

# Twin Parish News

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

## Did You Know...

**...You are part of the world-wide effort to preserve the planet?**



All around the world, people are concerned about the sustainability of the planet. To address these concerns, the **United Nations set Sustainability Goals** to achieve by 2030.

**One UN program, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), aims to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”**

Through your donations to Helping Hugs for Haiti, you are part of this effort because we embrace this goal. We are concerned about the sustainability of the people of Côtés-de-Fer and its surrounding communities.



**2016 Côtes-de-Fer - Water Treatment**



**2018 Mayette - Water Treatment**



**2021 Mont Blanc - Well**



**2022 Boucan Moran - Well**

# You've Made All This POSSIBLE

Early on, our medical mission concluded that contaminated water led to child-borne illnesses, cholera and vaginal infections.

Since 2016 you've been providing clean water for the people of our twin parish.

Did you know that there are eleven communities in the parish?

That's a lot of clean water that is needed!

This is the current data:

5 Communities have access to clean water

2 Communities are slated to receive a well in 2023

4 Communities are in need of clean water

The number of families served by a well is determined by the size of the pump. The wells that have been installed to date will each serve 500 families.

## GOAL 2030

OUR GOAL, like that of the United Nations, is to provide clean water to each of the communities in St. Joseph parish by 2030.

# Why is This Important?

Source: [worldbank.org](http://worldbank.org)

"In terms of water and sanitation infrastructure, Haiti is the most underserved country in the Americas.

The situation became even more critical after the 2010 earthquake destroyed much of the existing infrastructure.

Between 1990 and 2015, the share of the population with access to potable water decreased from 62% to 52%.

**Today, more than half of the country's rural population still lacks access to drinkable water, while only about one-third of Haitians have access to basic sanitation."**

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Our twin parish is in a rural area on the south coast of Haiti. As you can see from our data, there was NO CLEAN WATER in the parish when we were twinned. **THANKS TO YOU there has been tremendous progress. The goal is to provide potable water to every community in the parish by 2030.**



**Thank You  
for the clean water!  
Because of you, I'm  
free from water-  
borne diseases.**



**Students at St. Anthony School and Sacred Heart School enjoy clean drinking water from the LifeStraw filtering system that generous donors provided to each school.**

**"Clean Water for a Healthy World" was the theme of a past World Water Day. We like that theme, because that is why we are dedicated to bringing clean water to each of the eleven communities that are part of St. Joseph parish.**

**All three elementary schools enjoy clean water for drinking, cooking and hand washing.**



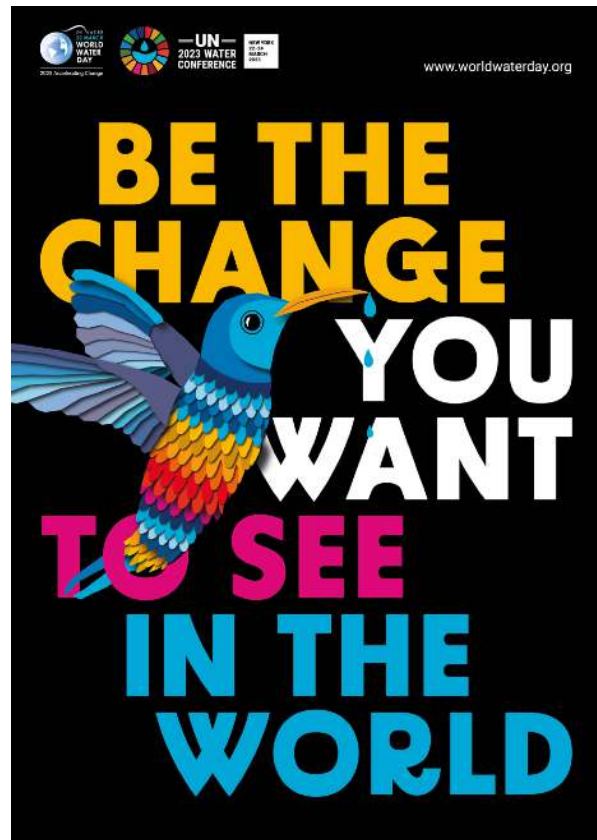


Thanks to your generosity,  
 students in the schools of St. Joseph parish  
 receive instruction in hand washing  
 in the Haitian Creole and French languages.



# WORLD WATER DAY

March 22, 2023



One day in the forest, a fire broke out.  
All the animals ran for their lives.

They stood at the edge of the blaze, looking at the flames in terror and sadness.  
Up above their heads, a hummingbird was flying back and forth to the fire,  
over and over again.

The bigger animals asked the hummingbird what she was doing.  
“I’m flying to the lake to get water to help put out the fire.”  
The animals laughed at her and said, “You can’t put out this fire!”  
The hummingbird replied, “I’m doing what I can.”

The hummingbird is helping solve the problem,  
One drop at a time.  
She is being the CHANGE she wants to see in the world.  
You can be a hummingbird, too.  
The actions you take, no matter how small  
Will help solve the water crisis in Haiti.

Please see "World Water Day 2023" on the internet for more information.



On March 22, World Water Day focuses our attention on the Earth's most vital resource. Ensuring clean water sources for all the world's inhabitants is the goal of World Water Day.

World Water Day is the chance to remind ourselves that billions of people live their lives without access to safe drinking water. As a fundamental human right, it is our job to conserve the water we do have as well as ensure access to those who need it.

### **A SUGGESTION TO OBSERVE WORLD WATER DAY**

Source: [nationaldaycalendar.com](http://nationaldaycalendar.com)

"Pour yourself a glass of water and stare at it closely. Take a moment to appreciate it. When you're ready, take a sip and feel how your body willingly accepts it. Be gracious for this experience and acknowledge the fact there are people on this very day who cannot enjoy the same privilege. Finally, pledge your support in making sure that everyone may have access to fresh water in the near future!"

Please say a prayer of thanks for all that we have, including water. And say another prayer in remembrance of those without water, and those who are doing their part to bring water to them. That's YOU!

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**Special thanks to Dick Schmidt**, Chairman of the Water Committee for alerting us to World Water Day and the UN Developmental Goals. We sincerely appreciate all of his efforts, on our behalf, to provide potable water for the people of our twin parish.

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

Contact: [info@helpinghugsinc.org](mailto:info@helpinghugsinc.org)

Helping Hugs Inc., P.O. Box 24477, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

Website: [www.helpinghugsinc.org](http://www.helpinghugsinc.org)

