



# THE CARPENTER

NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

6202 W. ST. JOSEPH ROAD EVANSVILLE, IN 47720

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CELEBRATING OUR 181ST YEAR

APRIL 2022



## HEARTS AND HANDS FOR HAITI CELEBRATION MAY 7

Fr. Gene Schroeder  
PASTOR

*Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (Gal. 6:9-10).*

It is good, now and then, to step back a bit and reflect upon the work we have done together. No where is that more the case than in our work with our sisters and brothers in St. James Parish, our sister parish in Plaine du Nord, Haiti. And that's what we are going to do on May 7. All of you in our parish have been a part of this vital work for many years and now we want to invite you to come together for a dinner and dance on Saturday, May 7th. It will be a time to give thanks for the good work God has enabled us to do. (check out the invitation below for details.)

Just how did all this work begin in our parish? It goes back to a man named Harry Housey who was taking a vacation cruise in the Caribbean where one of the ports of call Port au Prince, Haiti. He ventured beyond the special "tourist" area set aside for passengers on the cruise ship and what he discov-

(Continued on page 4)

## COME JOIN US--SATURDAY MAY 7 HEARTS AND HANDS FOR HAITI

*Celebrating 37 years working with  
our brothers and sisters in Haiti*

**DINNER -- DANCE**

**AUCTION EVENT**

**\$35 per person \$60 per couple**

**\$240 for table of 8**

**SOCIAL HOUR 5:30 PM DINNER & DESSERT 6:30 PM**

**DANCE & ENTERTAINMENT 7:30 -- 11PM**

**RSVP by April 15 Eric at 812.618.5945**

**or Monie at 812.575.9167**

The primary goal of this event is to raise funds for expansion and repair to our secondary school in Plaine du Nord.

Plans include additional classrooms, a computer lab, a solar system to power the facility and necessary classroom equipment and furnishings. A generous donor has issued a matching challenge. Up to \$50K raised during this event will be matched!



## HOLY WEEK COME CELEBRATE WITH US

**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES**

**Wednesday, April 6 7 pm**

**Friday, April 8 11am**

Reflections from the Way of the Cross



**PALM SUNDAY APRIL 9-10**

Blessings of Palms Proclamation of the  
Passion from the Gospel of Luke

**CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION**

**Friday, April 8 7:30 am**

**PALM SUNDAY MASSES**

**Saturday, April 9 5 pm Sunday, April 10 8 & 10:30 am**

**HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 14**

Commitment to Service,

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

**CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION 9 AM**

**HOLY THURSDAY MASS 7 PM**



**GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 15**

Proclamation of the Passion from the Gospel of John  
Adoration of the Cross Holy Communion

**CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION**

**8, 9 AND 10 AM**

**PARISH GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7 pm**

**EASTER CELEBRATION AT NIGHT**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16 7 PM**

Easter Proclamation, Readings, Baptism, Eucharist

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17 8 & 10:30 AM**

**CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF EASTER Friday, April 22 7:30 am**



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Remembering Imelda Woodward.....p. 2
- Introducing our High School Seniors.....p. 3
- Haiti Ministry Report...p. 6
- Catholic Rural Life.....p. 8
- Opportunities to Serve..p.9
- Rummage Sale News...p. 12
- Lawn Mowing News.....p. 12



## REMEMBERING

*Imelda Woodward*

February 12, 1932 - February 6, 2022

Imelda was born on February 12, 1932, one of six children born to Tony and Severina (Brune). Her sister Hilda (Schaefer) now is the last surviving member of the family. Imelda's sisters, Wilma Voelker and Marianne Elpers and her brothers, Tony and Francis preceded her in death. They grew up on the Martin family farm near the intersection of St. Wendel and Frontage Road.

Imelda would describe herself as in different roles as a wife, mother and homemaker. Growing up on the farm, she learned many of the skills she would later use in all these roles.

As a young girl, Imelda attended St. Wendel School and later went to Cynthiana High School. If you had asked Imelda what her dreams for the future were, she would no doubt have talked about getting married and raising a family. So it is no surprise that, after she caught the eye of Bob Woodward, romance blossomed. A central part of Bob's life was his family. He met Imelda Martin, another St. Wendel graduate, at a local dance. They were married on May 5, 1951 at St. Wendel. Their first home was an upstairs apartment in Evansville with a shared bathroom. Soon, they were traveling to other parts of the country, Atlanta, South Bend, and Mishawaka where Bob did contract work as an engineer. In time they moved back to Evansville, where, in the late 1950's, they bought a brand new house in the Western Hills Subdivision off Upper Mt. Vernon Road. "We spent \$20,000 for the house and I didn't sleep for weeks wondering how we were going to pay for it," Imelda recalled. The worries gave way to caring for their growing family that in time would include Bob, Bruce, Susan, Joanna, Brian, Leonard, Marty and John.

