

Haiti Project

I am the vine, you are the branches.



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News from St. Marc's Parish



Pere Jean Lenord and Madam Fifi with Laurie and Laura in January.

Pere Jean Lenord Quartorze is the Priest of St. Marc's Parish. He understands that the abundant power of God's love to feed hungry hearts does not preclude the need to physically nourish hungry bodies. In fact, Pere often quotes from Matthew 25: reminding us "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Pere Lenord looks out for people in his community who are at the margins and looks for ways to hold them up – nourishing their hearts with hope and their lives with paths to opportunity.

St. Marc's School and Community

When addressing the school budget at St. Marc's last year, Pere Lenord made the difficult decision to embrace the community's desire for a 12th grade class for the Secondary School. This choice was made instead of increasing salaries for all the teachers at the school. He recognized that not all the students were interested in pursuing farming as adults. Many expressed interest in studying other subjects. The expansion of the Secondary School also has social benefits as well, allowing students to remain with their families rather than travel to another community. In addition, Pere continues to seek ways to open avenues of opportunity for the people of Jeannette:

- Exploring micro-loans for female-headed households;
- Gathering equipment for technology education in high school;
- Exploring Trade School options for students and adults interested in learning a trade.



Haiti Project Chair, Ann Brophy, pictured with Pere Lenord and John Meacham.

Haiti Project

We are grateful for the teamwork of Ann Brophy and Mary Alice Eschweiler. Ann has served as Chair of the Haiti Project for 9 years and Mary Alice plans trips for missionaries as well as travels to speak at parishes in the Diocese. Together, they support the ministry of Pere Lenord through weekly communication and prayer, as well as provide guidance to Heidi Ropa, the Haiti Project Coordinator.

Please keep Pere Lenord, Fifi, his wife, and Laura and Laurie, their twin daughters, in your prayers as they serve the people of Jeannette.

A Relationship Began on the Mountain Top in 1988: Crista Dawson Becker and Margarett Reunite After 23 years



Crista Dawson Becker and Margarett

One late afternoon, before evening prayer, Crista (14) and her mother, Diane Dawson, were walking along a red earth path through the Haitian countryside with a group of missionaries from Wisconsin, including Bishop Roger White. They came upon a very thin elderly woman leaning against a crude wooden hoe. Next to the woman, stood a small girl dressed in rags. After the group engaged the woman in pleasantries, Bishop White asked her what she needed most in life. She placed one hand on her stomach and the other on the stomach of the little girl – they needed food. Then, motioning toward the girl, she said she wanted her to be baptized and to get a school uniform so her granddaughter could attend the school on the mountain. (At that time, baptism and money for a uniform were required for school attendance). Roger said, “Well I can see to it that she gets baptized!”

Later, during the intercessions at Evening Prayer, the group sat in a circle outside Pere Lafontant’s home. Pere Lafontant was the Haitian priest in the village. (Pere means Father) During a moment of silence, Crista piped up and exclaimed, “Bishop can baptize Margarett (the name of the little girl), and Mom, we can pay for her uniform and whatever she needs to go to school.” Thus, the sponsorship program was born.

The story was just beginning. Margarett was baptized by Pere Lafontant and was sponsored by the Dawson family so she could attend school. Her Grandmother died, leaving Margarett to live with her Uncle and his large family. Margarett was assigned the hardest chores and often did not make it to school every day. It took her a long time to get through school and graduate from St. Marc’s. She was watched over by every priest assigned to the mountain, as well as the RN of the health clinic and, of course, the ever compassionate and intuitive, Eloi. Eloi has been key to the administration of the school since its inception. They made sure Margarett was fed, received clothing and shoes. Through continued support from those who cared for her, Margarett was able to continue her education after graduation and was certified as a nurse. She now serves the St. Marc’s Health Clinic. In August of this year, Margarett will be married.

Spiritual Focus of Sponsorship by Diane Dawson

The Haiti Project’s sponsorship program has grown into a beautiful, life-giving ministry which is truly reciprocal when entered into as a ministry. The most profound lesson for me has been how the children, the students, know that they have a sponsor and this is very meaningful for them. After the 2010 earthquake, the very first words we heard from the mountaintop were NOT what had been lost, or devastated, or how frightened the people were. What they said was, how thankful to God they were that things had not been worse, and how thankful they were to have us as Brothers and Sisters in solidarity with them, and praying for them! THAT is what mattered to them during those first horrific days after the quake. It is about Christ-centered relationship and those children feel and know this.



*Crista and Margarett visiting
after church*

Thanks to many, many generous sponsors like you, the sponsorship program is the backbone of a wonderful Mission, born through the love of Christ. Due to the faithful work of a holy Haitian Priest, Pere Octave Lafonant, now deceased, and the tireless efforts of many in the Diocese of Milwaukee, Eau Claire, and more recently, St. Michael’s in Illinois, St. Marc’s School can fulfill its mission of educating children and adolescents in Jeannette to grow into their full potential.

