

Twin Parish News

JUNE 2026

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



10th Anniversary Issue

2017–2026



Ten Years of Shared Faith

For ten years, you have walked alongside the people of St. Joseph Parish.

Through your prayers and generosity, a partnership has taken root and grown quietly, faithfully, over time.

At the heart of that partnership is Father Islaire Faustin, whose leadership and collaboration have made this shared ministry possible.

Thank you for ten years of faithfulness.

A Steady Presence at St. Joseph Parish



When Father Islaire Faustin was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Côtes-de-Fer, we did not know what a gift that would become.

Over the past ten years, he has been more than a pastor. From where we sit, he has been our connection to the people of the parish—sharing their lives with us through photos, messages, and conversations that bridge the distance.

Father Islaire grew up in the mountainous region of Marbial, in a family of seven. As a child, he looked forward to the priest who came only once a year to celebrate Mass.

His father, Hilaire, served as a chapel director, and young Islaire often accompanied him in those duties. Those early moments quietly shaped the path he would one day follow.

As he grew older, he considered other paths, including medicine and law, but never let go of his call to the priesthood. His studies took place both in Haiti and in France, where he pursued formation for the priesthood while also earning a degree in law—all guided by a desire to serve those most in need.

At first, he was unsure about his assignment to Côtes-de-Fer. Over time, he came to embrace the mission, “bringing the word of God to the neglected and destitute brings comfort.”

Over the years, we have come to rely on Father Islaire in ways that are not always visible. He is the one who makes it possible for us to remain close to the parish—to see, to understand, and to respond.

Through that relationship, you have been able to walk alongside the people of St. Joseph Parish—year after year.

St. Lawrence Chapel Restored

Over the years, you have seen many needs at St. Joseph Parish. Some were urgent. Others had been there for years.

Through your steady support, places once worn and weathered have been repaired and renewed.

St. Lawrence is one example of how your support has helped restore chapels across the parish.

2018
After
Hurricane Matthew



2022



2023



***With your continued support — the seven chapels of
St. Joseph Parish are moving forward.***

The Work You Have Watched Grow

From Water Filtration Systems to Six Wells 2016-2026



St. Joseph Rectory - 2016

In 2016, the first water project began with a filtration system serving the St. Joseph rectory, school, and the community of Côtes-de-Fer.

Because of you, six wells now provide clean water to chapels in mountain communities where access was once limited.



A Chapel Community - Today

From a limited Medical Mission to an ongoing Hypertension Program 2013-2026



Medical Mission

What began as brief medical missions has now become ongoing hypertension monitoring and care within the parish and its seven chapels.

What began as an annual visit now reaches communities three times a year.



Nurse visits communities

The work continues — with hope for the years ahead.

From a Brief Farmer Training Session to a Fully Supported Agroforestry Program 2017-2026

PLANTING

Years ago, Caritas (a humanitarian organization) provided only seeds and training to strengthen local agriculture.

Today, the Tree Currency Program, in partnership with the Smallholder Farmers Alliance, provides trees, training, and new sources of income while improving the land for future generations.

What began as assistance has grown into long-term stability for farming families.



Caritas training - 2017



Students visit the nursery - 2025



LIVESTOCK

Goats, first provided through parish partnerships, offered families nutrition and a modest source of income.

Now, a structured livestock sharing program multiplies that opportunity — helping farming households build stability and self-sufficiency.

What once provided immediate help now supports long-term stability for families.

Because of you, families are not just surviving — but building a future.

A Life Touched

Luthica's Journey

During a parish visit to St. Joseph in 2018, we met a student who rose each morning at 6 a.m. to help prepare the altar for Mass. Father Faustin affectionately called her his 'songbird' for the clear and steady voice with which she led the music.

Because of the generosity of parishioners here, Luthica was able to attend the Catholic high school in Côtes-de-Fer. For a young woman in Côtes-de-Fer, that opportunity changes everything. In the years that followed, she also assisted with parish outreach, helping deliver food to elderly and disabled neighbors.



With continued support, she continued her education at the university level. Today, she is completing her dissertation toward a license in accounting.

Luthica's journey is one example of what faithful support, sustained over time, makes possible.

During these same years, educational opportunities within the parish have continued to grow — from elementary sponsorships to support for high school and university students. A summer music program also continues to nurture young musicians in the parish.

Because of caring friends like you, opportunities continue to grow for young people in St. Joseph Parish.

You Have Helped in Many More Ways

Over the years, your generosity has met urgent needs.

FOOD IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Over the past decade, hurricanes, drought, rising fuel costs, and waves of displaced people have left many families in Côtes-de-Fer without reliable access to food. What began as emergency assistance has become steady monthly support for families facing hunger.



SHIPMENTS 2011-2020

Eight shipments. Nearly 12,000 pounds. Uniforms, medical supplies, school materials, musical instruments. What was requested and needed, you provided.



TRANSPORTATION

In 2017, a reliable Toyota 4x4.
In 2025, a motorcycle for a second priest.
Reliable transportation makes it possible to reach remote chapel communities.



PARISH SUPPORT 2009 - 2026

From basic monthly church support to internet access, pastoral care, transportation, computers, and hymnals. Because of you, the parish functions.

***Grateful for your faithfulness —
and for all that you have made possible.***

The Need Continues... So Will Your Impact

For ten years, *Twin Parish News* has brought the people of St. Joseph Parish a little closer to your heart.

But the story is not finished.

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

Please help us continue this mission of hope.

Give generously.



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.
All donations are tax deductible as provided by law.

Contact: info@helpinghugsinc.org