In 1963 Bob and Imelda came across a twenty-acre piece of ground off Hillview Drive. It was their dream place. And the fact that she would be close to her sister, Marianna, was an added benefit. However, when Bob and Imelda brought their children to see this place, their son Bruce recalled thinking "we're going to live here? There's nothing here but trees and weeds!" In time they would engage the services of Bill Gries to build their home. And this became the place she lived for the rest of her life.

In all the places they lived, Imelda threw her considerable energies and talents into caring for her growing family. Although, according to family lore, she didn't know how to cook when she got married, Imelda soon became quite skilled at preparing meals. She got good at it for no other reason than the sheer repetition of preparing three meals a day! Her children remember that she never wasted anything. And she learned how to can and preserve mountains of fruits and vegetables that came from the garden Bob planted and the various fruit trees he planted through the years. Chili soup and peanut butter sand-

## Pray with us! We have family in Ukraine Ethiopia and Syria!



wiches were her "go to" meals. Her grandchildren remember that visits to Imelda would include some cheeseburgers and chocolate milk. "She made sure you always had something to eat."

Through the years, Imelda developed a love for fishing, which was a bit strange, since she was afraid of water. While she may not have had any desire to learn how to swim, she got pretty good at fishing. And of course, good at fixing fish for some great meals for the family. Her children can remember her saying often, "if you are going somewhere, be sure to take your boat and fishing rod with you."

As a mother, Imelda learned how to manage the family budget and get the most from family finances. She knew all the right stores to visit and always seem to find the best bargains, a very useful skill when providing for a growing family. She learned to do what was necessary for the family, even if that meant becoming the coach for her daughter's softball team. What she may have lacked in softball skills, she more than made up for with her enthusiasm as the biggest cheerleader for the team and the supplier of food and drinks after the game.

In her own quiet way, Imelda offered her gifts as well for the different parishes she was a part of. As a young couple they became friends with Harold and Esther Niemeier and Don and Neacie Singleton. All of them would eventually find their way to our parish, but at the time, were all part of the founding members of Corpus Christi Parish. Here at St. Joe, Imelda would be sure to have the children dressed in their Sunday best so they could occupy their same seat—"on the east side of the church, about half way from the front."

Raising a family was, no doubt, challenging at times. Imelda took great comfort in being able to visit her sister Marianne Elpers. In a scene as old as Mary visiting Elizabeth, they took great comfort and support from each other. That was especially important as Bob and Imelda faced the death of their son, Leonard, who died in a car accident, and later the death of their son, Robert and daughter Susan. Her sister Marianne's death as well as her husband Bob's death in 2020, were just the latest of the challenges she faced.

We will remember Imelda as a good and simple woman who lived her life well. She left a lasting imprint on the lives of her children and grandchildren and she blessed us as well in her own quiet way. Now as she joins her parents, siblings, husband and children, we pray that God grant her eternal rest and may his perpetual light shine upon her.

## EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS



Once again this year we are inviting you to remember your loved ones at Easter time by contributing toward our Easter Flower Memorial Fund. Please send your contribution along with the names of the people you want to remember to the parish office (through the collection or through the mail) by April 10th. The names will be published in the Easter Bulletin.



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Belong. Learn. Succeed.

ANNUAL  
SPRING  
GALA

BENEFIT DINNER APRIL 9, 2022

THE MANOR AT ST. VINCENT  
for tickets--[www.meoforkids.org](http://www.meoforkids.org)





# Up Close and Personal

## INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



### Aleilah Nisley

High school has been a great adventure for Aleilah, a senior at Mater Dei. She is the daughter of Rebekah and Adam Nisley and the third of six children. Her older brother and sister, Isaiah and Eliana are attending Purdue University—he's in aeronautical engineering and she is in the school of pharmacy. Younger brother Thomas is a sophomore at Mater Dei, Silas is in seventh grade at St. Joe and Maria is in fifth grade at St. Joe.

You may have noticed Aleilah when she serves as a lector at our 10:30 Sunday Mass. She's also offered her time babysitting. A big focus for Aleilah during her years at Mater Dei has been her involvement with the marching band. For the past two years she has served as the drum major while also playing the clarinet. It's been some challenging times trying to keep the band going in the midst of the covid pandemic. Much of the success of the band is due to the hard work of the drum major. "You serve as a go-between with the band director and the members of the band. You have to lead by example and keep encouraging folks to do their best. And you have to spend a lot of time helping the new members of the band learn how to march and play at the same time." All that hard work on her part and the members of the band paid off as the band made it to the state finals of the band competition for the eleventh year in a row, placing fifth in their division. "Senior year has been the hardest year for me in band, but it has also been the most rewarding." Aleilah has also been involved in the different plays that the theater department at Mater Dei has put on the last few years. Most recently she was honored with the Maria Groetti Youth Distinction Honor from the Diocesan Office of youth Ministry.

