

CELEBRATING
25 YEARS

Religious of Jesus and Mary HAITI MISSION NEWSLETTER

USA-HAITI PROVINCE • DECEMBER 2023



St. Claudine Thévenet's instinct was to *gather friends* to live out the mission God gave her. She sought to meet injustice by tending to the needs she saw in the broken world around her. Claudine and her small group of companions in faith came to see that serving the needs of the people around them was their means of responding to God's merciful love.

Now, for over 25 years, the RJM sisters and many volunteers and partners have been building communities of mission in several parts of Haiti. Starting in 1997, religious and lay volunteers have joined the people of Haiti in *Gros Morne, Jean-Rabel, and Port-au-Prince* to create and sustain schools, early childhood programs, youth ministries, health care services, and adult training, while also supporting environmentally sustainable agriculture and helping women and others in need find sustainable and dignified work.

What the Religious of Jesus and Mary have done in partnership with the Haitian people has only been possible because friends, *like you*, have responded to God's merciful love in their own ways and have joined Claudine's community in mission. In this special edition, we look back to explore how Jesus and Mary have been made known! ▶▶



Together with some of our friends ...

Building on 25 years of RJM presence and mission in Haiti



“We need to look on our world with love ... just as God looks on it. We need to feel the pains, the joys, and the hopes of our brothers and sisters as though they were our own.”

Pope Francis to the RJM, 2019

Through prayer and reflection, the USA Province of the Religious of Jesus and Mary discerned a call to explore carrying St. Claudine Thévenet's mission and spirituality to Haiti. Bearing the hope of the entire province, **Sisters Pat Dillon, Jackie Picard, and Vivian Patenaude established the RJM community in Haiti in 1997 and they were soon joined by sisters from around the world and lay volunteers, especially young people.**

For more than 25 years, the RJM community has partnered with religious from other congregations and professionals from aid organizations to establish and coordinate ministries with the people of Haiti that seek to develop sustainable local resources and to address the complex needs faced by the people, especially children and young people. ►



These photos help to demonstrate some of the wide variety of RJM ministries that have benefited the lives of countless children of God in Haiti over the last 25+ years.

Learn more at www.rjmusa.org/haiti



Small donations from many friends and supporters alongside grants from foundations have enabled hundreds of women and men to be companions in mission with the people of Haiti over the last quarter century. Some have lived in solidarity with the people of Haiti for just a summer as volunteers while others have maintained the RJM presence for decades.



It can be hard to think about Haiti without focusing on the ghosts of foreign domination, slavery, economic exploitation, and political unrest or the lasting effects of natural and health disasters, but Haiti is also a place where the oppressed have been inspired to seek independence and dignity despite these terrible factors.


The Religious of Jesus and Mary and our companions in mission have chosen to see our brothers and sisters in Haiti and to do what we can, where we can to make Jesus and Mary known and felt in their lives. Built on over 25 years of sharing God's merciful love, we look forward *in hope and solidarity* towards the future! ▶▶

Praised forever be Jesus and Mary!
Lwanj pou Jezi ak Mari pou tout tan gen tan!



RJM Congregation Preferences **WE ARE SENT TO:**

1. Create spaces to experience an encounter with God
2. Build healthy and just relationships
3. Risk going to the peripheries
4. Go beyond our own boundaries





As of 2023, USAID classifies Haiti as facing a complex emergency situation with the estimated 11.7-million-person population facing the ongoing effects of natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, landslides, and epidemics) while also facing the effects of crime, violence, and political chaos. USAID predicts: Nearly 4.4 million people are expected to face crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity through February 2024 due to high inflation, low agricultural production, and violence.

Together with some of our friends ...

The USA-Haiti Province seeks to raise \$225,000 by September 2024 to continue the over 25 years of RJM presence and mission in Gros Morne, Jean-Rabel, and Port-au-Prince, Haiti. We seek to make Jesus and Mary known through ministries that support the lives of the Haitian people and develop their resources. *Your donations help to cover the ongoing expenses of our sisters and companions in mission who work to lead and sustain:*

EDUCATION and FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES including schools, early childhood programs, afterschool and youth programs, informal education projects, and educational efforts to support a sustainable environment, agriculture, and dignified economic self-sufficiency.

HEALTH and WELLBEING MINISTRIES including a mobile clinic, nursing care, coordination of visiting international medical providers, referrals and financial support for local medical services, a prosthesis clinic, and a residence for elders with no homes.

NUTRITION, AGRICULTURE, and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES including food distribution, financial assistance, agroforestry, gardens, and small business loans.

We need
YOUR
support!

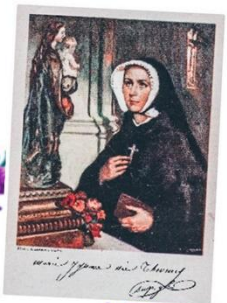
Donate online now at

www.rjmusa.org

or mail a check to

RJM Haiti Mission Fund
821 Varnum St., NE
Washington, DC 20017

Please pray for the RJM sisters and our companions in mission, especially the three young women currently in discernment and formation as Religious of Jesus and Mary.



PRAYER TO ST. CLAUDINE

God our Father, You granted Saint Claudine Thevenet an intimate experience of Your merciful goodness and You called her to dedicate her life to the education of the young, giving her the grace to draw from the heart of Your Son an ardent zeal to make Jesus and Mary known and loved.

Help us, like her, to be witnesses to Your love, given over to the action of the spirit and open to the needs of our brothers and sisters, especially the most deprived. Grant us, through her intercession and for the praise of Your glory, the grace for which we now pray.

Pray for your personal intentions,
St. Claudine, pray for us.