

“...Christmas reveals the immense love of God for humanity. From that flows also the enthusiasm, the hope of us Christians, that in our poverty we know that we are loved, we are visited, accompanied by God...”



These words of Pope Francis help us to realize we are all connected because of God's great love for all of us.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Our Lord, let us use the gifts God gave us on the first Christmas: Faith, Hope, Love, and Charity. **Our ministry, the Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti (OTH),** knows these gifts well as we journey with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. While some of our friends and supporters have experienced the journey first-hand, many others have joined with us in spirit as we walk with our Haitian brothers and sisters regardless of faith and stations in life.

Our services are offered to all who come to us for aid, comfort and support. We have witnessed tribulations endured and seen hope shining forth in troubled times. We have discovered that we receive much more than we give. While our programs and services allow us to share our faith and let God's great love shine through us, Haitians have taught us the importance of and the need for hope. *“We belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.”* (Romans 12:5)



Mother and child visiting our health agents (Food and Nutritional Supplement Program.)

DIOCESE OF NORWICH
Outreach to Haiti

GIFTS
OF THE
SEASON



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DJ Doan Photography

GIFTS OF THE SEASON FOR HAITI

December 2021

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your love, faith, hope and support, our ministry continues to help the men, women, and children who live in the neighborhood we serve, Christ Roi (Christ the King) and in the approximately fourteen other neighborhoods within the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince whose parishes twin with parishes in the US.

Haiti has faced many serious challenges this past year including COVID variants, the assassination of their President, on-going political unrest, gang violence, a major earthquake, and devastating tropical storms. I continue to be amazed at the inner strength most Haitians possess and the inner joy that is so evident and can especially be seen in their indomitable spirit.

Our staff in Haiti show great fortitude and compassion as they assist those who may be poor economically but are rich in faith. As Haitians prepare to say goodbye to 2021 and look forward to welcoming 2022 with hope, they know the new year may bring much political instability. I hope you will remember them in your daily prayers and that you, too, will look for the joy that can be found in all of our lives.

Please know we are grateful for your support and hope you will continue to help meet the needs of our Haitian brothers and sisters. You and your loved ones will be in our prayers.

God bless you,

Susan

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Saving Lives and Renewing the Spirit

Our Medical Clinic, Food and Nutritional Supplements Program, and Community Outreach Healthcare Services reflect God's love and bring hope to us all. When a mother seeks nutritional supplements for her severely malnourished baby, she knows she can come to us. When parents are in dire need of food for their loved ones, they can count on us to help. When family members are in need of medical care, our doctors treat them. More than 10,000 men, women, and children are helped annually through these services.



Our staff member Telemaque carries food for a mother and her baby.



A mother seeks help for her child from our doctor.



A mother and her malnourished child seek nutritional supplements and food.

*"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."
(Luke 11:10)*



Nurturing Relationships Through Faith

In the spirit of friendship and faith, the Diocese of Norwich twins with the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince. In turn, parishes in our diocese and in other U.S. dioceses twin with parishes in the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince. Our Parish Twinning Program helps to educate thousands of young people, provide medical and healthcare and, most importantly, builds strong friendships that bridge two countries. It is the embodiment of Pope Francis words, *"the hope of us Christians, that in our poverty we know that we are loved, we are visited, accompanied by God."*

Graduate students stop by for a visit.



Building Hope

Hope is seen in our new three-story building that replaces the buildings destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. This new building signals our intent, God willing, to serve another forty years. It houses our medical clinic, lab, pharmacy, chapel, computer lab for students, administrative offices, and guest rooms for visitors.

During this Christmas Season let us thank God for His gifts and for helping us to remember we are one family. As Pope John XXIII, said, *"Mankind is a great, an immense family... This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas."*

The new three-story building.



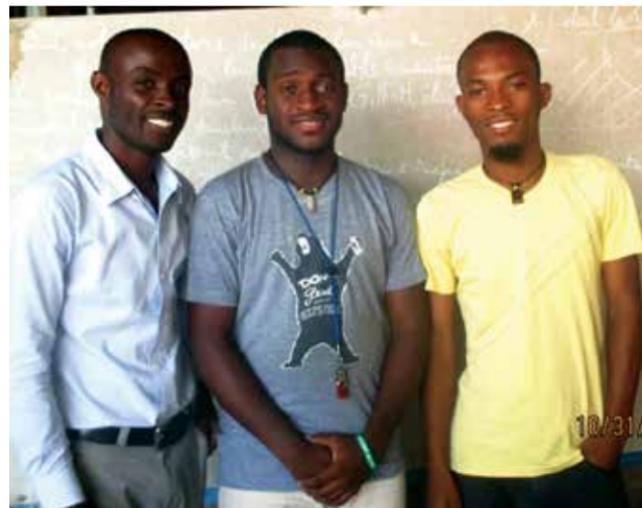
Opening Doors and Discovering Talents

Hope is evident in our Education Sponsorship Program. Each year friends and donors help us to provide scholarships to approximately 200 young people so they can attend primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools. These young people work hard to get to school and to learn when faced with sobering challenges. This past year, our Director of Education Mezalus Emil noted, *"Students are continuing with their studies despite the political situation, kidnappings, and Covid-19; and they continue to earn good grades." He went on to say "none of our students or their parents have ever been victims because of insecurity. They have already been protected. It is a blessing from God."*

Love is manifest in our dedicated and diligent staff of 21 men and women in Haiti who are the face of Outreach to Haiti and reflect God's love. Our Director of Operations, Jude Cangé noted the valiant efforts our staff makes to come to work daily because they know their absence would mean an expectant mother would not receive care, a malnourished child would not be fed or receive medication, and a student may be at risk of losing out at school if her tuition was not paid. Jude said our staff views their work as *"a special vocation as they answer God's call and serve as His instrument of love."*



Our students in Primary School.



Three university graduates who tutor our younger students.



Seventeen of our compassionate and dedicated staff.



Sister Yannick helps a primary student with her homework.