It's no surprise that many of Aleilah's closest friends through the years of high school have been other band members. "We spend a lot of time working and training together and we get to just hang out with them as well." It's no surprise either that one of the teachers Aleilah counts as most influential in her time as Mater Dei has been Alison Field. "She believed in me and helped me to believe in myself. She's the one who helped me believe I could be a leader. I credit her with helping me to pursue a degree in leadership management in college."

Other teachers and staff saw some leadership potential in Aleilah as well. With their encouragement, she applied for an Eli Lilly Scholarship. Lots of folks apply for this scholarship, (which provides a full ride scholarship to any college/university in the state of Indiana), but only a select few are chosen each year as recipients. This year, Aleilah was among this select group. "It's a pretty rigorous application process that you have to go through. You have to write several essays and go through several interviews. I felt pretty good that I was selected as one of the finalists. I had to do an interview with a group of folks during which they asked me a lot of things like what was I planning on doing if I was awarded a scholarship and what would I plan to do for the community. And then they asked me some "out of the box" kind of questions like "what are the different ways a tooth brush can be used." It really made you think on your feet. I thought I did pretty well but I was still surprised when Mrs. Reneer, our guidance counselor came to get me one day at lunch and took me to the media center at school. That's when I saw my family and other folks from the school there and

I knew this was big news." Next year, Aleilah will be using the Lilly Scholarship to attend Purdue university. She is planning on pursuing a degree in management and business.

There have been many different people who have been influential in Aleilah's life. Teachers like Mrs. Whicker, her AP Literature Class teachers and her third grade teacher at St. Joe, Mrs. Sweeney. "They believed in me and helped me to believe in myself." Her family plays a critical role as well. "We enjoy spending time together, especially doing things like going hiking at the Garden of the Gods. There is a bunch of us, and we all have our different personalities, but we all get along with each other." Gathering with extended family members is also a highlight of the year. "It's great to catch up with cousins and there is always a ton of good food to enjoy as well."

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I think one of the biggest things I have learned is how important it is to keep challenging yourself. That means you have to be willing to do things you may not initially be attracted to. But that can lead you to find out things about yourself that you never knew before. People believed in me and that helped me to believe in myself. It's made me want to be able to do that same thing for others. Looking to the future can be a scary thing. It's easy to get overwhelmed by things and feel really stressed. But I really do believe that things will work out. One of the things I try to do is to trust that what I am supposed to do in life will become apparent to me. It's my way of trying to give everything over to God. That is hard to do and some days I do it better than others."

### Gabe Jung

Here are some things that will tell you something about Gabe. He is the second son and one of three children. His parents are Steve and Becky (Will) Jung. His older brother Michael graduated last year from Retiz and is now working at Rural King. His younger sister, Ashley, is in seventh grade at St. Joe.

Gabe is getting ready to graduate from Reitz High School. High school years have been pretty good for Gabe. For four years, he's teamed up with his grade school classmate and close friend, Trevor Clem to play tennis. They've been doubles partners for the past several years. Gabe started school here at St. Joe, so going from St. Joe to Reitz was a big change. It was a bigger place and there were a lot more kids in school. But he has managed to meet and form friendships with a lot of people over the four years of high school.

Going to St. Joe was a good experience for him. "We had a small class and we got along pretty well with each other. All the teachers knew you and you could tell that they wanted you to do well in class. One of his teachers was his aunt, Mrs. Angie Will. How was that? "Well it was nice having someone that knew you pretty well, but then again, you couldn't get away with anything!"

Now, if you want to know what Gabe gets excited about in life, just talk to him about working and going hunting and fishing. For the last several summers he's been working at Schneider Heating and Cooling. "When you start out, you naturally are the person who goes to get things or helps to clean up. But



(Continued on page 4)

*(Continued from page 3)***SENIOR STORIES (cont)**

I've enjoyed working with them and I hope to work in the field of HVAC after I get out of high school. I like the idea of being able to go to work and earn money and then going to HVAC trade school in the evenings. After four years you can complete your apprenticeship and make a pretty good living in the HVAC. And let's face it, people will always need heating and air conditioning for their homes so there is some pretty good job security in that."

Now, if you want to know what Gabe really gets excited about, just ask him about hunting and fishing and you can see his eyes light up! He figures he was six years old when his dad first took him out hunting for squirrels. "Dad would shoot the squirrel and I would carry it home. Then I'd help him skin the squirrel and watch him fix it for our meal." Over time, Gabe got proficient at shooting the squirrels himself, but Dad is still the one who cooks them. While Gabe enjoys eating squirrel, he hasn't developed a taste for the ultimate squirrel delicacy—the brain!