Thank you for a successful Lenten Appeal led by Bishop Steven Miller

On behalf of the students at St. Marc's school, thank you for your generosity during the Lenten Appeal. While the gifts are not yet totaled and donations continue to flow in, there has been a tremendous outpouring of support for the school. Our need to be faithful and to share what we have in order to open paths of opportunity for our Haitian brothers and sisters was acknowledged through this season. This comes at a critical time as the number of students at St. Marc's has reached over 550 and 13th grade – the final year of school will be added for the high school next fall. Mesi (Thank you in Creole).



A Preventative Approach Through Dental Hygiene Education



Dr. Paul Scholl and Dr. Brice saw 188 dental patients for 3 days in January. They pulled 629 teeth.

January Trip

For the past several years, health care missionaries have traveled to Jeannette, Haiti to provide patient care and education. (In the past, Cuban and Haitian doctors have staffed the Clinic intermittently, however, in recent years; the funding for their work has diminished). Well-versed in tropical disease, nurses at St. Marc's Clinic teach health care providers from Wisconsin about the ailments they see in this rural area of Haiti as well as ways of being resourceful with limited equipment. Likewise, the American doctors, dentists and nurses share about new medicines and approaches to care.

It is a team effort, best exemplified by the involvement of the Haitian dentist, Dr. Brice who joins their mission each year. Dr. Brice brings an understanding of the language and culture to the health education effort. The Haiti Project is

proud to support his work with this outstanding team of professionals.

In January, Dr. Paul Scholl and Dr. Brice saw 188 patients in 3 days – pulling 629 teeth. Like other organizations working to advance the mission of Haitian health practitioners, volunteers with the Haiti Project, identified the need for preventative care and education as priority.

March Trip

Thanks to the Northwest District Dental Society, Chippewa Valley Dental Society, Tess Oral Health and Colgate, children of Jeanette of Haiti are on their way to healthier smiles. With the help of Monica Gagnon, RN, and a very enthusiastic interpreter, Nellisse, Sheri Vandelaar, RDH, administered 100 fluoride varnish treatments. This represents all the 1st and 2nd graders attending St. Marc' School.



March trip participant, Shari Vandehaar, Dental Hygienist, of Chippewa Family Dental, Administered Fluoride Varnish Treatments to 1st and 2nd Grade Students

Sheri Vandehaar also delivered toothbrushes along with personal oral hygiene instruction to grades 1-6. In addition, toothbrushes were given to the high school teachers for distribution. A protocol was put in place involving the school administrator, Eloi, clinic nurse, Margarete, and teachers to treat the first and second grade class with fluoride again before school is dismissed for the summer. Thanks to the generosity of the aforementioned contributors, next year's incoming first grade class can also be treated and new toothbrushes will be distributed. Sheri Vandehaar RDH, cannot wait to see those smiles again! She is practicing Haitian Creole for her next trip.



Kids Sharing Haiti

When Julia Hutchinson's 6th grade teacher introduced a persuasive speech assignment last fall, there was no doubt in Julia's mind what her subject would be. Since Julia was a little girl, growing up at St. Andrew's church, she has known about the Haiti Project and the importance of education for children living in rural Haiti. Her passion for Haiti grew as she researched how many people lack access to clean water and the challenges to health this causes. When her teacher sweetened the pot with an offer to donate money from a collection in class to

the most persuasive speech, Julia rose to the challenge crafting a memorable I-movie incorporating pictures from Jeannette and information she gathered in her research. She inspired her faith community by sharing her I-movie during an adult forum at St. Andrew's in March. Julia is already planning to travel to Haiti when she reaches high school.



St. Michael's Barrington, IL Bridges Sunday School class baking pretzels for their Lenten sale raising enough money for 6 student sponsorships at St. Marc's School.



People in Haiti have to carry their water a long way home. These kids are trying to imagine what that is like for kids in Haiti.

Creative Ways to Share Haiti: Christ Church, Whitefish Bay
Ira Leidel is no stranger to the importance of education in a developing nation. In the 1990's she traveled to Uganda representing the Eastern Diocese of Michigan. Upon her return, she began to chair a Companion Relationship Committee which provided scholarships for girls in a Secondary School in Uganda. She understands the way we relate to another's situation in life is through entering their language, their culture and their daily life challenges. Through her imaginative, intergenerational approach to raising awareness, Ira inspired her congregation of Christ Church Whitefish Bay to identify with the need for water in the community of Jeannette. This church on Lake Michigan raised close to \$4,000 for the cistern repair at St. Marc's School last year.



French lessons



Learning Haitian art

Sponsor outreach:

- Our goal is to improve communication.
- Photos of students have been mailed, please contact Heidi to let her know if you have not heard from us.
- If you would like to sponsor a student, or have not renewed your sponsorship, go to <http://www.haitiproject.org/donate.html>
- New website will launch soon under same name!



Our Mission

The Haiti Project is an Outreach Ministry of the Episcopal Dioceses of Milwaukee. We work in partnership with others from all walks of life who share the belief that education, clean water, access to medicine, and compassion are basic human necessities.

Join us. [Let us know](#) you're interested.

Keep informed: [Join our email newsletter](#) - Just 6 times a year. Topics include fighting hunger and poverty, clean drinking water, economic development, medical treatment and education in Haiti.

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