

Twin Parish News

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

We Our Donors

Your Gifts Make the Following Projects Possible

Thank you for the love you show our twin parish through your financial support. Below is a list of our 2021 projects that will make a difference in the lives of the people of Côtes-de-Fer. Thank you for making this work possible.

WATER - \$47,000

1. Construction of two wells at chapels identified by Father Faustin
2. Maintenance of existing water purification systems



You make pure water available to the people of Côtes-de-Fer



MEDICAL - \$25,690

1. Support Medical Mission Trip planned for October 2021
2. Continue the Hypertension Project which includes the salary for a nurse

Your donations make it possible for the people of our twin parish to receive medical care.

EDUCATION - \$24,500

1. Provide operating expenses for three elementary schools
2. Provide tuition for secondary students
3. Provide teacher training



Children at three elementary schools receive an education, because of you.



Parishioners have a beautiful place to worship, because of you.

INFRASTRUCTURE - \$13,500

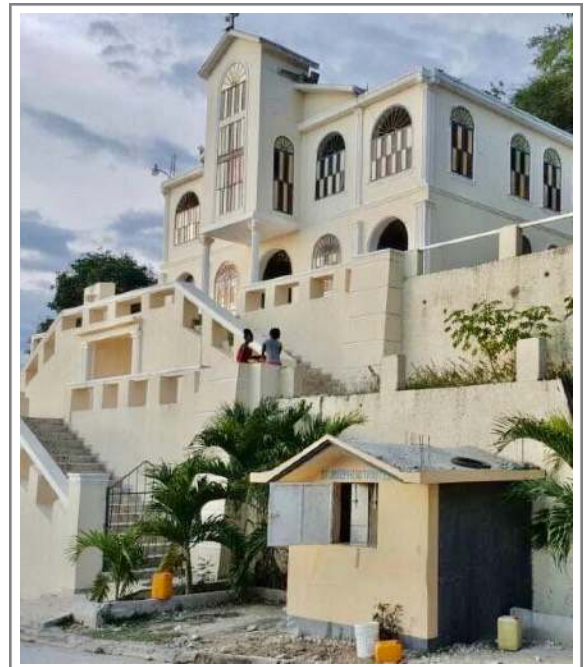
1. Completion of chapel walls in the last two chapels under construction
2. Begin finishing work on 9 chapels: paint and provide security doors on 2 chapels

ST JOSEPH CHURCH SUPPORT - \$14,500

1. Provide monthly stipend to St. Joseph Parish
2. Maintain truck including one set of tires

SPRING SHIPMENT - \$2,500

1. Shipment to Nashville, Tennessee
2. Shipment from Nashville to Haiti



THANK YOU for providing the most precious gift - WATER

A report on existing water projects
by Dick Schmidt, Water Committee Chair

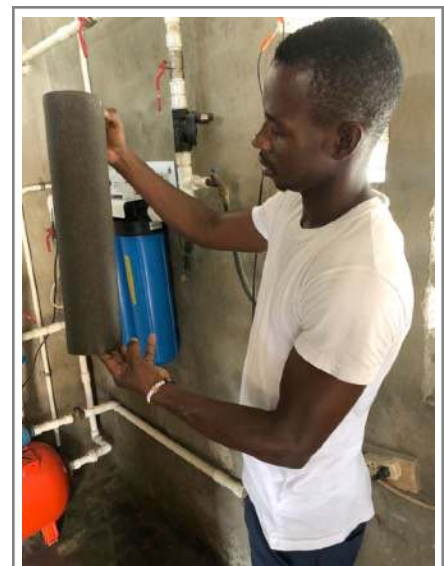
For the past five years Helping Hugs for Haiti has supported an effort to bring clean, drinkable water to St. Joseph's Church in Côtés-de-Fer and the surrounding communities. This program is the result of findings by our annual Medical Mission which concluded many illnesses in Haiti were waterborne due to non-potable water and poor hygiene. People get their water from contaminated rivers and streams.



You provide water to Cotes-de-Fer residents.

In 2016, Helping Hugs partnered with World Water Relief to treat the government-supplied water to St. Joseph's Church and school for particulates, odor and bacteria. The system was set up to provide water to the community as well as the school. At the same time, World Water Relief conducted hand-washing training for the students at the school.

