

Twin Parish News

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

YOU Reflected the Light of Christ! Fête for Haiti Exceeds Expectations - Thank You!



From the President's Desk

While all the numbers have not been received at this time, I think it is safe to say that this year's "Fête for Haiti" was the best event in our history based on the amount of funds received. Our gross receipts were in excess of \$66,000 which will allow us to continue to help Father Islaire and the people of Haiti by providing clean water, medical care, education for the children and the rebuilding of the chapels in the St. Joseph parish.

I would like to personally thank all of our donors for making this possible. I would also like to thank the many merchants and businesses who contributed items for our live and silent auctions as well as Tom Delaney of "Delaney's Bistro" and his staff for the wonderful dinner they provided this year. Many hours of work went into organizing and preparing for this year's Fête.

This gigantic effort was led by our Vice President, Jan LaBoone who gathered a fantastic group of people to help make the evening very enjoyable. I would also like to call your attention to our wonderful youth group who volunteered their time to serve Tom's delicious meal. Lastly, I would like to thank Monsignor John Kenneally and the office staff for their support in making this a success.

The officers and general membership are now busy working on a list of projects received from Father Islaire for 2020. I would refer you to a separate article in this newsletter to get a glimpse of what is being considered. The needs are far greater than our resources but we are making progress in the four areas listed above. We invite you to attend our general meeting held on the third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall, Room #1 to keep abreast of the progress of our projects. We also invite you to read our newsletter each month for the latest news and pictures from Haiti.

You make all this possible and we thank you for the kindness and generosity that you continue to show to Helping Hugs, Inc. and Father Islaire.

May God bless each and every one of you.
Robert Hochwald, President, Helping Hugs, Inc.

Fête Weekend Photos

Fête Chair: Jan LaBoone



Fête for Haiti: Reflecting the Light



Medical Team Meeting



Ticket Takers



Education Committee



Father & The Brunswick Chapter of The Links Inc.



Auction



A Message from Father Faustin

Msgr. Kenneally,
Dear Members of the Helping Hugs for Haiti Committee,
Dear Faithful Members of St. William,

Please accept these simple words of thanks for your welcome and your attention during my stay with you. I was particularly touched by your marks of brotherly affections. On behalf of the faithful of St. Joseph, I thank you.

I want to extend a special thank you to everyone who participated in the fundraiser. Thank you to the young people who provided table service. Thank you all. Thank you for what you mean to us. We pray for you in our celebrations. May God bless and protect you all! Thank you very much for everything.

Father Islaire Faustin
Pastor, St. Joseph Parish



Father Islaire Faustin



Pictured from Left: Evelyn Marshall, interpreter; Father Islaire Faustin, pastor; Sandra Hochwald, hostess; Marueen Horn, Society of St. Vincent De Paul; Jackie Bryant, The Brunswick, GA Chapter of The Links, Inc.; Joan Myers, Sew & So - St. William; Laura Nies, Council of Catholic Women - St. William; Ann Beeson, The Dorcas Group - First Baptist Church. Representatives of the Southeast Georgia Health System and St. William Youth were unable to attend.

Appreciation Luncheon

By Sandra Hochwald

A very special luncheon was held to provide Father Islaire Faustin the opportunity to meet representatives of various local organizations. These groups have provided assistance for a generous number of years. Individuals spent time with each other and Pastor Faustin to relate their association's talents used to help the people of Côtés-de-Fer, Haiti. Ever the teacher, Father Islaire, provided insight into the daily struggles and needs of his congregation that includes one central church, ten outlying chapels and three schools. All in attendance looked forward to many more years of being part of this endeavor.



GRADE: K/1st TEACHER: Erin Bors



GRADE: 2 TEACHER: Jo Heller-Orr

**Between masses on Sunday, October 27th,
Nancy Power escorted Father Islaire Faustin
to the religious education classes in the parish hall.**



GRADE: 3 TEACHER: Scott Flick



GRADE: 4/5
TEACHERS: Lindsey Kennedy and Terri Mikowski

Project Choices for 2020

By Robert Hochwald, President, Helping Hugs, Inc.

The Executive Committee, Committee Chairman and members took advantage of Father Islaire's visit to spend time discussing the needs of his parish and communities that he serves in Haiti. His presence allowed us to ask detailed questions and share with him the expertise we have with regard to projects he would like us to consider in 2020. Below is a list of projects we are considering in consultation with Father Islaire that will best utilize the funds we have available and provide the most benefit to the people.

Medical

1. Medical Mission Trip Scheduled for February 4th
2. Hypertension Project – Continue to fund Nurse in Cotes-de-Fer
3. Consider expanding Nurses position to full time in order to cover other medical problems

Clean Water

1. Build Cistern at Jesus Good Shepherd Chapel (Sovage) to serve the community.
2. Convert St. Matthias (Mayette) Chapel Word Water Relief system to solar energy.
3. Provide a solar powered pump for watering agricultural fields at St. Mother Teresa Chapel (Metayer)
4. Run a pipeline from well at nearby church to Nativity of Our Lady Chapel (Mount Blanc).
This area has no source of water.
5. Build Cistern at St. Lawrence Chapel (Bouca Moran)
6. Build Cistern at Our Land of the Visitation (Saurel)
7. Maintenance Agreement for World Water Relief Systems

Education

1. Cover shortfall of \$4000 from Education Fund Drive for 2019 – 2020 school year
2. Food for Attendance Program at Sacred Heart – Continue for remainder of school year
3. Consider adding St. Joseph and St. Anthony to Food for Attendance Program
4. Fund trainer for better utilization of computers at St. Anthony.
5. Investigate teaching systems being used at other schools in Jeremie.

