

Twin Parish News

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

Medical Team Sees a Record Number of Patients A Medical Mission Report



Patients await the services of the medical mission team at St. Mother Teresa Chapel

Grateful patients, at four locations of our twin parish, received the services of our fifth medical mission from April 4th through 8th. Although the trip had been delayed because of unrest throughout Haiti, both the travel and the transportation of nine suitcases of medications and supplies, went flawlessly.

Because the team arrived early in **Côtés-de-Fer** on April 4th, they were able to see **67 patients** before darkness interrupted their work. Diane Smith, team leader, reported, "Although this was an unscheduled clinic, word spread quickly." A poor, elderly woman walked up the hill to the school to be seen. Before Father Faustin drove her home in the dark, he served her a plate of food which she consumed with gratitude. He said that it was probably the first meal she had eaten in days.

At **St. Lawrence chapel**, the life of a baby with pneumonia was undoubtedly saved because of a donated battery-operated nebulizer from Rainbow Drug Store and medicine from MAP International and Blessings International. The team saw **150 patients** on Friday.

The next day, at **St. Matthias chapel**, two very serious incidents were reported. The first was a woman with hypertension who had to be medicated immediately and observed for several hours. She was helped home by a relative. A second woman had been kicked by a donkey five weeks ago and had a very bad infection. She was referred to a hospital and helped home by her granddaughter. The team saw **170 patients** on Saturday.

Sunday morning, the day started with mass. At right, the team gathers with translators and Father Faustin for a photo of remembrance.

Father had a special request of the team that day. He asked them to speak with the teens to teach them about hygiene and answer their questions. Boys and girls met with team members in separate groups. Some of them attended the clinic later that day in **Côtes-de-Fer**. One hundred ninety (**190**) **patients** were seen on Sunday.



The final day of clinic was held at **St. Mother Teresa** chapel and **192 patients** were seen. The extraordinary encounter this day was with four children with chickenpox. Another child was very ill. The local doctor who joined the team for four days, suspected it was typhoid fever.

Throughout the week, the team engaged in teaching about clean water, careful bathing (not sitting in the river) and hypertension.

Something new is being added to the medical mission agenda. Starting this year, **a nurse will be hired** to check blood pressures on patients who have been treated by the medical team and to re-supply blood pressure medications. Sufficient medications were left for the remainder of the year. The nurse will serve patients at five chapels as well as those at St. Joseph church.

Helping Hugs is very grateful to each member of the medical mission team for their time, travel and tireless professional work for the people of our twin parish. **Thank You!**



Angella Exilus, RN

Shipment 2019 - A Ton* of Fun!

A Spring Shipment Day-by-Day Photo Report



Day #1. Bill Horn Shipment Manager, gets a head start organizing things.



Day #2. Bill Johaneck packs one of 18 boxes of musical instruments.



Day #3. Diane Smith, Medical Mission Manager, inventories 10 boxes of medical items the team will use next year.



Day #4. Dick Schmidt and Kevin Callahan join Bill Horn for a 6-hour, non-stop packing spree. Fifty boxes are labeled, measured, weighed and numbered.

Kevin brings the shipping process into the 21st century by entering the data in a spreadsheet. Weights and costs are calculated instantaneously! And thanks to a translation app on her phone, Mary Lynch translates the contents of each box into Haitian Creole for ease of distribution in Haiti.



By the end of Day #4, Bill gets a pat on the back for a job well done. All 50 boxes have been packed to perfection on three pallets. It was puzzling to make them fit on the pallets because boxes of different sizes had to be used. **Thank you Bill, Bill, Diane, Dick and Kevin for all the work putting this shipment together.**

*It was a ton of fun because it weighed 2,046 pounds!



Day #5 Bill and Kevin shrink wrap each of the pallets. Diagonal, and horizontal wraps tied to the pallet make all the boxes tight and ready for pick-up.



By the end of Day #5, the prettiest little “warehouse” in Sea Palms is ready for the trucking company to take the shipment to Nashville where it will be added to a sea container for shipment to Haiti.

This is the largest shipment you have sent to our twin parish - 2,046 pounds! Thank you!



Bill Horn “models” a tee shirt dress made by volunteers of **Dress A Girl Around the World**. They donated 162 dresses to the shipment this year.

Thank You

We have a lot of people and organizations to thank for help with this shipment.

For gifts to the medical mission:

Brunswick Chapter of The Links, Inc. - survival kits
 Sew and So of St. William - ditty bags and dresses
 The Dorcas Group of St. Simons Baptist - ditty bags

For gifts to the people of Haiti:

Georgia - Dress a Girl Around the World - dresses
 Educators from North Georgia - teaching supplies
 Parishioners of St. William
 St. William, Five Georgia Martyrs fraternity of
 Secular Franciscans - rosaries
 Local folks who read our plea for musical
 Instruments in The Brunswick News
 Coastal Illustrated and The Islander
 Brunswick Woman’s Club - monetary donation and
 connection with Dress A Girl Around the World

Chapel Repairs Underway

An **Infrastructure** Report



St. John the Evangelist Chapel was one of four chapels selected by Father Faustin for cement work this year.

Since Easter, masons have begun the reconstruction work.

We look forward to seeing a photo of the finished project in the near future.

Thank you donors, for making this work possible.

Easter Services for the Disabled

Father Faustin held the annual Easter service for his disabled parishioners on Holy Saturday.

The service was held in a parish auditorium (damaged by the earthquake) because the people are not able to climb the steps to enter the church.

Father also provides them with a gift of food at Easter time.



Please pray for the people of Haiti, especially our twin parish of St. Joseph. In his last email, Father Faustin wrote:

“A disproportionate rate of inflation further impoverishes the population. Fortunately, the Haitian people are a people who pray a lot. The situation becomes very critical. The number of families seeking food assistance is growing. This is an alarming situation and one that concerns me a lot in Côtés-de-Fer.”

Merci beaucoup.

Please pick up

the latest edition of Helping Hugs, Inc. brochure in the narthex of St. William church. It explains the four project areas of our work plus our annual shipment.

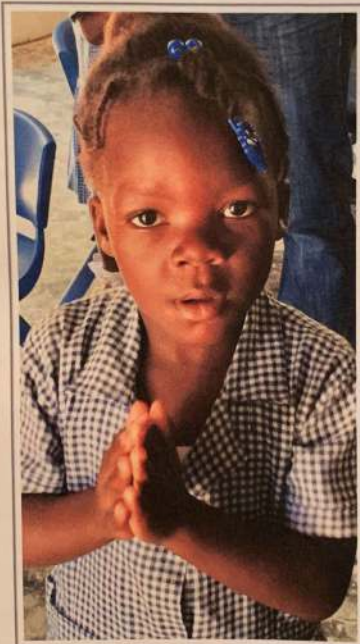
If you are not a member of our parish family and would like a copy, just reply to this newsletter and ask for one. Please include your mailing address to receive a hard copy.

**Next general meeting
9 a.m.,
Thursday, May 16th at
St. William Parish Hall**

**New members
are always welcome.**



Helping
Hugs^{INC}
for Haiti



A twinning relationship between
St. William Catholic Church,
St. Simons Island, GA &
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Côtés-de-Fer, Haït
Since 2008