

Twin Parish News

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

Unrest in Haiti Delays Progress Medical, Education, and Infrastructure Projects Stopped by Protests



Cars and tires burn in the streets of Port-Au-Prince
Photo from TV sent by Father Faustin

February 7, 2019 First Signs of Discontent

“Things are getting complicated in Haiti. There are more and more poor people. Prices for all products go up every day... Today we had demonstrations all over the country.”

These words from Father Islaire Faustin, pastor of St. Joseph Church, describe the beginning of nine days of violent protests in Port-au-Prince and other major cities throughout Haiti. The people are demanding “lower prices for staple goods and the departure of the president.” In addition, they want “the arrest and judgment of those who stole the 4 billion aid granted by Venezuela to Haiti.”

The following day, Father reported, “The situation is likely to get worse. There were deaths today.”

“The population is really angry.”

By Saturday, February 9th, Father said, “The situation is more complicated.” Two days later, the unrest had escalated.

“All roads are blocked, even in the remote villages of the country. The whole country is rebelling.”

Côtés-de-Fer remained quiet, but became “seriously complicated” because merchants could not stock up. Food and water became scarce.



Medical Mission Team 2019

February 13, 2019
Preparing for the Medical Mission

February 13th was both a happy and a sad day for the 2019 Medical Mission Team. In the morning they attended the annual Medical Links to Haiti Seminar in preparation for the trip. However, by afternoon, they realized that it was too dangerous to make the trip as planned.

Father sent the following security update: "The security situation in Port-au-Prince remains tense and unpredictable." A listing of street closings in various regions of the country followed that announcement.

Later that evening Father said, "This week will be very hard for me because too many people come to ask for food."

February 14, 2019
 Stateside, the planning for a postponed medical mission began. The demonstrations continued. The president of Haiti spoke to his people on television. Father was disappointed because "the president's speech did not take into account the demands of the population."

February 15, 2019
 "Protestors clash with police in Port-au-Prince." "Many people come to me and ask for food, but I can't do anything for them."

February 16, 2019
 "Today is better than the other days. They take a break for the people to get water and food."

The Prime Minister is to speak to the people, but he doesn't appear.

February 18, 2019
 "Today was better than the other days."

February 19, 2019
 "Things are very quiet today"

March 1, 2019
 The demonstrations appear to be calming down as we write this newsletter. The medical team has rescheduled the Mission Trip to April 3rd - 10th and look forward to going, provided the US lifts the travel ban currently in place. Your prayers for their safety are greatly appreciated.

Projects Delayed because of Unrest

1. Food for Attendance pilot project at Sacred Heart School - Unable to purchase additional food
2. Painting the interior and exterior of the rectory. Father was able to travel to Port-au-Prince to purchase the paint February 28th.
3. Getting price estimates for two additional infrastructure projects.

Projects Delayed because of Lack of Water
 Chapel restoration with cement has been delayed because of lack of rain.

Our prayers are with the Haitian people as they work for a resolution of these problems.

Pure Water Flows at Sacred Heart School



After a successful trial experience at St. Anthony School, a second **LifeStraw Water Purification System** was purchased for Sacred Heart School. **Thank you** for making this new source of pure water possible for the children.

Chalorin Tibroz, Director of Sacred Heart School, told Father Islaire that at first, the children did not know what it was. When they learned it was a water filter, they applauded. The teachers applauded too. They told Mr. Tibroz to say **“Thank You!”**



Father Islaire pays a woman to get water for the children each day. To collect the water, she has to walk an hour to get to the spring at foot of a high mountain. Although it is a natural spring, the water is not drinkable. That is why the children and the teachers applauded. They knew that they finally had clean water to drink.



We hope that this is a “feel good” moment for you, because you made the purchase of this water filter possible. Thank you for all you do for the people of St. Joseph parish and, in this case, Sacred Heart School and Chapel.



St. William **SHIPMENT** To Haiti Continues through March 31st

You are very generous people!

The collection is going well, but we still need the following items:

Musical instruments: woodwind and brass

Bars of soap (no liquids)

Band-aids

Bacitracin

Anti fungal ointment

Toothbrushes and toothpaste

Toys for young children

Small dolls

Soccer balls

Closed toe shoes, for men, women and children

Women's and girls dresses with sleeves

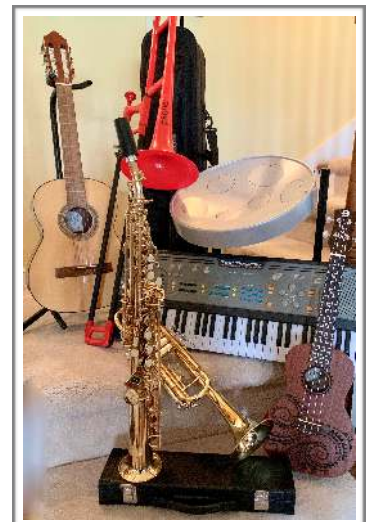
A DROP BOX labeled "HAITI" has been placed in the narthex of the church to receive your donations **until March 31st**. Please address any questions to Mary Lynch, 912-638-0148, or email her at marylynch45@gmail.com



Members of St. William Sew & So:

Sue Kiltchenstein, from left, Bonnie McGimpsey, Marilyn Grey, Woodra Clontz, Joan Meyer, Trudy Putnam.

Many thanks to St. William Council of Catholic Women for partnering with us in the collection of sheets. Your donation response has been overwhelming, giving the Sew & So ladies a significant task preparing them for shipment. The women of the sewing group resized over 60 sheets!



Some of the instruments donated thus far.