



**Hands and Hearts with Haiti**  
*small things with great love*

## **“God has chosen you to make Him known to others.” St. John Baptist de la Salle Lenten Almsgiving and HAITI 2022**

For many years you have heard from parishioners who have traveled to Haiti and speak of being changed in ways they could never have imaged. You have patiently listened to our talks at Mass, read our bulletin articles, looked at our posters and donated generously. This Lent we wanted you to hear from the heart, from a voice of Haiti, the story of *Jean Maurisset* and the struggles of Haiti. This will be presented as bulletin inserts during Lent. It will also be added to our parish web site.

Please allow yourself to be opened to the life of others, who live in a place few would ever want to visit today. May we ask ourselves, how has God chosen each of us “to make Him known to others”?

*Assumption Hands and Hearts with Haiti* would like to introduce you to our Haitian partner *Mr. Jean Maurisset*. Mr. Maurisset has been a partner with HHH since 2012 managing our Goat Project among other things. Fr. Leveque, the parish priest at that time, wanted to help the poorest families in several of the rural chapels. He also wanted to help these families contribute to the costs of sending their children to the parish school. From this need our HHH group developed the Goat Project.



The Project will be described later in this article. Under the guidance of HHH member, parishioner Mr. Dan D’Agnese, we soon realized to make the project a success we needed boots on the ground educating, selecting, and developing families to breed and groom goats successfully. Mr. Jean Maurisset was hired. None of us could have imagined the life changing opportunities a goat could make in the life of a family and we think you too will be pleasantly surprised to hear one such story.

Hello Assumption Parishioners, my name is Jean J. Maurisset. I was born and raised in a small neighborhood called Dargout located in the communal section of Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti. A neighborhood with no infrastructure like running water, paved roads or sanitation. I lived with my mom, dad and four sisters. I was very fortunate to attend both primary and secondary school. I participated in the foundation of a community primary school by the boy scouts of Croix-des-Bouquets of which I was council member. I was selected to participate in a community primary school funded by a foundation for children whose parents could not afford to pay for their education.

My parents encouraged me to study hard and I graduated from High School in 2005. Two years later, I won a merit-based scholarship through the USAID and the government of Haiti to study in the United States of America. After two years of study at the Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, Wisconsin, I graduated with an Associates Degree in water and waste water management. I returned to Haiti to apply my knowledge in service to my fellow Haitian brothers and sisters. After the deadly earthquake of January 2010, I joined Save the Children Foundation. I contributed by performing water quality control in tent cities where victims of the earthquake were relocated. This experience along with many outreach services with the boy scout’s troop of my town prepared me to work in community development. Fr. Leveque Bien-Aime needed someone to build up faith filled members of several rural communities to successfully breed goats and build up family resources so children could afford an education. Let me share with you the story of one such family.

*This is the case for **Mr. Yves Ficilmé**. He is a farmer and member of the chapel church of Noyau. He lives with his youngest daughters in a locality north of the church called Manzè Marie. Mr. Ficilmé joined the program in 2016 and was given 3 female goats of which he would return 6 off-springs to share with other families accordingly to the rules of the program. Before he was given the goats, Mr. Ficilmé depended heavily on a piece of land that could barely feed this family. When he received the goats, he went on and took good care of them exactly how he was taught by the HHH veterinarian technician. By the end of the following year, he received the goats, Yves returned 6 little females back to the committee.*

*A couple years later Yves reported to the committee that he is doing so well that he no longer was worried about basic family expenses. Goats account for 80% of his budget. He sold goats to take care of school expenses of his 2 children. He replaced the leaky roof of his house and is no longer borrowing money from his neighbor to buy seed when the planting seasons come. The last time we visited his farm, he had 20 healthy goats of which many were pregnant. He continues to actively participate in all activity of the church and the goat group. So, the goat committee rewarded him the best goat producer in the program. Mr. Yves Ficilmé is very thankful for this life changing opportunity that HHH has given him.*

Mr. Maurisset would not have been able to bring the vision of Fr. Leveque's goat project to the success it is today, without the ongoing generosity of the parishioners of Assumption Parish. Please join us in continuing to bring the successes that changes lives by making "Him known to others" and by bringing hope and sharing our love and concern for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Please place your donation at any offertory collection during Lent or throughout the year. Make checks out to Assumption Church and please put "Haiti" in the memo line along with your envelope number. Our most sincere Thank You for remaining committed and being generous in helping our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

God Bless!

Assumption- Hands and Hearts with Haiti