By age ten, Gabe graduated from shooting squirrels to hunting deer. He was in fifth grade when he bagged his first deer. With his Dad's help, he learned how to skin the deer and get it ready for the meat to be processed. Gabe can tell you all the different ways that deer meat can be processed—deer sausage and hamburgers, steaks, salami, and jerky. "Dad makes a special brine in which to marinate the deer meat. I don't know what all is in it, but I know a big part of it is a can of beer."

Gabe has ventured into bow hunting for deer as well. "It takes more skill to go bow hunting and you have to get a lot closer to the deer to be successful. Apparently Gabe has mastered this since he has been able to get a deer for the past two years.

For the last few years, Gabe has joined his close friend Trevor Clem and his cousin Nick Will in going duck hunting. Sitting in a duck blind on cold winter days is compensated by the fact that it's also an opportunity to fix a sausage and egg breakfast and enjoy it while sitting in the duck blind. And then there is the opportunity to invite your girl friend along to enjoy the experience as well. Gabe's gotten good at cleaning and filleting duck and making "duck poppers"—duck meat filled with cheese and hot peppers and wrapped in bacon.

Gabe also enjoys fishing for catfish with his cousin Nick, and bow fishing with his friend Trevor. They usually are hunting Asian carp and Grass carp which are invasive fish that have found their way into the local rivers. "I tried to clean them and eat them, but there are just too many bones in them that most folks don't bother with them."

**WORDS OF WISDOM:** "I think I have been blessed with some pretty good parents. I know they care about me. My older brother Mike has had some health issues that he has dealt with. Seeing what he has to go through has helped me appreciate what I have. I remember one time, when my parents had taken Michael to his doctors in Indianapolis, he had a seizure. I was staying with my Grandma Betty and she told us, "get the rosary. We're going to pray for Michael." I guess that was the best thing to do because it was a pretty scary time. Another big challenge was when my friend Trevor's dad died last year. I learned that just being there with him at a time like that was pretty important. My Grandpa Frank was another big influence in life. He taught me a lot of things about raising a garden. When I was younger, I played football and my Grandpa would teach me how block and defend against a block. I guess all this has taught me to try to live everyday as it comes. Don't take things for granted. Try to do the best you can everyday."

*(Continued from page 1)***HEARTS AND HANDS FOR HAITI (cont)**

ered was immense poverty and deprivation. He came back from the cruise with a burning conviction that "something had to be done." He started talking to other Catholic parishes where he lived in east Tennessee and he reached out to folks he knew—one of whom was his good friend Francis Shea, who, at the time was the Bishop of our Diocese. With Bishop Shea's permission he began to reach out to different parishes in our diocese inviting them to help the people of Haiti.

In the mid 1980's, that call resonated with Gilbert Fehrenbacher, a long time member of our parish. Along with Fr. Francis Schroering, the pastor of our parish at the time, Gilbert traveled to visit the parish of St. James in Plaine du Nord and thus began a sister parish relationship with them. Initially, our efforts to support of the folks in Haiti consisted of taking up a special collection each month which was sent to the parish in Haiti.

Dick Wildeman who served as pastor of our parish in the 1990's had a great love for the people in Haiti. He made many different trips to St. James Parish. He became good friends with the pastor, Fr. Tijwa, and in time invited him to come to St. Joe where a number of other people in the parish got to know him. We continued to support the parish through our monthly collections and several members of the parish travelled to Haiti on mission trips. Several more people became involved by sponsoring students in the parish grade school.

Our work in Haiti took a monumental leap in 2004. That was when several members of the parish travelled to Haiti. I was a part of this group. The late Denny Fehrenbacher, also a member



of the team, called our visit "a tropical getaway for \$1000. Denny was the son of Gilbert Fehrenbacher and he always remembered the impact that going to Haiti had on his dad. The needs in the parish were tremendous, almost overwhelming. The priests and sisters from Canada that had

been staffing the parish and operating the parish clinic were no longer able to do this work. There was a clinic, but no doctor and no medicines. The church needed a new roof and most of the teachers in the school were not getting paid. But we made a start by filling suitcases and duffel bags full of medicines worth over \$200,000.

Travel in Haiti is always an adventure. This trip was no exception. At one point we were loaded onto a small plane to fly from Pout au Primce to Cap Haitian. The medical supplies would make the plane too heavy. We took off and I looked out to see the pile of suitcases and duffel bags sitting there on the runway. We'll never see them again, I thought. But they showed up the next day.

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This one mission trip led to another and another and soon over one hundred fifty different people had gone on forty-three mission trips. It's been inspiring to see among this group, people who would not fly but chose to overcome this hesitation by flying with us to Haiti. And who would not be inspired by the couple who chose to spend their 50th wedding anniversary on a mission trip!

