



HAITI MISSION, INC.

P.O. Box 694 Thibodaux, LA 70302

Phone: 985-855-3127

www.haitimissioninc.com

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"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

Ralph Waldo Emerson



20th Anniversary Congratulations

As we prepare ourselves, in the Diocese of Jérémie/HAITI, to solemnly celebrate the 20th anniversary of the canonical erection of the CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF NUMERO 2, the time is for wonder, gratitude, thanksgiving, praise, joy. Yes, as we prepare ourselves to grandly celebrate this jubilee, we are invited to enter into wonder, gratitude, thanksgiving, praise, joy at extraordinary events, wonders, great things, in short, the graces in abundance, operated, accomplished by God during these 20 years of existence of this parish consecrated or dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, honored, venerated under the term of Our Lady of the Assumption...

This is why, instead of spending our time counting and constantly recounting the many problems encountered during these 20 years of existence of the CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF NUMERO 2, we prefer to spend our time counting and tirelessly recount the extraordinary facts, the wonders, the great things, the graces in abundance, operated, accomplished by God during these 20 years by the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption. Yes, what is particularly extraordinary, marvelous, great is that, for 20 years, the works of bodily and spiritual mercy have been practiced, the Eucharist is celebrated, the sacraments are given, the Gospel or the Good News is announced to the poor, the faith of the faithful is strengthened, their hope is rekindled, their charity is revived, ignited, like a burning fire that burns the hearts of the disciples of Jesus...

Thus, we are eternally grateful to God and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption, for so many extraordinary facts, mighty deeds, fabulous wonders, great things, amazing graces, favors that cannot be described, which are the clear and eloquent manifestation of their Love, their Mercy, their Kindness towards all their children who live at NUMERO 2...

We are also eternally grateful to all the friends and benefactors who, during these 20 years, concretely demonstrated their spiritual closeness, their effective solidarity and their efficient generosity towards the CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF NUMERO 2 by willingly bringing their astonishing stone in the construction of the church of Jesus Christ which is planted at Number 2 so that it can flourish there and produce abundant spiritual fruits. We cannot mention here the names of all these friends and benefactors; there are so many; on the other hand, we quote their names, every day, in our incessant prayers for them to God so that He will give them back a hundredfold...

However, allow us to mention the names of the Reverend Deacon Lloyd and Faie Duplantis, Directors of HAITI MISSION, INC... With HAITI MISSION, INC., they have accomplished during these 20 years a tremendous spiritual, ecclesial and charitable work, for which we want to express here our deepest gratitude on behalf of all the beneficiaries of this amazing and priceless work that we greatly appreciate. Among other things, we cannot ignore the drilling of wells in areas where people did not have drinking water, the construction of houses for hundreds of poor families and, the last but not the least, the reconstruction of the parish church...

It would be unparalleled ingratitude and a grave injustice to end these words of gratitude without mentioning the special contribution to this wonderful spiritual, ecclesial and charitable work of little REBECCA CLAIRE FAKIER who died at the age of 8 years old but who is very alive through her astonishing intercession in our favor and her eternal smile that shines like the beautiful sun and warmth of HAITI...

On the occasion of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the canonical erection of the CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF NUMERO 2, may we all receive as gifts the abundance of graces, favors, consolations and blessings of the Mercy of God as well as the maternal help of Our Lady of the Assumption, Patroness and Protector of NUMERO 2 and of the whole Diocese of Jérémie!...

