

Twin Parish News

MARCH 2025

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



Thank You for Improving Lives in St. Joseph Parish

Because of your generosity, our twin parish is stronger, more connected, and more hopeful than ever. Last month, three major projects were completed—each one making a lasting impact on the people of St. Joseph Parish:

1. A New Well - Page 2

💧 Clean, reliable water will flow in Renard, bringing health and relief to families who once had to walk long distances for water.



Water for Life drilling at Renard

2. Solar Energy - Page 3

☀️ With a new solar power system, the church has better lighting for evening events, and at the same time is better ventilated with fans.



St. Joseph church

3. Improved Internet Connection - Page 4

📶 A stronger internet connection with *Starlink* opens doors for communication, education, and parish administration, helping St. Joseph stay connected to the world.

These projects were made possible by your kindness and commitment. Thank you for helping shape a better tomorrow for our twin parish.



A cell phone is indispensable to Father Faustin

Water Has Been Found for the People of Renard



February 18, Residents congregate in the shade of a few trees as *Water for Life* drills for water.



Father Faustin loves to introduce the children to selfies!



Everyone waits patiently to hear that water has been found.

Renard, a village of 15,000 people, had no access to clean water. This well will be life-changing for the community.

Water for Life's drilling equipment arrived at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel on February 18. Drilling began at the designated site but no water was found on the first day.

Good news came the next day - water was discovered at a depth of 165 feet.

Father will next build a cistern to store the water. A solar-powered system will pump water from the well to the reservoir. Father will hire local men to construct the tank, providing work within the community.

The well is expected to be fully operational by early April.

Unclean water causes many health problems, including severe damage to teeth. The new well will make a huge difference.

None of this would be possible without your generosity. Thank you for being so supportive in bringing clean water and better health to the people of Renard!

You're Bringing Light and Comfort to the People of St. Joseph Church

Thanks to you, the church at St. Joseph Parish now has reliable electricity for the first time. The installation of solar panels at the rectory, with a cable running to the church, has transformed worship for the parish community in once unattainable ways.

Previously, powering the church was both expensive and unreliable. Fuel for the generator was often unavailable, and the cost was becoming prohibitive. This meant services had to be held in the late afternoon to avoid the intense heat of the day. With solar power, it is now possible to have lights as well as ventilation with fans.

The brighter lighting, creating a more welcoming atmosphere, and ventilation to provide relief from the heat, are drawing more parishioners to church. People can enjoy a more comfortable environment for worship.

This project is a testament to the life-changing impact of your support. By providing sustainable energy, you have not only ensured reliable power for worship but have also improved the quality of life for the faithful of St. Joseph Parish. Thank you for making this possible!



Solar panels on the roof of St. Joseph rectory



Lithium battery and equipment for the solar system.

Satellite Internet Connection Provides Reliable WIFI



Communication remains a major challenge in Haiti, where telephone networks and internet services are scarce. Thanks to your support, the outdoor room under the rotunda has become a vital hub for the Internet. Young people can bring their computers or use those provided by their twin parish, empowering them to stay connected with the world for learning, training, and personal growth.

Father Faustin says, "This is yet another reason to thank you for making such a meaningful impact!"

This project was completed by DigitalKap, a Haitian technology company known for expanding reliable internet access through satellite and fiber-optic solutions, as well as promoting sustainable energy with solar power systems. We are grateful to those at DigitalKap who overcame many challenges to bring this system to our twin parish.

Education Campaign Begins March 15th

Change a Child's Future for Just \$80



The Problem:

Poor children in St. Joseph's parish are unable to attend school because their families simply can't afford it. Without education, these children face a lifetime of hardship, limited opportunities, and continued poverty.



The Solution:

For just **\$80, you can provide a full year of education** for one child. This small investment covers tuition, supplies, a hot lunch, and the chance for a brighter future.

Why It Matters:

- Education breaks the cycle of poverty.
- Children gain skills to build a better future.
- Communities grow stronger with educated youth.

You Can Make a Difference!

Your support ensures that children receive the education they deserve. A small gift can change a life forever.

Donate online beginning March 15th at
www.helpinghugsinc.org

\$80 benefits one student
\$160 benefits 2 students
\$240 benefit 3 students



Point cell phone camera here
to connect to website.

**Together, we can shape a better tomorrow
for St. Joseph Parish.**

Helping Hugs Inc. Elects New Officers



With love and generosity, four dedicated members of St. William parish have stepped forward to lead the nonprofit organization that administers our relationship with St. Joseph parish. From Left:

Jo Heller-Orr, President
Sherie Welch, Treasurer
Kevin Callahan, Vice-President
Ann Glendening, Secretary

Other members of St. William who meet monthly with the officers are:

Mary Lynch - Agroforestry and Newsletter
Jan Mansfield - Education
Diane Smith - Healthcare
Bob Hochwald - Infrastructure, Water and Website
Fred Schwarz - Parish Council Representative



Mary



Jan



Diane



Bob



Fred



March 19th

is the Feast of St. Joseph.
Join us in celebrating his feast day
and praying for the people of our
twin parish.

Please Remember

March 1 & 2

*Bi-monthly
Collection for
St. Joseph Parish*

TWIN PARISH COLLECTION

ST. JOSEPH

CHURCH SUPPORT

Payable to: Helping Hugs Inc.



Scan to Donate

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