We were able to provide money to fix the church roof (\$10,000) and then we were able to provide generators for the parish and the medical clinic. We started inviting more people to sponsor children in the school and those sponsorships grew from twenty people to now over two hundred children in our grade school and high school and forty students who are attending university. Many of you have been part of this and have developed long term relationships with the students you sponsored.

We've worked to provide food so that the children could have at least one meal a day when they came to school. At one point we collected and sent all sorts of containers of peanut butter which was used to supplement the school lunches. Most recently we have worked with Dr. Leo, a local physician who is also operating a fish farm to help provide food for these school lunches.



We worked to help provide clean drinking water for the community and in the process we learned a lot about dealing with the different challenges with sanitation efforts in the community. We learned about digging wells and how best to filter water so that it was free of cholera. Over the years we've spent considerable efforts learning about the best way to provide a reliable source of power for the community. That led us to learn lots of things about solar power.

We've had other people work with individuals building a business that could provide them with income. Raising chickens and growing peanuts are just examples of this work. And we worked to revive the sewing school which taught people how to make a living sewing and selling clothes. We tried to do what we could to respond to the devastating effects of the earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010 and the cholera epidemic that followed this.

Twenty years ago our support of our brothers and sisters in Haiti, while valuable and important, was fairly minimal, especially from a financial perspective. In the last eighteen years that has changed considerably. Where once we were sending \$8,000-\$12,000 to Haiti through our monthly collection, last year



we raised and spent over \$223,000 on various projects. And there have been considerable in-kind donations of material, sewing machines, medical equipment and medicines. In 2004, I was worried about how we would be able to come up with \$10,000 to repair a church roof. Now, eighteen years

later, with your support, we have raised over \$2.5 million dollars for Haiti. All along, we have had other people from other Catholic parishes in our area join in our efforts. And we have been blessed with people whose only connection with us came because

they knew someone who went on one of our Haiti Mission Trips. Their financial resources as well as their individual skills have been instrumental in the work that we have been able to do.

Through the years we have learned many good things. First and foremost, we got to know many great folks from Haiti and have developed lasting friendships with them. Our job is not to "fix" things for them, but to walk with them and help them in the ways we can. The people of Haiti are remarkably resilient. Living in the midst of poverty and deprivation that few of us can fully appreciate, has enabled them to do things we would find almost impossible. Watching them install a new metal roof on the church with only a machete to cut and fabricate the metal, was just one example the remarkable ingenuity.



We have come to learn that things in Haiti take time. Nothing happens easily or quickly. Fixing something here might require going to the local hardware store and getting the materials and then completing the project. That doesn't happen in Haiti. Many of the projects we have worked on have taken years to show any results. But little by little good things have happened. We've been especially inspired by our work with our friend, Dr. Eugene Mackland. He's a young doctor who has built New Hope Hospital near Plaine du Nord. That incredible achievement is nothing short of a miracle. And most recently we've been able to secure the majority of the funding needed to build and equip a computer lab for the students in our school. We're hoping that we can raise the remaining money needed through our Hearts and Hands for Haiti celebration this May.

Working with our brothers and sisters has taught us how important it is for us to first try to walk in their shoes and learn what it is like to live with daily inconveniences that we would rarely tolerate. Things like having a reliable source of electricity, or the benefits of a functioning toilet, or roads that are not filled with potholes big enough to hide in. As one person so wisely told us, "you have to be willing to experience all the limitations they face every day and then decide how much you want to walk with them and help them."

But here's the great thing. When someone takes the time to sponsor a student in school or in our sewing program, they become aware of a particular person—a person who has a name and whose picture they have. And they know something about their family and their hopes and dream. And so, the folks in Haiti are not just "them" but Jacquelyn, or Alain, or Claret, or Dubois. And because we know individual people, there are much harder to dismiss. And perhaps knowing these individual people can open our hearts so that we begin to ask bigger questions. And perhaps the biggest question of all is "how am I supposed to live when I have much in my life, and others are just trying to find enough to eat for a day?" It helps us recall the words spoken by St. Pope Paul VI, "live simply so that others may simply live."

In the end we find strength in the words that St. Paul told the people of Galatia: *Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all*" (Gal. 6:9-10).



# HAITI MINISTRY REPORT

We were not able to make any mission trips since June 2021, due somewhat to the ongoing covid pandemic, but mostly due to the civil unrest in the country. You may have heard about many terrible things that ravished Haiti this year. In June covid infections started to spike and there were not any vaccines administered in the country yet. Less than 1% of the population has been vaccinated. On July 7, 2021 Haiti's president was assassinated causing an already corrupt government to spiral further out of control. On August 14, 2021 a 7.2 magnitude earthquake devastated the southern part of Haiti which has yet to recover from the earthquake that occurred in 2010.



