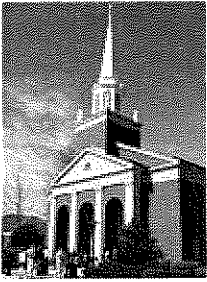


Haiti Outreach

Newsletter published by the Haiti committee of St. Ann about our sister parish St. Claire in Dessalines, Haiti
"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?" James 2:14

May 2011



St. Ann Parish
Hagerstown, MD



St. Claire Parish
Dessalines, Haiti



Our Littlest Angels attending school at Claire Lumiere school in Dessalines and eating at St Francis school in the chapel of Fabias



Littlest Angels Campaign

The annual program of St. Ann to feed the younger school children of St. Claire parish. We are very close to our goal of feeding 723 children this year.

Haiti Update

Successful and peaceful elections result in a surprise president and great hope for the future.

Summer Camp 2011: July 15-23

Lead by a team of adults and teenagers from St. Ann, this camp is for the older children of St. Claire parish, ages 7 to 11. This is the third consecutive year for camp.

Visit by Fr. Dessalines

The pastor of St. Claire visited St Ann March 31 to April 5 and participated in the life of our parish. He also spent time at St. Maria Goretti High School.

Shipment to Haiti

Thank you to all who donated items for the shipment to Haiti. There is still time to donate eyeglasses and children's chewable vitamins. The wish list also includes an LCD projector for teaching in the new computer lab at Claire Lumiere school.

Littlest Angels by Ralph Parchment

This year marks the 5th anniversary of St. Ann's Littlest Angels program. The "Littlest Angels" are the 3-5 year old school children who attend preschool through kindergarten at the 3 schools of our sister parish in Haiti: St. Maria Goretti in Haute-Feuille, St. Francis of Assisi in Fabias and Claire Lumiere in Dessalines. These schools are located within very poor communities where children suffer from hunger and malnutrition. St. Ann's Littlest Angels program provides midday meals for these children on school days, using produce purchased from local farmers. The meals not only address nutritional needs, but also directly improve the ability of the students to focus on learning rather than hunger while at school. As we have done since 2007, Lent is our traditional time to focus on funding this ministry for the next school year via the Littlest Angels campaign. We use the special envelopes marked "Littlest Angels" to donate during mass as well as during the Soup Suppers of Lent. Last year, St. Ann raised \$42,500 for Fr. Dessalines to use in directly administering this program. Our sponsorships allowed Fr. Dessalines to provide lunches to all the younger students, despite the unexpected increase in enrollment due to the relocation of families from Port-au-Prince to St. Claire after the January earthquake. Enrollment in the preschool program has increased each year due to its reputation. Our goal this year is to fund the midday meals for an expected enrollment of 750 students during the next academic year. As of last weekend, we raised funds to feed 625 of those children. The Littlest Angels campaign will continue through Pentecost. Envelopes are available at the exits of the church and in the office. We will keep you updated on progress. **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS MINISTRY!**

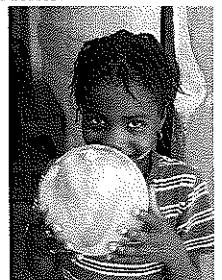
Haiti Update: Change on the Horizon and Progress in Dessalines

Haiti just completed a peaceful and orderly election for its new President. In a runoff election, the people elected a new face named Michel Martelly, who does not have the ties or allegiances to the powerful families or the previous administrations that have historically led to government corruption and mismanagement.

At the local level, the people of Dessalines elected an official who is a parishioner of St. Claire and who is fair minded and highly respected in the community. During this period of transition to the new government, Fr. Dessalines secured funding to repair the historical St. Claire church building, the central church where parishioners from the center and all the outlying chapel communities congregate for high Masses.

Fr. Dessalines' leadership in creating educational opportunities for the youth and adults of Dessalines continues to bear much fruit. A new networked computer lab with internet access has opened in the main school, Claire Lumiere, to teach computer skills to the students.

During the past year, a building has been constructed to house the new Trade School which is located across the street from Claire Lumiere school. The Trade School will provide an alternative to high school and will teach classes for students to become certified auto mechanics, plumbers and electricians. Fr. Dessalines plans for the auto mechanics program to have a garage where the students can repair vehicles for the northern part of the diocese of Gonaives and generate income for the community. Lower performance computers will be used in the Trade School to teach computer literacy and more basic skills. In addition, Fr. Dessalines has realized that many parents are very interested in learning in parallel with their children. In response to this interest in a country where over 50% of the adult population is illiterate, he has organized an adult literacy program at the Trade School. Education is becoming ever more central to the St. Claire community as a result of Fr. Dessalines's insights and initiatives.



