

Twin Parish News

JULY 2026

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



Visit Confirms the Impact of Your Support

The April PTPA visit provided an opportunity to listen, learn, and remind the people of St. Joseph Parish that they have not been forgotten.



Your gifts give the poorest students in Côtes-de-Fer the opportunity to attend St. Joseph Parish Elementary School.

Because of your support, representatives from the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas (PTPA) visited St. Joseph Parish to meet with parish leaders, observe conditions in the chapel communities, and review programs supported through our partnership.

Their report confirmed both the continuing challenges facing the people of St. Joseph Parish and the meaningful impact of your support.

Families continue to face significant hardship. Most rely on farming, fishing, livestock, and small commerce, while poverty, poor roads, and geographic isolation make daily life difficult. During the rainy season, some communities can become inaccessible for weeks at a time.

What the Visitors Observed

The visitors also found a parish that remains active, organized, and deeply committed to serving its people.

EDUCATION

The parish schools continue to educate approximately 300 students, with tuition assistance and school support made possible through St. William Parish.

NUTRITION

The child lunch programs continue to provide meals for children, helping families meet one of their most basic needs.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure improvements are also making a difference. Solar power now provides electricity for parish operations, Starlink internet service allows regular communication between our parishes, and a new water reservoir is under construction at St. Antoine Chapel.

“Without this partnership, it would be extremely difficult to maintain our ministries and serve families in need.” Fr. Faustin

CONTINUING NEEDS

Several chapel communities still lack reliable electricity, adequate seating, altars, roofing, fencing, and other basic improvements. Transportation remains a challenge, limiting access to services and pastoral care for many families.



Your support made this on-site visit possible. Chapel directors were able to express their gratitude and concerns to PTPA representative, Bertony Domond.

More Than a Report

Beyond the information gathered, the visit carried an equally important message: **the people of St. Joseph Parish have not been forgotten.** By listening directly to parish leaders and spending time in the chapel communities, the visitors reaffirmed the commitment of St. William Parish and strengthened the bond between our parishes during a time when personal visits are no longer possible.



Your donations at work. The care shown in maintaining St. Joseph Church reflects the pride and faith of the people you support.

Perhaps the most encouraging part of the report was parish leadership's affirmation that **the partnership with St. William remains a vital lifeline** for both ministry and community support. They emphasized that this partnership helps sustain education, nutrition programs, parish ministries, and assistance to families facing hardship.

The report serves as a reminder that **your gifts are making a measurable difference** in the lives of the people of St. Joseph Parish. Just as importantly, your continued support reminds our brothers and sisters in Christ that they are not alone.

Thank you for helping us remain present, faithful, and connected to the people of St. Joseph Parish.

No Child Left Behind: *Because of You, Villa School Remains Open*



MAY 21, 2026: *The children gathered quickly around Father Faustin outside the school in Villa. Soon there were smiles, laughter, and eager faces crowding into selfies.*

For years, the elementary school in Villa was supported through the generosity of a faithful donor whose assistance helped keep the school open and serving local children.

When that donor passed away, the future of the school became uncertain.

Without continued support, the school faced the possibility of closing its doors.

Father Faustin turned to St. William for help.

At its June meeting, the St. William Twin Parish Council approved adopting Villa School as a new ministry partner, replacing Sacred Heart School, which had recently been transferred out of the parish during diocesan reorganization.

During his recent visit, Father Faustin met with teachers, parents, and community members to better understand the needs of the school and the hopes families have for their children.

The school currently serves approximately 118 students in grades Pre-K through 6 with 10 teachers and 2 staff.

The visit made one thing very clear: the people of Villa care deeply about their children and about keeping this school alive.

For Helping Hugs, supporting the school is about more than buildings or supplies. Catholic education strengthens families, anchors communities, and gives children hope for the future.

We look forward to sharing more about this new partnership in the months ahead as we continue learning how best to support the children and families of Villa.



Parents are grateful for your support.



Moments from the Life of St. Joseph Parish

Revisiting stories of faith, hope, and joy from our twin parish.

As reported in March 2017:

One of Father Faustin's earliest priorities after arriving at St. Joseph Parish was helping couples who had been living faithfully together for years receive the Sacrament of Marriage. During his first year as pastor, he prepared and married 75 couples from throughout the parish: 16 couples from St. Matthias and Our Lady of Fatima Chapels, 20 from St. Mother Teresa Chapel, 13 from Our Lady of the Visitation Chapel, 24 from St. John the Evangelist Chapel, and 2 from St. Joseph Church.

The celebration was part of a broader effort to strengthen the sacramental life of the parish. In addition to the marriages, Father Faustin also conducted 35 baptisms for infants and for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Marriage. The joyful occasions reflected his commitment to bringing parishioners more fully into the life of the Church and ensuring that the faithful could receive the graces of the sacraments.



The Need Continues... So Will Your Impact



Through these pages, the people of St. Joseph Parish have become part of your story.

The recent PTPA visit confirmed the needs remain great, and your support continues to make a difference.

This month, Villa School joined our education ministry, ensuring that 118 children can continue learning and growing in faith.

Will you continue walking beside the people of St. Joseph Parish?

Your generosity helps children learn, families find support, and parish communities remain strong.

Please continue your support.

Because of you, hope continues in St. Joseph Parish.



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St. Joseph Parish**

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

**or on our website:
www.helpinghugsinc.org**



**Helping Hugs, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity.
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Contact: info@helpinghugsinc.org