Chad Martin visiting with Fr. Dubois in his vegetable garden, around Plaine du Nord has been relatively free from this kind of violence.

At the end of October, groups of people started blocking the fuel terminals in attempt to force the acting Prime Minister to step down. This has caused a fuel shortage across the country driving prices to \$25 per gallon for those who could afford it and had access to it. This fuel shortage has caused a huge disruption in the food distribution across a country that already has one of the highest levels of food insecurities in the world. So basically, the country is starving.



CJ Martin visiting with Dr. Leo at his fish farm.

Even with all these things happening in Haiti, the Haitian people still remain strong in their faith. It is amazing to witness just how strong their faith is. While we were not able to go on any mission trips, we have stayed in close contact with our brothers and sisters in Plaine du Nord through email and social media. We have continued to work with them through these challenging times and will continue to do so thanks to all the support from sponsors and other donors that have a Heart for Haiti.

Here are some of the things we managed to do. Diane,

Chad, Alison, Avery and CJ Martin were able to visit with our friends in June of 2021. They met with Fr. Dubois, the pastor of St. James Parish. He is a great leader for the community. We were able to visit the vegetable gardens he has started where he has grown all sorts of fruits and vegetables for the community. We filled up the back of his truck, with mangos, coconuts, plantains, and bananas, all of which he shares with the community.

We're continuing our support of the students at St. James Grade School and High School and we were able to meet with some of our university students who are pursuing advanced degrees.



Visiting with the school children on our last mission trip.

We also met with Dr. Leo who has been establishing a fish farm to raise fish. Since we have helped Dr. Leo repair and restore many of the concrete tanks he is using to raise fish, some of this fish is now being used to supplement the school lunches at St. James grade school and high school. The type of tilapia currently in the pond are black tilapia and they have a slower growth rate than anticipated. A new pond much larger than the others was constructed after the trip. Dr. Leo is going to stock this pond and a few others with red tilapia. He is working on locating red tilapia at this time and hopes to have them at the farm soon. This project has not only provided some fish for the children, but it also provided many construction jobs where jobs are scarce.

We have also continued to work with our friend, Dr. Maklin



Newly constructed kitchen and parish staff housing quarters. Second floor is the new dormitory for mission team members.



at New Hope Hospital. We got to tour the hospital and see the addition of the Simon Riordan Dorms and see rehabilitation and other equipment that we sent in the shipment last spring.

For anyone that has visited St Jacques, you may remember the dilapidated building behind the rectory where the cooks and the parish maintenance man lived. In addition to being little more than a shack, heavy rains would easily flood the structure. Jim Riordan and Cory Mills coordinated an effort to construct a new cooks' quarters and dormitory that future mission teams will be able to use. The new building has bedrooms and restroom on the main floor for the cooks, a deacon, parish property manager. On the second floor there are two 2 dormitory rooms with 6 beds in each room with a shared restroom. A great thing about this project is the fact that Fritzman Daniels, one of the students that we helped support through school, was the contractor on this project. Based on all the photos we have, his crew has done a fantastic job. Fritzman is a great example of what our mission is about.

We have been working for several years to build a computer lab that the students in our school can use. Fr. Dubois, considers this objective as a key need for the school and parish. After we met, we learned that we can use the computer lab to solve two problems if we construct the computer lab on the second floor of the high school (College St. Pierre - CSP). By locating the lab on the second floor of the school we will finally have a location that our pastor and school administration support and at the same time eliminate the leaking roof problem at the high school. Fr. Dubois has selected the civil engineer who teaches at CSP to oversee the design and development of the construction budget for the project. We are hoping that a suitable construction plan be developed so that the reconstruction at the school can take place this summer break.

The parish medical clinic is in need of a new roof and the generator was needing repairs, but may have been fixed by now. It is crucial for the community to have a clinic that functions to take care of the people in town and the students at St. Jacques.

We have great news to share about Esther's home. As you may recall from last summer's newsletter that Esther is a cook who works at the elementary school. She lives in one of the most dilapidated homes in Plaine du Nord and had been identi-



fied by the parish council as one of the two neediest members of St. Jacques parish. We have finally been able to find and purchase a lot for her home. We have the purchase agreement executed, the survey complete and we are just waiting for the deed to be prepared. We have a construction agreement in place that will allow us to start construction on her home as soon as the deed is executed.

Another part of the good news is that several generous friends of Esther and Haiti supporters have donated the needed funds to purchase the lot and the full cost of construction, so no general Haiti funds were used for this project. We have been trying to make this special project possible for many years and things have finally come together. Esther will get to move from a dilapidated abode with leaking roofs made up of scrap pieces of tin, tattered tarps, plastic bags, etc. with walls that barely stand and an old moldy bed sitting on concrete blocks into a new three bedroom home for her, her son, and three grandchildren. Her new home will include beds and other furniture. This will be a blessing



Esther, the elementary school cook and a picture of the kind of house that we are building for her.

for a sweet woman who goes to Mass daily and who has always welcomed our visiting team members with a smile and great bear hugs. Thanks to all the individual donors who have made this new home a possibility.

