

Twin Parish News

April 2026

A partnership between St. William and St. Joseph, Côtés-de-Fer, Haiti



The People of Côtés-de-Fer Celebrate a New Priest

DATELINE: JACMEL, HAITI – March 7, 2026

Today the Church rejoices in Jacmel as eleven new priests begin their ministry. Parishioners from St. Joseph Parish traveled by bus to witness the ordination of their deacon, Milky Gelin, and celebrate this joyful moment together. May God bless Father Gelin as he begins his service to the people of the Diocese of Jacmel.



Total Surrender

During the Litany of the Saints, 11 men lie prostrate before God while the Church prays for them.



The Laying on of Hands

The bishop places his hands on the candidate — the sacred moment when the priesthood is conferred.



Welcome into the Priesthood

Priests present also lay hands on the newly ordained priests.



Clothed in the Priesthood

Milky is vested with the stole and chasuble, the vestments worn when celebrating Mass.



Consecrated Hands

The bishop anoints his hands with sacred chrism, consecrating them to bless and offer the Eucharist.

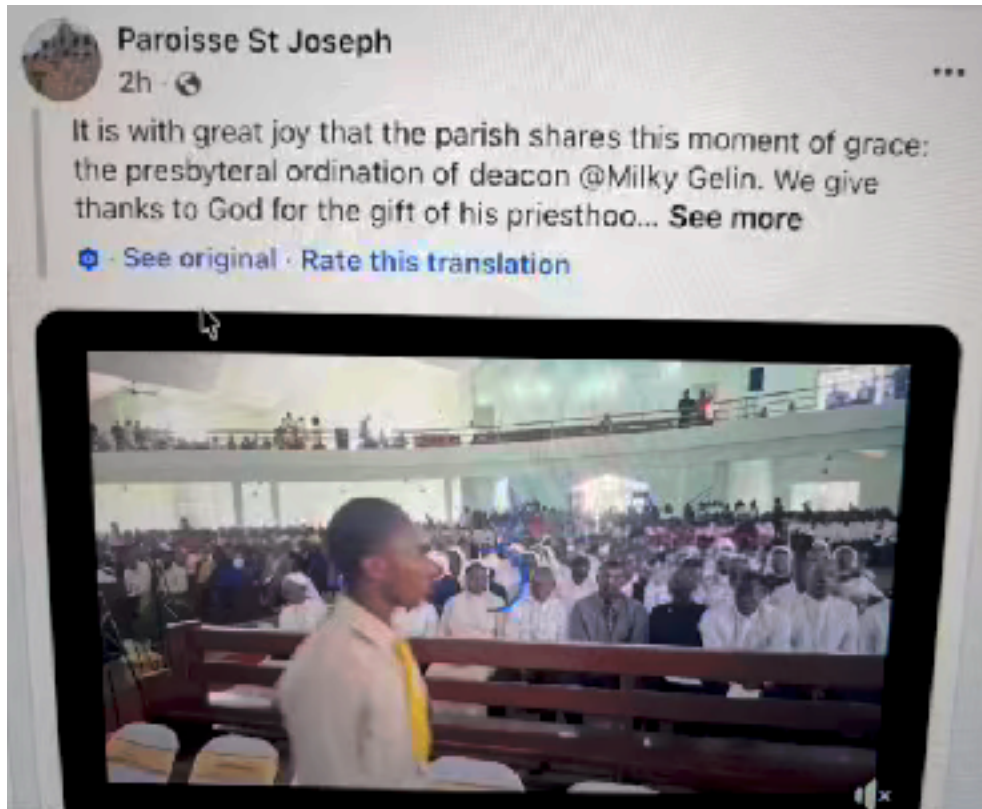


Eleven New Shepherds

The newly ordained priests join the bishop and priests at the altar.

Watch the Ordination in Jacmel

Many parishioners from St. Joseph Parish in Côtes-de-Fer traveled to Jacmel to witness the ordination Mass. Through a video shared on Facebook, you can also take part in this joyful moment.



*On Facebook, search for: **Paroisse St Joseph**
Look for the image above to begin viewing.*



Bishop Glandas Marie Erick Toussaint



Father Milky Gelin (Right)

About the Tree Currency Program

The Tree Currency Program is a five-year initiative serving farmers in three communities of St. Joseph Parish. Under the direction of the Smallholder Farmers Alliance, a Haitian organization, farmers receive seeds, tools, and agricultural training. In return, they grow and plant trees that restore the land while strengthening family livelihoods. This report marks the completion of the fifth semester of the program — the halfway point in the five-year effort.

Growing a Future

Planting trees. Restoring land. Building resilience.

“With the tools, seeds, and training, I am more confident in my work and in what my land can become.”