With my deepest GRATITUDE, my best REGARDS and BLESSINGS in the Loving, Merciful and Compassionate GOD,

+Joseph Gontrand DECOSTE, SJ
Bishop of the DIOCESE OF JEREMIE/HAITI



FAIE'S FACTS

In light of the recent Hurricanes Laura and Sally missing our area and living in a masked pandemic world of corona, I would like to offer the following Scripture Passage for meditation: *"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* —Philippians 4:6-7
Padre Pio's thoughts on this was: *"Pray, hope, and don't worry."*

Upcoming Events and Important dates in the life of HMI

November 9th to 16th –Fakier Fall trip to Haiti

April 24th, 2021 – Our Lady of the Assumption Church Dedication

Church Construction updates – Current pictures of the Church Construction are on the website. Check it out! **We are almost at our goal!! HMI was inspired to take on this project three years ago and now the dream is a reality. We only need \$10,000 more to reach our \$360,000 commitment. Any help you would like to contribute will be a blessing.** (Any amount received over the construction goal will be used for church furnishings)

N.B. There is room available on the upcoming November trip and on the April 2021 Church dedication trip. If you are interested in travelling to Haiti on one of these mission trips, please contact us so we can advise you of availability and get you scheduled. God Bless you for your mission heart! (N.B.) Passports must have at least six months left before expiration in order to enter Haiti.

(Liz and Janine enjoying their Faith Journey)



Journey of Faith

The HMI/Haiti story has been a journey of faith; an amazing odyssey of convoluted lines that has entangled loving people hungry to help those in need with a simple invitation to “hear the cry of the poor” (Prv 21:13). It has caught up not only individuals but entire communities. The following is the testimony of Liz Sams from the beautiful parish of St. Mary Magdalene in Apex, N.C. What a blessing her band of “helpers of the poor” have been!

In April 2018 two women who serve as youth ministers from St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Apex, NC (www.stmm.church) took their first international mission trip with HMI to Jeremie, Haiti. They were invited on this trip by their good friend Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR who

had gathered a group of people to personally experience the complexity of life in Haiti. With no expectations, the women set off on this journey open to whatever the Lord had in store for them and by the end of the trip they knew clearly their mission was to build a bridge between the community in Jeremie to their own community back home in Apex, NC. Their hearts were deeply impacted by the great faith, joy, and strength of the people they encountered that week. They made a goal to fundraise enough money to build one house with HMI's matching program. For the 2018-2019 school year their teens and families raised money and were able to successfully build one house in Haiti which was done in honor of their pastor, Fr. Donald Staib. In linking with our K-8 St. Mary Magdalene school, we were also able to raise the funds to keep the school open for the 2019-2020 school year! The people of the church and the school showed tremendous generosity!

But they felt called to do more. They knew the biggest challenge was how to accurately convey to their parishioners just how great the need was and to show there was great value in assisting HMI & the school. So, a plan was formulated amongst the church and school to ask if there was anyone from their community who would like to go on a mission trip with HMI in April 2019 and two people said yes! When they returned, they sat down with leaders from the church and school and committed to fundraising for the HMI house building project and to get the school expenses covered for the 2020-2021 school year as well. They invited Fr. Joe to come visit their church and school for a few days. What a success that was to get everyone on board and deepening the relationship with our friends in Haiti. Over the course of the 2019-2020 school year the school and church communities raised enough funds to build seven houses and to keep the school open for the 2020-2021 school year!! Liz Sams

Thank you St. Mary Magdalene community for sharing your blessings! Your response to the Holy Spirit's urging has helped some unknown and forgotten neighbors know in a very practical way that Christ loves them very much!



(Fr. Joe speaking to the school kids of St. Mary Magdalene, Apex, N.C.)

A wonderful and unforgettable visit at St Mary Magdalene Parish in Apex, NC

A year in advance, I received an invitation to visit St Mary Magdalene Parish in Apex, N.C. from the pastor Fr. Donald Staib through Liz Sams. Liz was a member of the first delegation from N.C. that had ever visited our parish. As the date of the visit approached, Liz sent me another message advising my trip's tickets were on the way and to confirm the invitation. I understood it as a call from God to definitely and firmly create that bridge between the two parish communities and schools.

After a long day of travel from Jeremie to lovely Apex, I was picked up at the airport by Liz and Janine McGann who with her husband Mike, were to be my hosts at their home which turned out to be such a peaceful and prayerful place. During my entire stay, I was spoiled by the McGanns. May the Lord shower on them and their dwelling place a rain of blessings!