The Solar System at the Parish continues to work well providing sufficient electricity for the parish complex. Thank God this system was installed and running, because this summer gas and diesel spiked to over \$20 a gallon which would have been a major cost to run the parish on the old generator.

It has been 2 ½ years since we began the restructuring of our sewing trade school at St. Jacques - Sewing Hope. Monie Sisel has done some tremendous work, coordinating this effort. In May, 2021, we hired Mr. Pascal Prevoir as our primary sewing instructor. After having him teach for 6 weeks during what normally would have been summer break, we officially began the 2021-22 school year in September with 12 1st year and 8 2nd year students. Students are doing well under Pascal's direction -- fully



Visiting a family at their home.



New Hope Hospital Complex

(Continued on page 8)



**HAITI MINISTRY REPORT (cont)***(Continued from page 7)*

engaged and making great progress as they have moved into the 2nd semester. We were also able to make improvements to the classroom during the August break - tile flooring was laid (which was very much needed), screens were installed on the windows to cut down on dust, and new chairs were shipped with our 2021 spring shipment. They have also been able to tap into the solar power system that was installed in 2020, now having lights and using a couple of electric machines that were donated. Overall, we've made great strides in providing a marketable trade to these students as well as providing salaries to two full-time and one part-time teacher and a part-time coordinator. Although classes have continuously been interrupted over the last 2 years - political unrest, covid, kidnappings, political unrest, flooding, a gas shortage, and political unrest - our students and instructors continue to persevere and move forward. The hope and resilience of the people of Haiti is admirable - they have much to teach us! With a "hand up", perhaps this generation will see a turning point in their country. We are so thankful to our Sewing Hope sponsors and donors! You are providing the "hand up" that these students need. Having an education and learning a trade will change their lives! Please continue to pray for them and their families.

If you would like more information about Sewing Hope or how you can get involved, please don't hesitate to contact Monie Siscel at [moniesiscel@wowway.com](mailto:moniesiscel@wowway.com) or 812.575.9167. We always need fabric and sewing supplies, and we still have students available to sponsor.

# CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE

Applying the teachings of Jesus Christ for the betterment of rural America

There was a time when our parish was primarily a rural parish with most of its members living and working on farms. Now we have only a few people who are still involved in farming. But we are all still connected to the land and we need to live in harmony with the world around us. Farmers and consumers need to be in solidarity. We need to once again know and understand who we are as a people of God.

All of us can help steward the landscape by an *ethics of eating*. We should choose those foods that are grown and processed in a responsible, sustainable and just way. Once we grow or produce the kinds of foods that are good for the earth, then we can eat and share what is good to grow. By our ethical food choices, we can shape the countryside in a sustainable way for all. Eating is a moral act!

Let us seek God's guidance in finding ways to better utilize the goods of the earth that farming can become more sustainable for all who find their vocation on the land.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY CONFIRMED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

Front Row (l to r) Lillian Traylor, Katelyn Bishop, Brylee Delano, Kylie Frey, Lily Smith, Sophia Stewart, Sierra Heldt, Jenna Thacker Back Row (l to r) Easton Luigs, Connor Frey, Landon Smith, Josh Fenwick, Aiden Waller, Adam Feulner, Thomas Nisley, Ben Gries



## MISSION OUTREACH



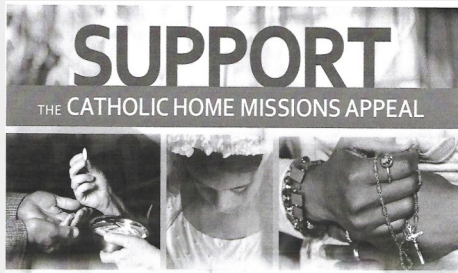
Be an island of mercy in  
a sea of indifference.

*Pope Francis*

Not all of us can do great things,  
but we can do small things with great  
love. *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

### THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL COLLECTION THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

This month we are invited to join with our brothers and sisters throughout the United States in supporting a special collection for mission parishes in the United States and its Pacific and Caribbean dependencies. This appeal strengthens the Church at home by supporting Catholic communities in need. It assists dioceses that serve the pastoral needs of Hispanics and other ethnic groups. It enables Catholic parishes in poor and remote communities to provide Mass, the sacraments and religious education for their people. Once again we have a chance to respond to God's call to love our neighbor. Please be as generous as you can. Get more information on line at [www.usccb.org/hm/](http://www.usccb.org/hm/)



Do you enjoy fresh, chemical-free produce? If so, Seton Harvest, a community-supported agricultural initiative sponsored by the Daughters of Charity, would like to invite you to become a shareholder in our Certified Naturally Grown vegetable farm. For more

information, contact Julie Dietz, Community Outreach Manager, at 812.963.7692 or [Julie.Dietz@doc.org](mailto:Julie.Dietz@doc.org),

This certified Naturally Grown farm uses the land in a just and environmentally conscious way by sharing locally grown food with shareholders and persons who are financially poor and hungry in our community.