Anel Privalent, a father of two in Côtes-de-Fer, has been part of the Smallholder Farmers Alliance since 2023. Each planting season, he works close to the soil, setting young trees into the earth by hand.

With access to farming tools, maize seed, tree seedlings, and practical training, Anel has strengthened both his land and his confidence. Today, he continues to expand his agroforestry plot, planting trees that protect the soil, feed his family, and secure the future. His story shows how steady support and shared knowledge help farmers grow resilience, season by season.



Anel plants a young tree in the soil of Côtes-de-Fer, an act of care that binds today's labor to tomorrow's hope.

What Is Taking Root?



In a community nursery of Morne Blanc, young tree seedlings begin their journey toward restoring land and livelihoods in Côtés-de-Fer.

In the fifth semester of the **Tree Currency Program** (July-Dec. 2025), nursery production continued to anchor the work. Thousands of young trees were raised in community nurseries, carefully tended until they were ready for planting in farmers' fields. These seedlings represent more than future shade or harvests. They are the beginning of restored soil, protected hillsides, and long-term resilience for families who depend on the land.

What Farmers Are Given to Begin



Farmers gather to measure and share seeds—an early step in each growing season.

Each season begins with the basics. Through the **Tree Currency Program**, farmers receive seeds and essential tools to prepare their fields and plant with intention. These simple resources, paired with training, allow families to plan ahead, make careful choices, and begin the work of each growing season with confidence rather than uncertainty.

What People Are Learning



Farmers gather for training and community meetings in Côtes-de-Fer, sharing knowledge that strengthens their work and their confidence.

Learning remains central to the **Tree Currency Program**. During this six-month period, farmers came together for training sessions and community meetings focused on best agricultural practices. These gatherings create space for questions, shared experience, and collective problem-solving—helping farmers make informed decisions as they plan each growing season.

What the Community Is Doing Together



A kombit in action—neighbors working side by side in a shared effort to plant and care for the land.

Community action is woven into the **Tree Currency Program** through the practice of *kombit*, a long-standing Haitian tradition of communal work and mutual aid. During these gatherings, neighbors come together to help one another plant fields, share labor, and move forward toward a common goal. This spirit of cooperation strengthens not only the land, but the bonds that hold communities together.

Why Tree Currency Works



Farmers hold young tree seedlings ready for planting—each one an investment in land, livelihoods, and the future.

Tree Currency works because it connects care for the land with care for families. By earning trees through participation, training, and community effort, farmers invest time and labor in something that gives back over many years. Trees protect soil, improve harvests, and provide long-term value—making them a natural currency for building resilience and stability in rural communities. In this way, Tree Currency turns shared effort into lasting value.

What the Next Season Holds



Holding seedlings for the coming season, a farmer carries hope forward.

Each season builds on the one before it. As farmers prepare for the months ahead, the work of planting, learning, and working together continues—rooted in patience and care for the land. With steady support, the **Tree Currency Program** will move forward into the next season, guided by the same commitment that has shaped the work so far.

With Gratitude

Because of your steady generosity, this work continues—season after season. The Tree Currency Program is not built on quick fixes, but on patience, trust, and long-term care for the land and the people who depend on it. Your support makes it possible for farmers to plant, to learn, and to work together with confidence in what lies ahead. **Thank you** for remaining alongside the people of St. Joseph Parish as they care for their land and their future, one season at a time.

This Six-Month Period At A Glance (July-Dec 2025)

For readers who appreciate a snapshot of the work, here are the highlights from the fifth semester of the Tree Currency Program:

- 625 Community members engaged in Smallholder Farmers Alliance activities
- 4,515 Number of seedlings produced
- 8,605 Number of seedlings transplanted in 4 locations
- 8 Number of training sessions
- 300 Number of training session participants
- 8 Number of kombits (communal work groups) for nursery work
- 88 Current goat population (28 lost during Hurricane Melissa)



Scan to Donate

Helping Hugs, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity.
All donations are tax deductible as provided by law.

Contact: info@helpinghugsinc.org

Donations may be made to
Helping Hugs Inc.,
P.O. Box 24477, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

or on our website: www.helpinghugsinc.org



Celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph - March 19

Because of your faithful generosity over the years, the parish celebrates the Feast of St. Joseph in a church made strong and beautiful. Father Islaire reminds us that this patronal feast—the most important event in the parish—is, above all, a joyful, communal, and fraternal celebration.



The Bishop celebrates the Eucharist for the Feast of St. Joseph.



Thirty-seven priests concelebrate the Mass with the faithful gathered in unity.



Offertory procession featuring the produce of the land, offered in thanksgiving.

View the celebration: [Watch the video](#)