building Fund to work with Father Augustin's dream to build a new school.



**Students at flag raising**

**Linda Kofeldt Memorial Scholarships**

Roosevelt Mentor continues his University training to become the school administrator and principal. He finished his 1<sup>st</sup> year with good marks and will start the second year on Monday, December 9. Due to the unrest, the University was not able to open in September. Roosevelt is so appreciative and has asked for assistance for a small project which he is calling A.M.I.E. (projet d'Assistance en Matériels Informatiques et d'Énergie or project of Assistance in Computer Equipment and Energy). In his words: *I hope that this small project will not only help me in my research work, but also it will have its double economic aspect: first, it will help me to reduce my expenses for typing, and*

photocopying and for the other students in my school and other staff who will need these services. In fact, this small project will allow me to earn money. With my heart filled with joy I send you my thanks if you will have the will to accompany me for the success of my little project.

If any parishioner would like to contribute to this special project to help Roosevelt, please let us know!

Mirline Isaac is the other scholarship student who continues her nursing studies. She will send us an update soon!

### **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 early October. We were able to give him a tour of the hospital AMI vegetable garden and he also visited Polyface Farm in Swoope with the St. John's Ministry. He appreciates so much learning new methods. He wrote to us: *We had a blessed visit and I especially enjoyed Polyface farm. I received a lot of inspiration. In Haiti, there is plenty of land that is free. I will try to talk to some owners to see how we can start with a small farm. The system will allow us to protect the environment and give jobs to people. We will have meat and food to feed people. Really, I learned a lot to improve the quality of life of some people in Haiti. I hope one day we will have chicken meat, goats, pigs and oxen. We will also have vegetables, food to give the students of St. Louis school Pointe a Raquette, the people of the House St Antoine. I will be so happy. We have a lot to do! Lord increase us in faith to live the moments of sorrows like the moments of joys! God will tell us what to do!*

***Men apil 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 Christmas Season of giving approaches, consider these ways you can help.

1. **PRAY:** Join us in praying for Haiti during a Holy Hour in the Adoration Chapel on any Sunday from 2-3 pm. We are praying for stability and hope for families across the country as their government faces many challenges.
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](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](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](http://stfrancisparish.org/haiti_bobs_clinic_form.pdf)
5. **STAY IN THE KNOW:** Join our Ministry Team! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14 at 6 pm in Assisi Hall. We celebrate Mass together at 5:30, then 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 Angie McFarling, 540-569-6041 or email us at [stfranchishaitioutreachministry@gmail.com](mailto: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.**