

December 8, 2025

Dear Friends of the RJM,

As a teenager, Claudine Thévenet lived through a revolution that changed her life and influenced her faith. In the face of personal loss and societal devastation, her faith in God's goodness, rather than being weakened, grew. With that growth came the conviction that her mission was to show this merciful goodness to others. From that profound experience, the Religious of Jesus and Mary were born. In their more than 200 years of existence, RJMs have worked to carry out this mission, keeping in mind Claudine's words to her first companions when she asked them to prioritize ***"the most poor, the most miserable, those who have the most troubles; those you will love a great deal."***



The RJM Sisters in the USA Province felt the inspiration of these words when they voted unanimously in 1996 to begin a mission in Haiti.

The RJM Mission has provided education, healthcare, housing for elderly and disabled parishioners, food for the hungry, training in sustainable agriculture, programs for repairing the environment, and so much more in Haiti while forming loving relationships with the local communities. A key to the work done by the RJM Sisters and volunteers is an emphasis on seeing God in all things and all people. Courageous women like Sister Jackie Picard and Sister Pat Dillon have provided expertise in leading ministries and they have formed and empowered Haitian women and men to join in the RJM charism of making Jesus and Mary known through servant-leadership within those ministries.

Even through violence and crises, such as the earthquake of 2010, the murder of RJM Sister Isa Solá, and the collapse of the national government, the RJM Sisters have continued to serve alongside the Haitian people and volunteers from different countries. However, recent events, including increased gang violence and the U.S. elimination and reduction of international aid programs, have created even more challenges for the people of Haiti and made the ministries of the RJM Mission all the more critical.

In the past year, many parts of the world, including Haiti, have experienced extreme suffering, economic decline, and insecurity.

The Religious of Jesus and Mary have remained steadfast in carrying on St. Claudine's work despite radical changes affecting many lives. With our prayers and support, the RJM Mission has not stopped responding to the spiritual and physical needs of the Haitian people.





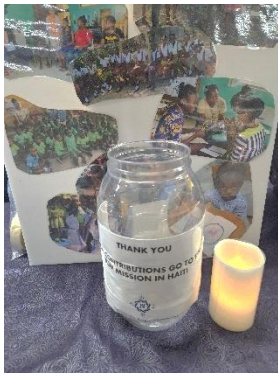
"This requires courage, to let ourselves be challenged by the presence of those who suffer, without fear of abandoning our own security, and to venture, if the Lord asks it, onto new paths."

Pope Leo XIV to the RJM – November 2025

During their Fall 2025 General Chapter in Rome, Pope Leo XIV encouraged the RJM to renew their commitment to facing challenges compassionately and courageously. While the RJM have had to adapt their strategies to meet the changing situations in Haiti and the U.S., they persist in making God known in daily life, especially in times and places where struggle and cruelty make it difficult for people to have hope.

We face an uncertain future, yet the RJM continue to serve as St. Claudine encouraged during her own uncertain times in France. With gratitude for the faith and dedication of the RJM Sisters, I ask you to remember those in most need, suffering the greatest miseries, and facing poverty that threatens their awareness of God's goodness.

Please renew your commitment to support the RJM Haiti Mission with your prayers and resources. Your generosity is crucial for schools, a shelter for homeless elderly and disabled people, food for struggling families, and agricultural projects that support farmers and the environment.



If you can, please make a donation today at

www.rjmusa.org/donate

You can use the enclosed envelope to mail a tax-deductible check made out to the *Religious of Jesus and Mary*. Any amount will be helpful in addressing critical needs; just note "RJM Haiti Mission" on your check.

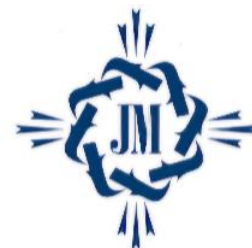
You can also sign up for automatic monthly donations from your checking account or credit/debit card online at **www.rjmusa.org/donate**

As we approach 2026, ***our commitment*** to helping our neighbors in Haiti remains as rock solid as it has been for 30 years! Please join me as we ***"let ourselves be challenged by the presence of those who suffer,"*** as Pope Leo encouraged our beloved RJM Sisters a few weeks ago.

With total reliance on our good God,

Toby OFS.

Tobias Harkleroad, OFS
Director of Mission Advancement



Praised forever be Jesus and Mary!