

Twin Parish News

September 2025

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



Be the Beating Heart of Charity for St. Joseph Parish

Fête for Haiti: Keeping Hope Alive

October 25, 2025

🍂 **Fall marks the start of our major fundraiser for our twin parish, St. Joseph.**

This year, we are especially blessed to begin with a personal message from Father Islaire Faustin, pastor. His words of gratitude and hope set the tone for all that follows as we work together to support our brothers and sisters in faith.



*Dear friends and benefactors of St. William Parish,
Grace to you, peace, and joy in Christ.*

It is with a sense of deep gratitude that I send you this message as the parish priest of St. Joseph Parish in Côtes-de-Fer on the occasion of this year's fundraising campaign. The parishioners and those who benefit from your donations are deeply grateful.

It is thanks to your generosity that they have access to clean water and healthcare, and that underprivileged children can benefit from quality education.

Also, thanks to your donations, the parish provides support to poor families and to families who, fleeing the terror of the gangs in

Port-au-Prince, come to settle in Côtes-de-Fer.

Your donations also support our pastoral efforts, as St. Joseph Parish is unable to meet its needs alone.

I once again ask for your generosity for this campaign to help St. Joseph Parish remain that helping hand, that listening ear, and that **beating heart of charity** for our people without help.

Thank you again, and may God bless you all!

*Father Islaire Faustin
August 12, 2025*

Be a Sponsor—Promote your business; Show your support for our twin parish

Sponsor Snapshot

Why Sponsorship Matters

Your gift brings:

-  Clean water
-  Healthcare
-  Education
-  Tree Currency
-  Parish support
-  Refuge for families in need

How to Help

- Choose your sponsorship level - see form next page
- Give **\$100+ by Sept. 30** to be listed in event publications
- Sign up online or return the form by mail to Helping Hugs Inc.
P.O. Box 24477.
St Simons Island, GA
31522

Fête for Haiti



October 25, 2025

*Sit-down dinner by
Sea Island Chefs*

Special Guest Speaker



Shirley D. Wilson, MD

✨ *Be a sponsor. Share hope with our twin parish, St. Joseph.* ✨²

Sponsorship Reply Form

Please reply by Sept. 30 to be included in our publications for the event.

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

Gifts of \$100 or more will be recognized in our publications unless you prefer to remain anonymous.



Yes! I will join others in Keeping Hope Alive for St. Joseph Parish!

__ Bronze – \$100–\$499

__ Silver – \$500–\$999

__ Gold – \$1,000–\$4,999

__ Platinum – \$5,000 and above

Any other amount: \$_____

__ My check is enclosed (payable to Helping Hugs, Inc.)

Give online at: www.helpinghugsinc.org

So We Can Thank You

(Please print clearly.)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Company / Organization (optional): _____

☐ I prefer my gift to remain anonymous.

Thank you for your generosity—you are Keeping Hope Alive!

IMPACT: Well at Renard

Water, Faith, and Gratitude Flow Freely in Renard



Fr. Islaire Faustin blesses and opens the new water source for the Renard community.



On July 31st, the people of Renard gathered to celebrate something life-changing: clean, abundant water—right in their own village.

The new well, made possible by the generosity of St. William parishioners and friends, was blessed in a joyful Mass led by Father Islaire Faustin.



Standing beside the flowing water, he reminded everyone that this gift came from their brothers and sisters in their twin parish. With deep sincerity, he invited the community to pray for you—as a way to give thanks for the blessing they now enjoy every day.



Clean water at last—thanks to you.

“This well is a sign of God’s care,” Father Islaire told the gathering, “and of the love we share with our friends at St. William.”

Families listened with joy and reverence as the Mass concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving. Some came forward to fill their containers for the first time, smiling as they saw the clear water spill into their buckets.

For many, this well changes everything. No more long, uphill walks with heavy containers. No more worry about whether the nearby spring would run dry. No more choosing between unsafe water and no water at all.

This is what your compassion looks like—clean, reliable water that restores dignity and health.

The people of Renard know who made this possible. And because of you, they now carry a new kind of abundance: not just water, but hope. And they're lifting you in prayer with grateful hearts.



Your Generosity Strengthens a Nation of Hope



A cardinal, an archbishop, and priests gather with the Board of Directors at the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas national conference, August 15-17, 2025

A Word of Thanks from Cardinal Chibly Langlois

At the recent Parish Twinning Conference, Cardinal Chibly Langlois, Haiti's first Cardinal, expressed deep gratitude for all who support parish partnerships. He reminded us that twinning is more than charity—it is communion, a living bond between parishes across borders.

Even as families and schools in Haiti face economic hardship, prayer groups and lay leaders are growing, showing the Church is alive with hope. *Your generosity is part of this movement of faith and solidarity.*

Archbishop Thomas Wenski's Keynote Address

Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami reminded conference participants that Haiti's deep poverty is tied to "structures of sin" that keep people down. One example is the education system, where instruction and testing are in French rather than Creole—the language spoken by nearly all Haitians. This places many children at a disadvantage, particularly those who are unable to attend school consistently.

He also noted that while Haitians may not be rich in material goods, they are rich in relationships, resilience, and faith. Unlike the secular outlook so common in America, Haitians live with a deeply religious worldview—something from which we can all learn.

Speaking about parish partnerships, Archbishop Wenski offered this reminder: ***"No one is too rich that they cannot receive, and no one is so poor that they have nothing to give."***

It is an honor to represent St. William at gatherings of the Parish Twinning Program. You can be very proud of the leadership of our twinning effort, which has brought healthcare, education, clean water, solar energy, improved internet, renewed infrastructure, and agricultural training to our brothers and sisters at St. Joseph Parish. We are also blessed with a dedicated parish priest in Haiti, Father Faustin, who is an excellent communicator and partner in this mission.

As the Cardinal reminded us, twinning is not only charity—it is communion. And it is *your prayers and generosity* that make this communion real. Together, we are not just changing lives in Haiti—we are strengthening the Body of Christ and **keeping hope alive!**



Cardinal Chibly Langlois of Haiti with Mary Lynch



Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami, FL



Eugene Patrick of DigitalKap solar energy renews acquaintance with Mary Lynch

THANK YOU

Dear Friends of Helping Hugs, Inc. and St. William Parish,

As many of you may have heard, I recently underwent Triple Bypass Surgery to correct blockages in my heart arteries. I appreciate all the prayers and well-wishes sent my way during this time. As I lay in my bed recovering, I could truly feel the love emanating from St. William Parishioners as well as Father Islaire and those in our twin parish, St. Joseph. These feelings have helped me in my recovery efforts.



I had a lot of time to meditate on the entire process. It suddenly came to me that if I could feel the outpouring of love, that perhaps the people of our twin parish of St. Joseph feel the same love when we provide them with things like food, wells, farming assistance, and the many other life essentials.

While I continue to recover, I ask that you send some of that love to our twin parish this fall as we plan our event: the **Fête for Haiti: Keeping Hope Alive**, whether it be your prayers, attending our dinner, or becoming a dinner sponsor. One of my goals will be to attend this year's fête. I hope you will join me.

Thank you for sharing your love at a critical time in my life.

God bless all of you,

Bob Hochwald

President, Helping Hugs, Inc. 2018-2021

Webmaster

Volunteer Extraordinaire



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

