Bakery Dream Springs Hope
Jobs, Education, and Economic Growth

In 2012, two Felician Sisters arrived in Haiti to begin a ministry of presence when a young child knocked on their door saying, “Peace, group!” — “I am hungry.”

With only a few granola bars in their backpacks, Sisters Marilyn Marie Melvers and Mary Zarkos started feeding hungry children at their front door. More than eight years later, Felician Mission Haiti has fed, educated, and provided spiritual guidance to hundreds of children who are now young adults in need of higher education, job skills, and employment opportunities in order to be self-sufficient. The Sisters knew they needed to do more.

Dr. Jean-Paul Bonnet, a long-time friend and supporter of the Felician Sisters shared in their dream of building a bakery to provide sustainability for the people of the Diocese of Jacmel. A bakery may sound like a luxury in Jacmel could be a lifeline. Instead of decorative cupcakes and pastries, this bakery will make bread — a luxury in Haiti, where 30% of the population is food insecure. Modeled after a similar bakery in Las Cayas — a four-hour drive from Jacmel — the bakery will provide job training and employment, especially for families in need.

The Les Cayes bakery produces approximately 1,600 dozen rolls per day which are given to women called “retailers” who sell them in addition to providing these women with a source of income, the Sisters who operate the bakery also provide them with tuition for one of their children to attend school. They now employ about 40 such retailers. After years of planning and meetings, the Sisters acquired a plot of land from the Jacmel diocese and this land is now being prepared for construction. For the bakery to work, access to clean water is necessary — a true luxury when most Haitians must walk several miles to the nearest well. To access water, Dr. Bonnet is collaborating with Water for Life, a non-profit that has drilled more than 1,800 wells in Haiti and will dig 200 more wells for Felician Mission Haiti. The Sisters plan to open the bakery by 2022.

Construction will take some time, but the Sisters at Felician Mission Haiti are identifying women who will be leaders when a bakery in Haiti is opened. Construction of the bakery has been delayed by political upheaval. Dr. Bonnet is hopeful that it will begin this summer. Sr. Marilyn Marie said, “Praise the Lord! We are getting closer to fulfilling our dream of creating jobs through apprenticeship, relationships, and empowerment!”

Rebuilding Haiti, One Student at a Time

Harry Hubert Romain was just a young man when he lost his mother in the 2010 earthquake that killed nearly 90,000 Haitians. Trying to find a way to support himself and his siblings, he met Sr. Jean-Paul Bonnet, who had come to Haiti to provide emergency health care. Dr. Bonnet paid Hubert’s fees for the maintenance of “San Silo,” the ice-cream truck used as makeshift mobile clinics, a job Hubert performed meticulously.

The same year, the Felician Sisters sent a team to assess the needs and determine the best way to assist the people in recovering. The decision was made to establish a mission in Haiti, but Sr. Mary Christopher Moore, provincial minister, wanting to do more, reached out to Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, then president of Felician-sponsored Madonna University, with a plan to provide opportunities for higher education in Haiti.

In 2011, Madonna University launched the Haiti Educational Access Program, a three-year online bachelor’s degree program in Business Administration. The only program of its kind in Haiti, it would provide Haitians the opportunity for higher education, to help them become leaders in their communities.

Dr. Bonnet learned of the program, and recognizing Hubert’s potential, encouraged him to enroll. Hubert’s potential, encouraged him to enroll. Hubert graduated from Madonna University with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, then went to work in the bakery industry. Hubert is helping to create the business plan.

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With average Haitian salaries ranging from $200 - $600 per year, Madonna University and the Felician Sisters of North America committed to making the program accessible. The cost of tuition per year is nearly $2,000, but the Haitian students pay only $500 per semester. The rest is covered by donors and funds support from the university and the Felician Sisters.

H.E.L.P continues to evolve to meet the needs of Haitian students. English is a second language, leadership training, and a community volunteer project have recently been added. The result is an ever-growing list of Madonna students who are beginning to identify women who will be a part of their baking dream.

