

# Twin Parish News

A Partnership between St. William (St. Simons Island, GA) and St. Joseph (Côtes-de-Fer, Haiti)

## Thank You, St. William You Are So Generous!

Thank you. Your donations to our annual shipment to St. Joseph parish exceeded our expectations. On April 6th, Bill Horn sent 43 boxes to the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas' collection point. We expect the shipment to arrive in Port-au-Prince in mid-May.



Bill Horn, Shipping Manager (center) received packing help from Kevin Callahan (left) and Bill Johaneck.

There were fourteen boxes of medical supplies that will be used by the next Medical Mission. Nine boxes contained musical instruments. Soaps, towels, clothing, shoes, sandals, reading glasses and sunglasses completed the shipment. Father Faustin will be very happy! THANK YOU!

Over the years you have sent 6 shipments to our twin parish. The total number of boxes is 225, weighing 8,252 pounds for which shipping cost amounted to \$7,360.



## Urgent Call To Parishioners Yields Results

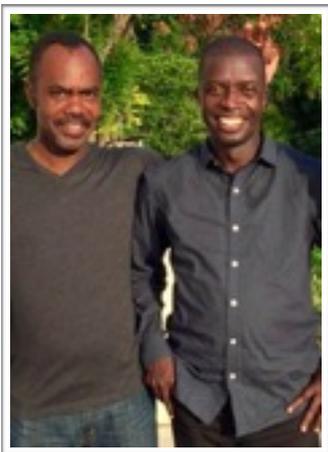
We were able to find two organizations that donate musical instruments: 'Instruments of Joy' in Nashville, TN and 'Hungry for Music' in Washington, D.C. Both organizations agreed to give instruments to St. Joseph parish, but it was necessary to pick up the instruments in Nashville in person. After sending an "urgent message" to our mailing list, we had two parishioners volunteer to make the trip. Thank you! We love you!

# Educators Make Fact-Finding Trip to Haiti

by Mary Lynch

Educator and adventurer, Jo Heller-Orr, moved to St. Simons Island last September to help her daughter and to bond with her first grandchild. Helping Hugs has been blessed with her presence and her curiosity about the education program in our twin parish. She enthusiastically expressed an interest in visiting St. Joseph and I, being eager to return, offered to join her. That was the beginning of the fact-finding mission to St. Joseph parish that occurred April 9-14, 2018.

We learned about the government, private, and parochial schools in Côtes-de-Fer and the two chapel-based schools that we help support - St. Anthony and Sacred Heart. Our four-day exploration of five schools is outlined in the photo montage on page 4.



Little did we know how fortunate we would be in gathering this information! Father Islaire had a friend, Father Exumé Gilbert, visiting from Georgia. Whether it was the hand of God, or Father Islaire's astute planning, we had translation services every waking moment of our adventure. We are extremely grateful to our new friend, Father Gilbert, pastor of St. Matthew church in Winder, GA.

Another purpose of our trip was to meet the staff of **Hope for Haiti**, a Naples, Florida nonprofit that has been working with St. Anthony and Sacred Heart schools since 2006. We are interested in partnering with them to further enhance the education programs at these two schools. We have been in communication for some time, and meeting face-to-face was an another important step in building our relationship.



Mary Lynch, from left, Jean Ronald Jocelyn, Education Program Manager, **Hope for Haiti**; Jo Heller-Orr; Meg Orazio, Chief Impact Officer, **Hope for Haiti**



Mary Lynch, Father Exumé Gilbert, Jo Heller-Orr, and Luthica Philogène (Douna)

In addition to gathering “facts,” we have made many new friends on this journey. One is a lovely young lady with the nickname, Douna. Each morning, Douna prepares the sanctuary for mass by lighting the candles and preparing the priest’s altar vessels and linens. She led the singing at each morning mass we attended (a total of 9 hymns were sung throughout the liturgy). She accomplished all of this before going to school!

After mass one morning, Jo introduced herself to Madame Raymond Pierre, a friendly face we had seen on several occasions. Jo admired her necklace, and ultimately, the two women exchanged necklaces in a demonstration of love and solidarity. A happy coincidence is that the focal point of Madame Pierre’s necklace is the San Damiano cross...the same cross that hangs above our altar at St. William. We understood this as another sign that God was with us on the journey.



Madame Raymond Pierre and Jo Heller-Orr

Sylvester is behind Jo in this photo. He currently teaches at the sister’s school and plans to retire at the end of the school year. He wants to be the new Director of the parish school. It is hoped that because of his stature in the community, his presence will draw enrollment to the parish school.

This picture says it all. It was a HIGH FIVE mission! We learned a great deal about the schools we support. With this new insight, we will be able to make sound decisions about the use of your money.

THANK YOU for every penny you contribute to “education.” The annual education campaign will begin June 15th.



# Four-Day Mission to Five Schools



Day 1: Father Exumé Gilbert, from left, Father Islaire Faustin, Jo Heller-Orr, **Helping Hugs** member and School Director, Honel Librun visit the newly installed computer lab at St. Anthony School; **Helping Hugs** visitors meet with directors and teachers from St. Anthony and Sacred Heart Schools.



Day 2: **Helping Hugs** visitors meet the staff of **Hope for Haiti** and visit the new computer laboratory in a neighboring parish. Both organizations support St. Anthony and Sacred Heart Schools.



Day 3: We visit St. Joseph parish school during lunch; teachers answer questions.

Day 4: Students at the sister's school gather around Father Faustin and Jo Heller-Orr.

**You're Invited**  
to the next meeting of  
**Helping Hugs Inc. for Haiti**

**May 17, 2018**  
**9 AM**  
**Thrive at Frederica**  
**3615 Frederica Road**  
**St. Simons Island**

To hear the Fact-Finding Education Report - Part 2  
and the proposal for a  
**Community Computer Center**  
for St. Joseph Parish

**Dates of Note:**

- |                |                                                                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 14</b>  | <b>Feast Day, St. Matthias Chapel</b><br>(one of the 10 chapels of St. Joseph parish) |
| <b>May 17</b>  | <b>General Meeting, Helping Hugs Inc.</b>                                             |
| <b>June 7</b>  | <b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>                                                    |
| <b>June 15</b> | <b>EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOR SCHOOLS</b>                                                 |
| <b>June 21</b> | <b>General Meeting, Helping Hugs Inc.</b>                                             |