2011 Haiti Summer Camp

Meet the youth from St. Ann who will participate in the July 15-23 camp

Since 2009, a group of teens and adults from St Ann's has traveled to Haiti to lead a camp for about 100 school children from the 3 schools of St. Claire. The group from St. Ann works side by side with the Haitian young adult counselors. This year, 4 adults and 4 youth will help with summer camp from July 15th through July 23rd. For all people who have helped with the summer camp in the past, it has been a life-changing experience.

Meet this year's teen camp counselors:

Nate Parchment, 16: "The Littlest Angels campaign has inspired me to go to Haiti and see a different way of life where many children don't have things that are not necessities. St. Ann has donated soccer balls and other playthings for kids to use, which has motivated me to go and help at summer camp. When I come back, I am sure the experience will make me much more thankful for what I have."

Cody Harmon, 19: "I feel blessed to be a part of the St. Ann community. I am thankful for all that the church has given me. I am excited to experience the Haitian people and to get a better idea of the needs of St. Claire."

Nick Brandt, 16: "...I have never experienced the excitement of traveling to a needy nation to help out. I have heard so much from my sister who has traveled with St. Ann the past couple summers to Haiti about the amazing people and experiences there."

Alyssa Brandt, 17: "...When I first traveled to Haiti in the summer of 2009 I learned to appreciate all of my blessings and was taught how to live with zealous spirit for the beautiful life God has given me. After returning in 2010, I solidified my decision to study pre-medicine and, after medical school, return to Haiti to serve as a doctor. I am returning this summer to serve in any way I can."



Memories of summer camps in 2009 and 2010

Welcome Father! *by Emily Sodano*

Father Marc-Edy Dessalines visited St. Ann the weekend of March 31 through April 5. On Friday, he made a presentation at St. Maria Goretti High School. Asked by the students what they might do for "Little Goretti", one of the chapel schools of St. Claire, he suggested playground equipment. The students and faculty quickly pulled together and collected over \$1,200.

On Friday evening, Father attended the Soup Supper. A planning meeting was also held for the hiring of an agricultural agent for St. Claire parish. Hoping to broaden the local farmers' education and productivity has been a goal of the Haiti committee for some time. Father Dessalines took home some written guidelines for recruiting a Haitian technician to fill this post. On Saturday, when the expected visiting priest for the 5:15 mass did not arrive, Father Dessalines celebrated the mass...in French! Following mass, a potluck supper was held in his honor.

On Sunday, Father concelebrated 3 masses. He was able to meet with parishioners after each mass and talked to our youth during LifeNight, comparing the typical day of a teen in Haiti and a US teen: quite a different life but the same dreams and concerns. . .

Monday was a day of rest and relaxation before the train trip to Brooklyn where Father visited the Haitian diaspora. Father Dessalines said that he felt very welcome and he thanks everyone for their hospitality.

May shipment and other needs

The Mortel Foundation will ship a container to Haiti in May. St. Ann has included a few boxes of supplies for St. Claire: we are sending soccer uniforms, school supplies, musical instruments, toothbrushes, toothpaste and religious artifacts. There is still time to donate eyeglasses and children's chewable vitamins. We are also looking for an LCD projector to use at camp and to leave for the computer lab. The travelers to Haiti in July will take those items with them. If you can donate any of those items, please drop them off at the parish office or email AgnesTS@aol.com



*Father Marty and Father Dessalines Father Dessalines at St. Claire on
concelebrate the Youth Mass at St. Ann Palm Sunday.*



Our Littlest Angels during their lunch time

Students at St. Claire during class

"Littlest Angels" prayer

"Lord, we have heard Your call to help the littlest children of St. Claire in Haiti. May they always have food to nourish their bodies and minds, health to keep them strong, love to care for one another and faith to survive their daily struggles. Jesus, keep these and all children close to Your heart. We thank You for the blessings You have given us. We ask that our prayers be heard for these most vulnerable angels of Yours.



In Haiti, **one out of 8 children** dies before his or her 5th birthday from preventable diseases compounded by malnutrition. To give those young children a fighting chance at a full and healthy life, the Littlest Angels nutrition program aims to feed 700 preschoolers and kindergartners daily in St. Claire schools. **Just \$50 will help feed a child for a whole school year.** To participate, please call the parish office at 301-733-0410.