In the past, in a year's time, Seton Harvest harvested 44,284 pounds of produce with 8,877 pounds of produce donated to many shelters, food banks, and church pantries. A portion of each week's harvest goes directly to nearly a dozen different charities serving the poor and hungry including:

- Ozanam Family Shelter
- St. Vincent Day Care
- Evansville Christian Life Center
- Many others

Since our first growing season in 2006, Seton Harvest has donated more than 111,640 pounds of fresh, naturally grown produce. To find out more at Seton Harvest visit their website at [www.setonharvest.org](http://www.setonharvest.org)

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS April 30, 2022--May 22, 2022

As we continue to navigate through this coronavirus pandemic, the liturgical ministers we need for our weekend Masses are limited to our lectors and one Eucharistic minister.

Saturday April 30, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Toni Askins
Sunday May 1, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Marcia Frey
Sunday May 1, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Jane Scheller
Saturday, May 7, 2022 5 pm	Volunteer	Mike Reffett
Sunday May 8, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Tom Folz
Sunday May 8, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Aleliah Nisley
May 14, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Sis Jarboe,
May 15, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Tom Blythe
May 15, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Shane Wessel
May 21, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Toni Askins
May 22, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Chick Duncan
May 22, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Jane Scheller



### Diocesan policy: Report and inform

The Diocese of Evansville has in place a policy that requires that any allegation of child abuse must be reported to civil authorities. If an allegation involves the sexual abuse of a minor by diocesan personnel, the Victims Assistance Coordinator must also be informed. Report child abuse

Every allegation of child abuse must be reported to Child Protection Services, an agency of Indiana state government.  
CPS Toll-free: (800) 800-5556 Local law enforcement: 9-1-1

### Report and inform

In the event of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor (a person under 18) by diocesan personnel, report the allegation to authorities, and inform the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the diocese: Toll-free: (866) 200-3004 Local: (812) 490-9565



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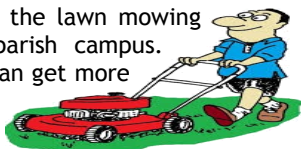


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**Ms. Kristan Gilles—Director of Liturgy/ Music**  
E-mail [kgilles@evo.org](mailto:kgilles@evo.org)  
**Mr. Nathan Winstead—Principal**  
E-mail [nwinstead@evdio.org](mailto:nwinstead@evdio.org)  
**Mrs. Julie Kempf—Secretary**  
E-mail [jkempf@evdio.org](mailto:jkempf@evdio.org)  
**Mrs. Jessica Reckelhoff**  
E-mail [jreckelhoff#@evdio.org](mailto:jreckelhoff#@evdio.org)  
Coordinator of Religious Education

**WEEKEND MASSES:**  
Saturday 5pm Sunday 8 and 10 am

## IT'S LAWN MOWING TIME

It's time to start planning for the lawn mowing season for our cemetery and parish campus. We have five crews (more if we can get more people) who mow the lawn each Thursday on a rotating basis—once every five weeks. We provide all the equipment and refreshments for the workers! Each year we need to replace some crew members who are unable to continue. Call the parish office (812-963-3273) or Mark Schmitt (812-963-9186).



### HELP US GET THE CEMETERY READY FOR THE LAWN MOWING SEASON

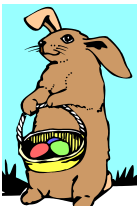
To help us get ready for our lawn mowing season, we ask that you remove any decorations around your cemetery tombstones that might get in the way of our lawn mowing crews. Remember that flowers and plaques must be attached securely to the tombstone or flower vases. Shepherd's crooks, statues, balloons, and the like are not permitted as they are a hazard to our mowing crews.

Thanks for your help in keeping our cemetery a place of honor as well as a safe place for our lawn mowing crews.

## EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY

**APRIL 4 at 10 am Rain or Shine**

**PRIZES, CANDY AND A SPECIAL  
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812-963-3335



St. Joseph School  
Vanderburgh County



# RUMMAGE SALE

....is on for June 10-11. We are inviting you to save your gently used items for the rummage sale. More information to be coming in the weeks ahead. Got any suggestions or questions? Contact Imogene (812) 963-5221. Thanks for your continued support!

**COMING FRIDAY JUNE 10--SATURDAY JUNE 11**