The next day, I met Fr Staib before the 8:15 AM mass. The encounter was so delightful. Although Fr. has a rather strict demeanor, he welcomed me in a very kind, warm and fraternal way, making the welcome even more pleasant by having dinner with us at the McGanns on Friday evening.

In order to allow me to better communicate with the parish faithful, Father offered me to preside at and deliver the homily at all masses from Friday morning to Sunday evening. I was particularly struck by the impressive number of faithful that showed up at each mass in a State known to be predominantly protestant. People were very kind and took time to talk to me after each mass.

My visit was both to express in person the deepest gratitude of my parishioners to the school kids and SMM community for their generous contribution to support the school and home building efforts initiated and conducted by HMI in the parish of Numero Deux (Jeremie/Haiti) and encourage them to continue supporting any fundraising effort towards these ends.

Though I had a very busy schedule during my visit at SMM from saying masses, talking to school kids, groups of young people preparing for the sacrament of confirmation or else, I felt however energized by the faith and dedication of all those women and men who try their utmost best to witness to the love of Jesus Christ and pass it on to the next generation. I was particularly overjoyed by the conversations I had with the kids at the school.

As a former chancellor of the diocese of Jeremie who was used to go abroad for mission appeals, I consider my visit to Apex as one of the most interesting experiences I ever had in my more than three decades of priesthood. I think that the bridge we have built based upon love for the neediest of the needy must be strengthened by all means. I leave it to HMI's board of directors and SMM's parish council to determine the best way to achieve that goal for God's glory and the betterment of humanity!

The Family of the Month

Thanks to your kind and prayerful support of the work of HMI, more than 200 families will have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, celebrating in a new, secure, and safe home. That's a WOW moment!! Thanks to all who helped in any way to make the humble prayer of these families a reality. By the grace of God and because of your gracious gifts, both your family and theirs will have a much better life!

“Before”



Haiti – House #195 – The Felissaint Family

Mrs. Mathilde Felissaint is an elderly widow, 86 years of age, that has struggled through most of her life with sight in only one eye. She is the mother of 6 but has lost 2 of her children to life's tragedies. She has been living with a daughter and 3 grandchildren in the shanty you see in the “before” picture. She is a devout catholic who, despite her age, walks to church to worship every Sunday the God that she is convinced loves her very much. The HMI selection team is pleased that we will help her experience a decent and happier life at the end of her years on earth by building her and her family a new house in one of HMI's s/ds. The entire family sends their prayerful appreciation for this incredible gift.

“After”



St Theresa of Avila sums it up this way: “Let nothing disturb you; Let nothing frighten you; All things are passing away; God never changes. Patience obtains all things; Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices.”

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This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help the families receive the miracle of a new home one day. May God bless you and your loved ones for your commitment to the poor by giving in whatever way the Holy Spirit directs you.

Yes, Here is my immediate donation to use where most needed:

\$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

_____ **\$3750 would sponsor a new home and get a family “out of the mud and into safe secure housing.”** (Our new home design is keeping the cost of constructing the homes at \$7500 with the \$3750 matching money for each home provided by funds raised from the annual silent auction)

_____ **\$1000 would help us drill a well in a community without fresh water**

_____ **\$35 would buy food and supplies for a family (\$100 for three families!)**

This monetary gift is made in memory of _____,
please send an acknowledgement card to: **Name:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

_____ **Send me envelopes to be a monthly "helping hand"**

_____ **I will be a prayer partner and pray for the Haiti Mission.**

_____ **Please put me on your email/info list. email:** _____

_____ **I am interested in going on a mission trip. Call me @:** _____

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

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Haiti Mission, Inc. does not discriminate because of race, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin or financial status.

“He who has compassion on the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his good deeds.”
Pvb 19:17

THANKS FOR HELPING!! No donation is too small. No gift unappreciated!