



**St. Francis-Haiti
Outreach Ministry**

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

NEWSLETTER

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**Marie and Angie with the
Fann Vanyant women**

Haiti Outreach Week is January 26-February 3!

JOIN US FOR DINNER AND A MOVIE TUESDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 6 PM; FOR HOLY HOUR ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 6 PM FOLLOWED BY HAPPY HOUR AND FOR OUR ADULT ED PRESENTATION ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 10 AM!

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



"Lespwa fe viv." Haitian Proverb meaning **Hope makes one live.**

We are also reminded in Hebrews 11, ***"What is Faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see."***

Marie Thomas and Angie McFarling returned this past Monday, January 21 from a blessed trip to visit our twin parish of St. Louis in Haiti. Hope and Faith are at work there! Each morning the 1st bell rings at 5 am (most people do not have electricity or clocks so this is how they know the time!), the 2nd bell rings at 5 :30 and the 3rd bell calls us at 6 am to worship at Mass!

In the church with the children after Mass! Note the new ceiling!

They have real sorrows but when they sing they give their sorrows to God and walk in Faith. Worshiping with the St. Louis community brings you close to heaven! The Legion of Mary continues to meet on Saturday mornings and the Men of St. Joseph group is growing. While we were there, the men of St. Joseph joined together to rehab a room at the school, working and praying together. Fr. Augustin has also created an adoration chapel where every day at 3 pm, the bell rings calling the community to adoration for a few hours.

Our commitment is to accompany the people of St. Louis Parish, Pointe-a-Raquette, La Gonave, Haiti as together we do God's will in the community. The school is bright and cheery and the church will be beautiful once all the repairs and renovation is finished. There is a nice latrine (if a latrine can be nice). We are greeted as friends and know people by name.

At the same time, the material needs continue to be so great. But by our "ministry of presence" we are able to demonstrate to them that 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

We were able to see this newborn baby at the clinic one evening during our visit! He is about an hour old in this picture! Mom and baby continue to do well!





One day during our visit, we went out to help an elderly woman who could not walk to the clinic. Fr. Augustin drove the truck and James, our translator, carried her down a ravine and up again to get in the truck. Once we got to the clinic, he carried her lovingly up the steps to the clinic evaluation room. There is no handicap access so everyone pitches in to help!

A goal in this new year of 2019 is to address priorities for improvements at the clinic. Their first priority is to create a more hermetic space for the Laboratory, and Fr. Augustin will work with the clinic staff to obtain quotes on repairing the ceiling, replacing the door, and putting in glass windows. and a small air conditioning unit to keep the room and instruments clean and sterile. The next priority is to also put glass windows in the Pharmacy (again, so the dust cannot get in), and a fan for ventilation. Another priority is to get oxygen at the clinic. The staff is looking into the costs of all these needs and we will use **IMPACT 100** to raise the funds to help them! (see below information!) There are other needs as well! If you would like to help with one of these items, please contact us!

A clinic patient being helped to the clinic for an evaluation!

News from St. Louis King of France Parish School

When you look into the eyes of the children, you are looking into the eyes of Jesus! They are so full of love and hope! A 7th grade was added this year and is off to a terrific start. The new principal, Soeur Marie, has the students studying hard and learning about their faith and service. A dedicated PE teacher is working on health through exercise and nutrition. The lunch program at school is truly a life-changing and life-giving program. The children are energetic and truly learning because they are not hungry during school!

Your generosity provides all of this and we thank you!



The 5th grade enjoying Physical Education Class!

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. This year we will focus on Bob's Clinic (see above information!)

Economic Development

Our commitment is 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 have a new class of 5 women for Famn Vanyant and 2 men waiting for small business grants—one for a “gas station”, and one for a small store. If you are interested in investing in helping the Famn Vanyant women or in helping with one of the small businesses, please let us know! 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! Our next trip is planned for April 8-15, 2019!

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.