

Twin Parish News

MAY 2026

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



Your Easter Gifts to The People of St. Joseph Parish

Because of your generosity, Father Faustin was able to provide \$2,300 in food assistance for the poor and disabled of the parish. Rice, cooking oil, and other simple necessities were placed into bags and shared with those who struggle each day.



St. Joseph parishioners prepared food kits for Easter distribution to the sick and disabled.

And care for the body is only part of the story...



The Holy Saturday Tradition Continues at St. Joseph Parish



In the shaded outdoor room beside the rectory, men and women gather to receive the Anointing of the Sick—where the Church meets them in tenderness, offering strength, peace, and the nearness of Christ.

In both body and spirit, your kindness reaches them.



That same care continues in another way...

The Education Campaign Was a Success Because You Said “Yes”

This smile is your gift.

In response to our Education Campaign,
118 gifts were received—totaling
\$37,684.30. Thank you.

Each gift is a quiet act of faith.
Each one a decision to open a door.

In our previous communication, you saw
what education means in St. Joseph Parish.
You heard the voices of students—
grateful, determined, no longer forgotten.

Because of you, Father Islaire can say
“Okay”—and mean it.
A child may stay in school.
A door remains open.

Your generosity does more than cover
tuition.

It lifts a burden from families who cannot
carry it alone.

It gives courage to students who are
working hard to learn.

It turns hope into something real and
lasting.

From all of us—and from the students
whose lives are being changed—
Thank you.



**Because of you, she can smile—
and stay in school**

And our connection does not end there...

A Fruitful Partnership



Helping Hugs volunteers assemble survival kits in partnership with The Links.

From Left, Row 1: Jan Mansfield; Jo Heller-Orr, President, Helping Hugs, Inc.; Brenda Lloyd, President, The Brunswick Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

Row 2: Dr. Shirley Wilson; Sandra Hochwald; Charlie Atkinson; Shirley Douglass; Carol Rountree; Diane Smith.

Row 3: Felicity Littles; Ann Glendening; Sherie Welch; Odet Douglass; Bob Hochwald; Evy Marshall; Bill Horn.



This partnership began with a simple connection—a nurse from our community and a physician from our local hospital, a member of The Links—who together led six medical missions to Côtes-de-Fer.

Today, that same spirit of collaboration continues in a new way.

Because travel to Haiti is not possible at this time, Helping Hugs was grateful to stand alongside the Brunswick Chapter of The Links, Incorporated in their recent medical mission to Ghana. This effort also reflects our deep appreciation for their ongoing support of the nurse who serves our twin parish, bringing care and consistency to the hypertension program.

In response, Helping Hugs volunteers offered their time and hands to prepare 160 survival kits. While our donors did not fund this Ghana mission, their faithful support of our work in Haiti makes partnerships like this possible.

The drawstring bags were sewn with care by the Dorcas Group of First Baptist Church on St. Simons Island and the Sew and So Ministry of St. William Catholic Church—quiet acts of generosity that made this effort possible.

These kits traveled to Nungua, just outside Accra, carried by The Links during their April mission.

They carry more than basic necessities.

They offer comfort.

They protect health.

They preserve dignity.

And they remind us that a fruitful partnership is not bound by place—it grows wherever people are willing to serve, together.



Many hands, one mission.

On a Personal Note...

May 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of my first trip to St. Joseph Parish.

Ten years ago, I found myself sitting on the roof of the rectory, overlooking the Caribbean Sea, with Larry Meagher, then president of Helping Hugs, and Father Islaire Faustin, pastor. We were talking about something very simple—how to begin bringing clean water to the people of Côtes-de-Fer..



Larry Meagher, Father Islaire, Mary Lynch

Little did I know, that this visit would also be the beginning of this newsletter.

Through the generous collaboration of Father Islaire, we have been able to bring you closer to the people you are helping—sharing their lives through photos and stories, month after month.

A special 10th Anniversary issue is planned for next month. I hope you won't miss it.

Mary Lynch
Editor



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