As Felician Sisters we are called by God to cooperate with Christ in the spiritual renewal of the world. The Sisters and our Ministries are called to minister to the poor, to provide education and job skills to vulnerable populations, and to contribute to the general welfare of the community.

In the best of times, many families in the United States are just one paycheck away from homelessness. Now, in the midst of a pandemic, when businesses are forced to close, and unemployment is higher than its been since the Great Depression, even more families are facing the possibility of homelessness. In fact, Columbia economics professor Brendan O’Flaherty projects that another 250,000 families could become homeless in the next year, an increase of 40-45%.

The Felician Sisters of North America have seen the impact of homelessness through the work of their Sisters and ministries. With the added fear of losing their homes, many families are facing the fear of losing their homes. “It is uncontrollable that families should also face the fear of losing their homes,” said Sr. Mary Christopher Moore, provincial minister. “It is uncontrollable that families should also face the fear of losing their homes.”

Knowing that Catholic University of America (CUCA) had a system in place for the quick distribution of emergency funding to their agencies across the country, the Felician Sisters reached out to them to collaborate on the establishment of an eviction prevention fund. Within several weeks, the Francis Fund for Eviction Prevention was created and more than $100,000 had been distributed to those in danger of losing their homes.

In addition to this fund, eight of our Felician ministries provide affordable housing or services to those experiencing homelessness.

To learn more about how you can help make a difference, go to FelicianSistersNA.org/WhatWeDo.
Our Lady of Hope Province Highlights

We are pleased to sponsor, co-sponsor or support through the presence of our sisters more than 40 ministries throughout North America. To learn more, visit FelicianSistersNA.org/Ministries.

Welcome Future Felician Sisters
On August 16, at St. Joseph the Worker Convent in Pomona, CA, Monica Ebalum made her commitment to the Felician Sisters candidacy program.

Ever Changing to Serve the Community
Over decades, St. Anne’s Family Services has expanded services to continue to ensure the families are safe, nurtured and resilient from pregnancy to adulthood — most recently by joining the Felician family.

St. Anne’s Family Services around 2005

- 95% of families served in the Child Development Program
- 100% of them in its foster care program obtained their high school diploma at 16

Our ministries are asked to uphold the FIVE CORE VALUES that are hallmarks of our Felician culture and identity:

- Respect for Human Dignity: exhibited by a reverence for and commitment to promoting and protecting the dignity of all persons;
- Compassion: characterized by an sympathetic consciousness toward others expressed in caring service;
- Transformation: characterized by an open heart and mind, leading to continuous improvement of all involved in our ministry;
- Solidarity with the Poor: ensuring that the needs of the poor and vulnerable are met through advocacy and action;
- Justice and Peace: forging right relationships, recreating a sustainable environment, promoting the common good — all in the pursuit of peace.

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Sisters Support Public Awareness Campaign
Águilas del Desierto (Eagles of the Desert) reached out to potential border crossers with a campaign to inform them of the true dangers of the journey.

- 424 miles
- 96,250 calls
- 6,150+ pounds of food donations in 2020

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### Bakery Dream Springs Hope

**Jobs, Education, and Economic Growth**

In 2012, two Felician Sisters arrived in Haiti to begin a ministry of presence when a young child knocked on their door saying, “Mean grapes”—I’m hungry.” With only a few granola bars in their backpacks, Sisters Marilyn Marie Minter and Mary Inga Borko started feeding hungry children at their front door. More than eight years later, Felician Mission Haiti has fed, educated, and provided spiritual guidance to hundreds of children who are now young adults in need of higher education, job skills, and employment opportunities in order to be self-sufficient. The Sisters knew they needed to do more.

Dr. Jean Hubert Romain was just a young man when he lost his mother in the devastating 2010 earthquake that killed nearly 95,000 Haitians. Trying to find a way to support himself and his siblings, he met Dr. