

St. Francis of Assisi
St. Louis King of France



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WALK TOGETHER

St. Francis-Haiti
Outreach Ministry

118 N. New Street
Staunton, VA 24401

NEWSLETTER

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Flag Day at St. Louis School, May 18, 2018

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



"Unless the Lord builds the house, they work in vain who build."

--Psalm 127: 1

On Saturday, August 25, the parish of St. Louis in Haiti will celebrate its 60th Anniversary! This is such an exciting time for the people! And the parish is being blessed in so many new and special ways. It is truly amazing to see the Holy Spirit at work! The women have started a Legion of Mary and meet on Saturday mornings. Angie McFarling and Marie Thomas attended a meeting and went with the Legion out into the community to pray with a young woman whose mother had died. The parish holds biweekly prayer gatherings in parishioners homes. These are led by Fr. Augustin and the Seminarian, Abbe Seraphim. The host of the gathering is invited to give a testimony, and the love and joy in Our Lord shines forth as they share how the Lord has worked in their

About 12 women gather for the Legion of Mary. lives.

A Men of St. Joseph group has been formed to serve as a way for the men of the parish to meet and support each other as they address the challenges of their situations.

The parish also has a very special devotion to the Blessed Mother and trusts that Our Lady will guide and care for them.

On the wall of the church, there is a prayer which translated reads: "With our hearts and souls lifted to You, we pray that the Good Lord will help us to put a new roof on the Church. As we struggle against the rain that pours in, we acknowledge Your great works and trust You will. We ask that it be done by the celebration on August 25 for our 60 years of existence as a parish. To God be the glory and power. Amen." Please say this prayer with St. Louis Parish. We are witnessing small miracles that the Holy Spirit will indeed "build this roof"! If you feel led to be a part of this miracle, please indicate with your donation that it is for the Church Roof!

We are also asked to pray that as the Hurricane Season begins, that the island of La Gonave, and the country of Haiti, be spared of any devastating storms or other events. Please Lord, protect them!





News from Bob's Clinic

Dr. Etienne and the staff are very proud of the clinic and talked to us about making it a real health center for the community. They have been conducting an evaluation of the clinic to determine priorities for improvements, and they have compiled a BIG dream/wish list! Their first priority is to create a more hermetic space for the Laboratory. The current lab collects dust and has no water. They would like the ceiling repaired, the door replaced, glass windows put in (that can close), a source of potable water, and a small air conditioning unit to keep the room and instruments clean and sterile. Items for the Pharmacy are also on the list--metal shelves, glass windows (again, so the dust cannot get in), and a fan for ventilation. Another priority is the Maternity Room. The ceiling needs repair, a sink, 2 new delivery tables, a metal sideboard, a cradle, incubators and a heat lamp are all needed. There are other needs as well! If you would like to help with one of these items, please contact us!

The hard-working cleaners at the Clinic!

Another outreach of the community is the Child's Pastoral Group. These are community volunteers who go out to visit moms and children in their homes to educate them about nutrition and proper hygiene as their children grow. They have a Celebration of Life party each month where the participants come together for fun, fellowship and weighing their children! This program began in Brazil. You can read more about it at www.pastoraldacrianca.org.br/en/.

Volunteers get ready to weigh a baby at the Celebration of Life Party. A donation of \$50 will sponsor one of these parties! Please let us know if you would like to do this!



News from St. Louis King of France Parish School



Fr. Augustin has moved ahead with the School Evaluation and has completed some of the suggested changes and projects. The 6th grade got a fan, the 1st grade room was built with partitions, the Kindergartners received educational toys, the library bought new items, and they are striving to start a 7th grade! The children are being taught nutrition and food safety, and had a fun FRUIT day to experience first-hand what they learned. A beautiful spread of Fruit to teach nutrition!

IMPACT 100

This exciting new initiative to engage our parishioners in active partnership with St. Louis Parish was a success. Sixty people pooled their resources (\$100 donation X 60= \$6,000!) to fund a water and latrine project in the community of Pointe-a-Raquette.

Economic Development

There are 2 grants in the community right now—Yves Rosier and his St. Yves Auto Parts store, and James Galbart and his small construction grant. Wilfred Noel is still waiting for a \$700 grant for his fishing business. If you are interested in investing in Wilfred, please let us know!

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!

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.