Due to the success of the installation, a second filtration system was installed in 2018 at St. Matthias Chapel in Mayette, the only other chapel that has access to government-supplied water. Both systems use solar power to run the filters since there is no electricity, gas for generators is expensive and it helps the environment.



Your support provides funds to maintain all of the water projects.



The other chapels do not have access to government water, requiring water be hauled in from nearby streams. In 2019, a rainwater cistern was constructed in Platon at Sacred Heart Chapel and in 2020 another was built in Bouca Moran at St Lawrence Chapel. These systems were designed to remove dirt and particles before going into the cistern. While these systems help, they only provide water when it rains.



Last summer, Father Islaire suggested we consider a well at the remaining chapels. We contacted Water For Life, a non-profit based in Haiti, to assess the possibility of water at five chapels. As a result, Water For Life will drill a well in the community of Mount Blanc at the Nativity of our Lady Chapel beginning in February. Hopefully, another well at Saurel near Our Lady of the Visitation Chapel will be drilled later this year. Again, these wells will be solar-powered and supply water year-round. When completed we will only have five chapels without water.

This effort is only possible due to tremendous support given to our fund-raising efforts last year. Thank you!

Detective Dick Digs for Well Data



Helping Hugs volunteers have stories to tell!

When faced with the challenge of accomplishing a project, our volunteers usually have a lot of digging to do.

Father Faustin suggested that we drill wells for chapels without a water supply. Nice idea. Where do we begin?

Fortunately, Father provided the first clue! His neighboring parish, St. Rose of Lima in Gris Gris, had a well. Through Father's contacts we learned that the well had been drilled by **Water for Life Haiti**.

Another clue came in the form of a recommendation from **Hope for Haiti**. They had worked with Water for Life and suggested them to Detective Dick.

CAUTION: Water for Life presented a proposal indicating that there was no guarantee of finding water and no refund if the drilling was unsuccessful. Should we risk it?

A little more digging revealed that Water for Life found water 97% of the time.

Another breakthrough came when we found the American twin parish to Gris Gris in Burnsville, Minnesota! Detective Dick spoke with the person responsible for having three wells drilled at St. Rose. He learned that their experience with Water for life was very positive and still exists today.

After a bit of calculating, Detective Dick determined that a well at Nativity of Our Lady at Mount Blanc is likely to be successful. He is hopeful that we will find water at 450 feet with a contingency to go to 600 feet.

Great work, Detective Dick (Schmidt). Helping Hugs is blessed to have you on our team.

This is the kind of detective work our volunteers tackle for our twin parish. If you like solving problems like this, we welcome you to join our active member group.



Fête for Haiti 2020 Theme: *Bee Thankful ... We are!*

Helping Hugs' Treasurer, Kevin Callahan, has finally been able to close the books on the 2020 **Fête for Haiti**.

Although dinner ticket and auction sales were down a bit, **dinner sponsors** really pulled us through. After expenses, our total profits were \$62,291 - an increase of \$2,342 over last year. The Fête has been steadily increasing over the years. **THANK YOU generous donors.**

PLEASE



In a recent update on conditions in Haiti, Father Faustin made the following observations:

During the end of 2020 we received a lot of rain, which leaves a positive impact on the area as the gardens have paid off. Even the poorest families have enough to eat for a few days because they have a few measures of maize and millet from their fields. As a result, during this month of January I do not receive many requests for food. We give thanks to God for this achievement.

Other than that it's routine. However, we live with fear in our **stomachs** for several reasons.
1- Every day there are cases of kidnapping of people across the country. The kidnapers always demand large sums of money. Armed gangs rule the country even in the most remote places. We only leave home in case of extreme emergency.

2- Normally the President of the Republic should have organized the elections to make the parliament functional as well as to find its replacement. He did not do it. This creates a tension that risks leading to civil war in the country because his mandate will end on February 7.

3- From time to time there is a shortage of gasoline.

These are the evils that are gnawing at us at the moment.

Regarding covid, there is no vaccine available in Haiti yet. However, the cases are starting to increase greatly. That's basically the situation in the country.

May the grace and love of God be with you always.

Please pass on my greetings and thanks to all of Helping Hugs.

I love you all. God bless you!

Father Islaire Faustin