



**St. Francis-Haiti
Outreach Ministry**

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

NEWSLETTER

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This month's pictures show the boat in full action and construction on St. Anthony's house.

News from Pointe-a-Raquette

The new group of *Fann Vanyan* has been meeting and preparing to sign their contracts and receive the grants for their business. Fr. Augustin has involved the women in business training with colleagues from the NGO

World Vision. *Fann Vanyan* is an association of 5 women who voluntarily cooperate for their mutual social, economic, cultural, and spiritual well-being through a mutually owned and democratically run enterprise. These 5 women are identified as potential leaders; encouraging and supporting them through training, mentoring, and coaching will help them succeed. *Fann Vanyan* is based on the values of self-help, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.



Fr. Augustin writes that the women are ready and very motivated. We are so blessed to have 3 local sponsors for this women's ministry. Our newest sponsor has issued a \$200 challenge grant, so please consider giving to this worthy initiative to match the \$200! The women are: *Marie Sonya Lormil* (who will sell cosmetics), *Rosette Bellony* (who will sell food supplies), *Nicole Flavil* (who will sell soap and cleaning supplies), *Efecta Noel* (who will sell clothes), and *Sheila Leger* (who will sell shoes).

A Fann Vanyan Meeting and Worship

(who will sell shoes). Please pray for them and the success of this initiative. Our dream is to have success with this group and then form other *Fann Vanyan* groups. Many thanks to Angie McFarling who has created the business contract and is working to introduce the concept of a contract with the group.

One of the Seminarians who has been helping at the parish and school, Deacon Mahotaire, will be ordained to the priesthood in Port-au-Prince on May 27. He asks for our prayers. Deacon Mahotaire has been serving as principal of the school and will return to finish the school year before moving to the assignment the Bishop gives.

Fr. Augustin is also leading St. Louis Parish on a special 40 day retreat from Easter to Pentecost. Each morning at 5 AM, members of the Parish climb the mountain behind the church to pray and worship. They lift up each of us—the entire parish of St. Francis-- in prayer every morning. How blessed we are!

The Boat

Fr. Augustin writes that the boat is so important to the community. The people are so thankful and say that it is a miracle of God to have the boat! The people of the parish do not know how to thank YOU (and Rotary) enough for the boat! A recent example of the boat's



The patient is loaded on the boat for transport

importance happened this week. Madame Berthe Labbe went into distress, having a difficult pregnancy and at 9:30 PM, she had an emergency where they needed to transport her to the hospital on the mainland. They were able to load her safely on the boat and transport her safely! Two lives were saved! Fr. Augustin sent several pictures that show many (over 30) people gathered on the shore to help send Mme Labbe off safely.



- With the boat comes additional needs! We would like to be able to purchase a trailer for the boat so that it can be lifted safely out of the water for maintenance and storage during bad weather. If you would like to help make this happen, please contact us!

Hurricane Matthew Relief

Fr. Augustin has continued to aid Trou Jac, Picme and Au Parc as they recover from the effects of the Hurricane. Father reports that the people are still in much need, but they have been very grateful for the help that we have sent. A sad death occurred when Loriane Eliassaint, one of the young women from Picme, who helped Fr. Augustin as a Chapel Director, died suddenly leaving 3 children. Please pray for the repose of her soul. We will continue to work with Father for the good of these communities. These communities also are benefitting from the new boat!

News from Bob's Clinic

Dr. Jimmy will be leaving at the end of May. Fr. Augustin has been working with the Ministry of Health to hire a new doctor. The community is praying for a doctor with great initiative to help the clinic expand its outreach and influence in the community. Please pray for this. The clinic is also working on several improvements: There is great need to create a quarantine space for cholera patients. The vision for the clinic is to be an oasis in the community. The courtyard will be cleaned and trees planted. The staff wants to create a place of healing and rest.

News from Our Lady of Pointe-a-Raquette School

The school children are nearing the end of the school year! School in Haiti ends on June 30. Please continue to pray about how the community might be able to improve the school facilities. Father Augustin's great dream is to build a new school building. Our Haiti Committee is working to create a VISION PLAN for the ministry in partnership with St. Louis Parish. The Committee will be creating a survey for both St. Francis Parish members and St. Louis Parish members to work towards long term goals and strategies together. Please keep this effort in your prayers!

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!

For questions about the Ministry, please contact us at stfrancishaitioutreachministry@gmail.com or call Marie Thomas at 540-255-3166. 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.