

December 20, 2021

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Companions in Mission,

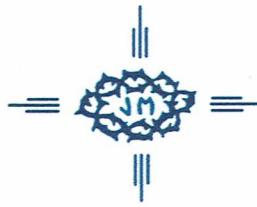
It hardly seems possible that we are less than a week away from Christmas 2021!

On one level, the year seems to have flown by. However, it has been profoundly marked by the long and enduring presence of Covid-19 with its variants; people of all ages on the move, seeking safety, security, a better life; worldwide natural disasters -- floods, fires, droughts, tornados -- due to climate change; racism; the instability of governments and their institutions.

In Haiti, these situations have only been magnified and exacerbated. The country has suffered the murder of a president and the lack of strong government as well as chaos and violence, unemployment, gangs and kidnappings, and a devastating earthquake in southwestern Haiti, followed by a hurricane named Grace!

This year you have supported our mission to bring the news of God's love and mercy to the people of Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Your prayers have heartened and strengthened our 7 RJM's ministering with and among Haitians in the fields of education and aftercare, agroforestry, and healthcare. Your generosity has enabled us to expand and strengthen some programs, and to meet the emergency needs of the people of southwestern Haiti for food, clothing, and medicine. Once conditions are again safer for us to return, we will travel with other women religious to be with the people, to hear their stories, to see their needs, and to offer support.

This Advent pre-school children of Lekol Presbiteral de Jezi-Marie in Gros Morne were invited to visit the school's nativity scene. There they were encouraged to look closely and touch, to ask questions and to pray. The picture below shows two small Christians taking in one depiction of that "holy night," and perhaps beginning to take in its meaning.



You have enabled **us** to see, to touch, to ask, to pray, and to act all year long because of your prayers, your words of support, your generous donations!

And so, we now invite **you** to ponder the nativity scene. Come, see, touch, ask questions, and pray as you encounter God's Word made flesh -- here and in the person of a family member or friend, a neighbor or colleague, or a stranger!



Our deep gratitude, and our wishes for a truly blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

Sincerely,

Margaret Perron, RJM

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Provincial