

# Twin Parish News

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



## HELPING HUGS DONORS SET FUNDRAISING RECORD!

by Michael Wild, Chairman, Education Committee

In response to Helping Hugs' annual education appeal, our donors have reached a milestone: \$17,250 raised for the three schools of our sister parish in Haiti! A great big Helping Hugs "*hug*" to all who participated!

With these funds, along with help from Hope for Haiti, another American charity operating in the area, we are able to provide an education for over 330 children for the 2018-19 school year. Father Islaire will use the tuition money to provide the following for the young people of his parish:

- salaries for teachers, directors, cooks, and other workers the entire school year;
- uniforms, shoes, school bags, books, teaching materials;
- a nutritious school lunch program;
- tuition for 30 secondary school students attending the Catholic school in Côtes-de-Fer.

On behalf of Fr. Islaire and the young people of St. Joseph parish, we thank all who responded to our call for help. Please know that, because of your generosity, the eager students of our sister parish in Haiti will know the joy of learning and the promise of a better future. **THANK YOU!**





April 2018, Father Gilbert Exumé, Father Islaire Faustin, Jo Orr and Honel Librun, Director, visit the new computer lab at St. Anthony School

## Friends to Reunite at Fête for Haiti

Father Gilbert Exumé and Father Islaire Faustin have been friends since their high school days in Haiti. After their initial seminary study in Haiti, both men traveled different paths to the priesthood. Fr. Exumé came to the United States and is currently pastor of St. Matthew Catholic Church in Winder, GA. Fr. Faustin studied in France and is currently pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Côtes-de-Fer, Haiti.

Jo Heller-Orr and Mary Lynch, members of Helping Hugs, Inc. for Haiti, encountered the friendship of these two priests during a fact-finding trip to Haiti last April. Fr. Exumé was visiting his friend in Côtes-de-Fer and served as the translator for the ladies visit. “Their deep-rooted connections in their commitment to the priesthood and service to God was evident in their honesty and joyous laughter together,” said Orr. “It was a joy to witness their friendship” added Lynch.

November 9th, 6 PM at Bennie’s Red Barn, Helping Hugs, Inc. will hold its annual **Fête for Haiti** dinner/auction fundraiser for their twin parish, St. Joseph. This will be Father Faustin’s third visit to St. Simons for this event, but only his first opportunity to visit here with his boyhood friend. We anticipate lots of bantering and laughs during the visit!

*You're Invited*  
**Fête for Haiti**  
*The Spirit of Giving*

**Friday, November 9, 2018**

Live & Silent Auctions  
Steak or Seafood Dinner  
Bennie's Red Barn  
5514 Frederica Road

**Honored Guest: Fr. Islaire Faustin**  
**Special Guest: Father Gilbert Exumé**

*Doors open at 6 pm*

**RSVP by October 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Name and Phone Number**

**T-bone steak OR Filet Mignon OR Seafood Platter**

**\$60 per person – cash bar**

Helping Hugs Inc. for Haiti  
PO Box 24477  
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

**If you cannot attend, donations are very much appreciated.**

# Fête for Haiti Fact

**This annual fundraiser  
is our major source of income  
for our four project areas:**



Education



Medical Mission



Water



Infrastructure





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## Teacher Training in Côtés-de-Fer

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Thanks to the funds provided by St. William to St. Joseph every month, Father Islaire was able to arrange training for twenty-one teachers and three school directors in September.

Ms. Sonia Thélusmond, a teacher in the diocese, provided instruction in the French language, classroom management, and course preparation.

Although the language of the people is Haitian Creole, French is the medium of instruction in most schools because it is the principal written and administratively authorized language. Imagine having to learn a new language as you progress through your education!

School personnel stayed at the rectory, studied throughout the day and did homework in the evenings for a week. Four follow-up sessions are planned for the remainder of the year.



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

**October 18, 2018  
9 A.M.**

**Thrive at Frederica  
3615 Frederica Road  
St. Simons Island**

**This is the DUE DATE for all auction items.**

**Got time? We'd be happy for your help!**

*Please join us!*

**Dates of Note:**

**Oct. 4 Executive Committee meeting**

**Oct. 18 Helping Hugs Monthly Meeting**

**DUE DATE for all auction items.**

**NO auction items will be accepted after this date.**

**Nov. 8 Father Islaire Faustin**

**Nov. 9 Fête for Haiti - The Spirit of Giving**

**Bennie's Red Barn - 6PM**