



**St. Francis-Haiti**  
**Outreach**

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

**NEWSLETTER**

**July 2016**  
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**This month's pictures show some of the women and children on their way to the well in Pointe-a-Raquette to get water, and the goats that the children at last summer's St. Francis VBS enabled the youth of St. Louis Parish to purchase for a project. Many thanks to our children who raised over \$300!!**

**News from Pointe-a-Raquette**

Every now and then we need to stop, turn away from the problems to be solved, and realize what tremendous progress we are making. Through your generosity, the St. Francis Haiti Outreach Ministry has been able to support more than 30 jobs in the community of Pointe-a-Raquette. Our focus is to walk with the people of St. Louis Parish and to help them to make their lives better by finding jobs so they can feed, care for and educate their children. By helping to fund these 30 jobs, you are doing just that! We know who has these jobs, and we see what a difference it has made in their lives. We will share some of these stories with you in the coming months so you, too, can be proud of what you support and how many lives are being positively impacted by YOUR gifts and talents! So, look for the launch of **a new dedicated WEBPAGE for the Haiti Ministry** in the next month where we will begin to highlight this happy progress!

**News from St. Louis Parish**

Fr. Wilnec Augustin, the new pastor since September, has continued to be a vibrant force in the parish! He has begun a wonderful youth ministry in the parish. The youth in Haiti do not have the same diversions that our youth enjoy. There are no organized sports, no movies, no coffee shops where they can meet. Fr. Augustin gathers about 20-30 young people of all ages each Saturday morning and they work on a special project. They have cleaned up the beach area, put stones in the rectory courtyard to make it nicer, cut grass at the town cemetery, and helped to build a wall! In addition to the work they do, the youth play games and sing together on Saturday afternoons and then go out into the town to invite other young people to join them. They are truly evangelizing in the street! We were able to see and experience on our trip in February the transforming joy they are bringing to the parish! On our trip, four of us donated money for Father to purchase a projector. Now they are able to have Movie Nights! The youth are also blessed by our young people to now have goats to raise!

When we visited in February, we were there during Mardi Gras! The parish held a truly festive day of activities. Each grade in the school, from the First Kindergarten students and up, performed skits and sang songs. Delicious food was prepared over many days. There were so many people who came that we weren't sure they could all be fed—yet, it was like the story of the Loaves and the Fish—everyone was fed, and there was some left over. This was truly a spirit-filled day and we were able to experience the life of St. Louis Parish in a beautiful way. We were welcomed as family and shown such love from young to old!

We are so happy to welcome Fr. Augustin here at St. Francis from September 23-October 3! He will be visiting St. John's as well! **Please MARK YOUR CALENDAR now for a reception for him on Saturday, October 1 after 5 pm Mass!** More details will be coming!!

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

The last day of school for the children was on June 30th! We continue to have a growing attendance and dedicated teachers. During the summer months, the teachers organize weekly camps for the children, so that the children continue to receive one hot meal per day. For many this is their only meal. Thank you for your prayers for the teachers and the children!

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The **SPONSOR RENEWAL LETTERS** have been mailed this week so please look for those in your mailbox. The children are growing and thriving, and you will enjoy seeing their pictures. If you are not yet a sponsor of a child at the school, please consider becoming a sponsor! You may sponsor a child in memory of or in honor of a loved one! The school would not survive without your sponsorships. Please know how much your generosity is appreciated! **A sponsor form can be found on the parish website or email us and we will send you one.**

### **News from Bob's Clinic**

Dr. Jimmy Fort has been joined at the clinic with a new social service doctor, Dr. Mario Montplaisir. Dr. Mario is in his first year of practice and brings energy and needed help to the clinic. The doctors continue to make their home visits to rural villages and elderly people on the clinic motorcycle.

We have also recently received **a grant from the local Rotary Clubs** to purchase a boat for the clinic. This project will benefit the very poor residents of the area around Pointe-à-Raquette, Haiti who need medical care for medical emergencies beyond that which can be offered at Bob's clinic. Currently, patients needing specialized preventative care have no choice but to travel across the island on a primitive road by whatever means they can manage in order to get to the island's hospital. A better option is to go to a hospital on the mainland, but without transportation, patients often do not seek needed care because of the transportation hurdle. For instance, last fall a pregnant woman who came to the clinic was referred by the doctors to the mainland because the baby was getting too large and they wanted her to get an ultrasound. She could not get there because of the travel but did not let the doctors know. When she went into labor, she came to the clinic and the doctors delivered the baby after a very long and difficult labor. The baby suffered a brachial plexus injury (trauma to the shoulder) resulting in shoulder dystocia and now has no use of the left arm. This situation will be avoided in the future thanks to this generous grant! The parish will now have a boat at its disposal for transporting pregnant women for a low fee to the hospital on the mainland where there is an ultrasound machine. The boat will provide an economical and much faster way to transport the patients to the nearest hospitals. Additionally, the boat will be utilized for regular trips to the mainland for medical supplies and food for the parish school and rectory. We are so appreciative to all who have made this a reality! You have blessed the people in ways you will never know!!

Another glaring medical need that has been ongoing for the people is **the need for dental care.** The people have no care for their teeth, and often the only solution is to pull the teeth when there is a problem. Many of the adults asked us if we could help to find dental care for them. We were not sure where to start! Then, while on our trip home in February, we met a doctor who was a friend of Dr. Linda Kofeldt, and who was involved in a dental mission! He told us about 2 Haitian dentists who live on the island and are looking for work. We felt this was the Holy Spirit at work! We have the contact information for these dentists, and our goal is to hire one of them to come to Point-a-Raquette for one week every quarter (4 times per year) to see patients. The cost to do this is \$500 per week or a total of \$2000 for the year. The dentists would travel across the mountain from Anse-a-Galets and St, Louis Parish would provide room and board. Please **pray that we are able to realize this goal to cover this great need.** If you or someone you know would like to help or contribute to this project, please contact us! God bless you!

Dr. Jimmy also has some exciting news in that he is going to become a father! He and his wife are expecting their first child in October. Keep them in your prayers!

**For more information about our programs, please contact Marie Thomas, 540-255-3166 or [stfranchishaitioutreachministry@gmail.com](mailto:stfranchishaitioutreachministry@gmail.com).**

