

Haiti Medical Mission #4

The Holy Family Cluster, which includes St. John Parish of Clarion; Sacred Heart of Eagle Grove; & St. Francis Xavier of Belmond, recently completed Medical Mission #4 to Sister Parish, Our Lady of the Assumption, located in Anse Rouge, Haiti. Team included: Dr. / Deacon Mike & Pam Whitters, Monica Staudt, Monica Siemens, Deacon Jerry Temeyer, Perry Brown, Mickey Cooper & daughters, Kate Legvold & Leslie Cooper, Louis Shriver, Dr. Tim Nagel & daughter Clare. Many positive changes were seen, including better roads & people appeared healthier & better nourished.

Special Thanks to the Whitters & Tew families for hosting & caring for Adianninie (a 15 year old native, needing several surgeries in Rochester, Mn) We are also grateful to "Healing the Children" & Mayo Clinic for their donations & care. She returned home with us. "One of our most joyful & emotionally draining moments was when we returned Adianninie to her parents—Allot of crying & joy sitting in their 3 room hut/home sharing her surgery & faith in Iowa for 5+ months." Dr./Deacon Mike & Pam Whitters

"Our sewing trade school started last fall & 28 young ladies were SEW excited to show their embroidery work & soon using the 13 treadles. 100 handmade dolls were distributed to the preschoolers, & the older children will each receive a doll via sea container. We have 685 students in our 5 schools this year! Imagine, we started by taking 9 dolls last year, & now have collected over 800! People are amazing & generous. Dolls arriving from Oregon to Pennsylvania, even United Kingdom, New Zealand & Canada, Thanks to www.DollyDonations.org. We also handed out numerous dresses, Tshirts & handbags, that were decorated in Memory of Aaron Eilerts, a teenage boyscout that was killed in a tornado a few years ago. We have so much to be Thankful for", Monica Staudt

We were delighted to have 2 teenagers join the team. "Uniting with my brothers and sisters in Christ, and actually seeing the change we are making. " Student Leslie Cooper

Playing soccer (and got beat!) with the little kids, + the language barrier, until I said ninja. Next thing I know, they are chanting "Ninya, Ninya, Ninya!" Student Louie Shriver

Little smiling faces, Innocent, not knowing how little they have, and curious of us in so many ways. Perry Brown

After my 3rd trip to Haiti, I was delighted to see donated items from years past being used appreciated. It made me feel more connected. I also felt we were uniting with old friends, seeing & recognizing many of the parishioners. We are very Blessed to have this experience. Kate (Cooper) Legvold

Most memorable moments by Monica Siemens: My 124 yr. Old female patient—only complaint knee pain! Positive changes in Country; Uplifting, joyful Masses; Trip back to Port Au Prince & airport--a riot broke out, and roads were blocked in many places, making travel impassible. Many UN & police officials with rifles & gear.

On my morning runs, so many people smiling & saying “Bonjour” and the barefoot young man, carrying his fishing gear running along my side. Slow improvements in this community—a few streets now paved & a few solar powered street lights! Knowing that Clare gave up her eyeglasses, & Mike & Perry gave up their inhalers to help others. Dr. Tim Nagel

I've been to other 3rd world countries, & am inspired to live with what you have. I enjoyed being the optical technician, giving over 300 pairs away. We're trying to change their lives, Sharing Faith, Hope, Love. Clare Nagel

The night we were to leave for the trip, my daughter and I went to the pharmacy to make prescription cards for the doctors. I reviewed my list of drugs. Last year we rarely used antibiotics, so I did not choose to take as many this year. As I stood there and looked at my inventory, I decided to grab 5 bottles of Azithromycin liquid. On our second clinic, Dr. Whitters wrote a prescription card for Azithromycin for this lethargic child who had major lung problems. I thought - man I am so glad I packed that! Later he shared with me that they had prayed over the child as he was concerned that possibly the child would not make it. Just a reminder of why we are there- our FAITH with the help of the HOLY SPIRIT to guide us. Mickey Cooper, Pharmacist

The team spends a lot of time preparing packets of medicine for distribution in the dark so we use a variety of light sources. "You light up my life" is such a great way to express all the support we receive; prayers, donations, volunteering

time & talent. The team's unity, faith, and love and joy! May God Bless You All!
Deacon Jerry Temeyer

This Special Bond with “Parish Twinning of the Americas” and our Sister Parish began in 2003 & continues to grow. Each of us donate all expenses & Love sharing with our Brothers & Sisters in Christ. We all truly feel Blessed to share our gifts with Haiti. For more information, feel free to contact Holy Family Cluster or team members.