

Twin Parish News

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

Your Gift of the Tree Currency Program Is Motivating the Farmers of Morne Blanc

In the first four months of the Tree Currency program, the tree seedlings are making great progress.



The Tree Currency Program rewards farmers with **Tools** - **Seeds** - and **Instruction** for their work in the tree nursery.

After a recent meeting with his chapel directors, Father Faustin reports:

"The tree currency program is progressing well. People are happy. They firmly believe that soon life will be different with this program. They are happy with the agronomist's work."

Men and women farmers (treated equally in this program) received tools in November.



"They firmly believe that soon life will be different with this program."

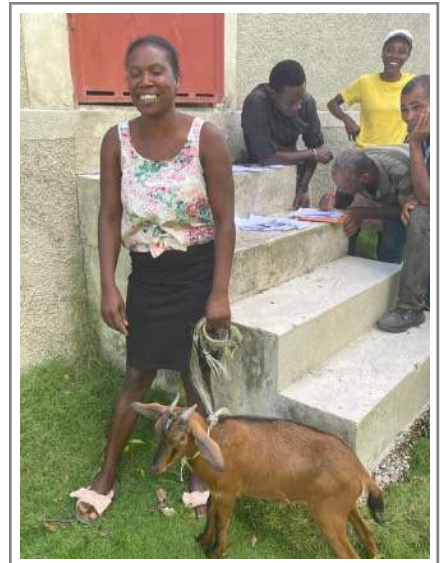
Fr. Faustin





Father Faustin (2nd from left) attended a meeting when agronomists explained why cooperation is essential for the success of the project.

The farmers of Côtes-de-Fer negotiated that GOATS be added to their program.



Thank You for your generous gift of this agroforestry program.



'Tis the Season of Compassion



St. Joseph Christmas Celebration 2022

"In this sacred season of Christmas, our hearts overflow with joy, celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. For our Catholic community at St. William, it's also a time of compassion as we pray for our brothers and sisters in Côtés-de-Fer.



This year, the challenges facing the poor and disabled in our twin parish have been compounded by the consequences of gang violence, leading to inflated food prices. Many turn to Father Faustin for help, seeking sustenance they can no longer afford.

St. Joseph parish relies on our generosity. Your contribution can brighten this Christmas for them. A donation of just thirty dollars (\$30) can provide a week's worth of food for a family of four in Côtés-de-Fer.

Your donation will directly provide food kits this Christmas. Any excess contributions will fund our ongoing projects, ensuring sustained support for the community. You can donate easily through our website (www.helpinghugsinc.org) or via mail at Helping Hugs Inc., PO Box 24477, St. Simons Island, GA 31522.

As we offer our financial support, let's also remember in our prayers,

- 1) peace and security for the people of Haiti and
- 2) Father Faustin, because this month he celebrates his birthday and his ordination to the priesthood.

May your Christmas be a beacon of hope and love for you and your family. Your kindness makes a world of difference. Thank you for your generosity.

Fundraising Efforts Reach Atlanta



Evy Marshall, President of Helping Hugs, proudly points to the Haitian flag that hung over her friend's porch in Marietta.



Rev. Lamartine J. Eliscar, born in Haiti, currently associate at St. Ann, Marietta, shares news of Haiti.



After the blessing, guests enjoyed a pre-Thanksgiving turkey dinner.

Thanks to friends and family \$1600 was raised to support our twin parish.



Lynne Davis, hostess, and Evy draw the winning raffle ticket for the fundraiser.



Evy Marshall

A Few Thoughts

October 21st. was a fun evening for everyone who attended the **Fête for Haiti** fundraiser. Our patrons enjoyed a Caribbean menu and a wealth of good bargains in the live and silent auctions. Those who attended came away with a better appreciation of the Tree Currency program thanks to the presentation from our guest speaker, Sue Carlson.

We had hoped to raise \$65,000, however the proceeds this year were only \$45,000. The major areas of decline were the number of tickets sold for the event thereby affecting the amount of money raised through the auctions. **The sponsorship support remained steady. Thank you for that.**

Our commitment to St. Joseph parish remains unwavering and we will work with Father Faustin to fulfill his needs as best we can.

Our **annual financial report** will appear in the February newsletter along with our projects for the coming year.

As we approach 2024, I am filled with gratitude for the support Helping Hugs has received from you. On your behalf we started the Tree Currency program, completed the well at Villa, and started the well at Sorrel. We continued to support the education, medical and infrastructure projects. In the coming year I look forward to reaching out and getting to know you and your thoughts. Please reach out to me. I welcome your comments. Have a blessed Christmas.

Email: evymar01@bellsouth.net

**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





The Executive Committee of
Helping Hugs Inc. for Haiti
Extends our Warmest Greeting
For a Blessed Christmas
And a Happy New Year.

**You bring HOPE to St. Joseph Parish.
Thank you for all you do.**

Evy Marshall, Jo Heller-Orr, Bill Horn, Sherie Welch,
Diane Smith, Mark Kacos, Bob Hochwald and Mary Lynch