Chapel Repair

1. Construction of a ramp to allow seniors and disabled access to St. Joseph's Church.
2. Build 100 benches (10 per Chapel)
3. Chapel Improvements
 - A. St. Anthony – May require total reconstruction of walls and roof.
Need engineer to review.
 - B. Sacred Heart – Add cement Floor.
 - C. St. Mother Teresa – Needs work on interior and exterior
4. Corn Mill for Sacred Heart

With the current turmoil in Haiti, it is difficult to move construction material from city to city. That has also lead to abnormal prices for building material. Father has elected to wait for the situation to calm and prices to return to more normal levels. In the meantime, we will be working on information required for the projects so we are ready to go when the opportunity permits. Continue to read our newsletters for the latest information on our progress of the above.



Father Faustin Makes A Frightening and Amusing Trip to Georgia

By Mary Lynch, Corresponding Secretary, Helping Hugs, Inc.

How can that be? Both frightening and funny?

Yes, Father Faustin's trip to be with us for the 'Fête for Haiti' was frightening because of the challenges he had to overcome to get to the international airport in the capital city, Port-au-Prince. Funny because...well...let's not spoil that part now. Just read on!

For more than a week, both day and night, Father was concerned: "How am I going to get to Port-au-Prince." Protesters were blocking major arteries into the city. They were even blocking roads into Jacmel, the largest city in the southeast department of Haiti where Côtés-de-Fer is located. It appeared to be a hopeless situation.

It occurred to our president, Bob Hochwald, that it might be possible for Father to fly from Jacmel to Port-au-Prince to avoid the major disturbances. Well, yes, that was a possibility, except that Father did not like flying in a small plane. To back-up his fears, he sent us a recent video of the small plane running off the runway because its brakes had failed!



Father Islaire pondered the situation for several days. He finally realized that flying in the small plane was the only option. He told himself two things:

"1- I can not disappoint the committee of Helping Hugs who has planned everything since well before my trip. In addition, they always tell me that they pray that everything goes well."

"2- I also told myself why be afraid of small planes if many people use them every day? In addition I said to myself "I'm leaving for my faithful, God will watch over me."

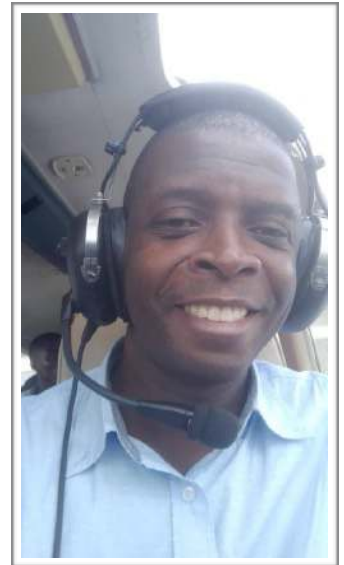
Now, how to get to Jacmel safely? It is known that people who control the barricades allow ambulances to circulate. But it is also known that they survey the interior of the ambulance to confirm that there is someone sick inside.

Father explained that they drove the back roads into Jacmel. Although these roads are in deplorable condition, it was the safest way to travel because he was not sick!

Telling the story to us, once he had arrived, Father had a big smile on his face. He had successfully avoided the blockades and overcome his apprehension of flying in a small plane.

The decision to fly from Port-au-Prince to Jacmel on his return to Côtés-de-Fer was a bit easier to make. As a matter of fact after landing he said, "The little flight was cool!"

We are so grateful that Father Islaire was able to be with us for our fundraising celebration and that he arrived home safely in time for the Feast of All Saints. Our prayers were answered. Thank you, Father. We are delighted to be able to share these photos too!



And now, for a few announcements!



Please, don't forget to choose **Helping Hugs Inc.** as your favorite charity when you shop smile.amazon.com this holiday season.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by **Amazon** with the same products, prices, and shopping features as **Amazon.com**. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.





HELP WANTED

Helping Hugs has been able to do a lot in Haiti because of the wonderful support we received in our community. **But...we could really use more help.** Our committees work in the following areas: Medical - Clean Water - Education - Infrastructure (construction) - Shipment to Haiti - Fête for Haiti

We do a lot of research, trying to find the best methods and materials to accomplish the goals established by the pastor of St. Joseph parish. We fundraise. Then we send the money to help make things happen. We meet the third Thursday of each month (the next meeting is November 21st). All are welcome!

Our Nominating Committee

Jan LaBoone, Chair
Diane Smith
Dick Schmidt

Proudly announces the **slate of officers for Helping Hugs Inc. 2020-2022**

Robert Hochwald, President
Jan La Boone, Vice President
Bill Horn, Secretary
Mary Lynch, Corresponding Secretary
Kevin Callahan, Treasurer



At our **next meeting, November 21, 2019**, we will

CELEBRATE the success of the Fête for Haiti and get all the financial news
HEAR the summary report of Father Faustin's meetings with Helping Hugs
REVIEW the proposed project list for 2020
VOTE on the slate of officers

Following the Helping Hugs meeting on **November 21st**, there will be a **wrap-up meeting for the Fête for Haiti**. Everyone interested in 'making it better next time' is welcome to attend.



Happy Thanksgiving, Y'all

There will not be a meeting of Helping Hugs on December 19, 2019
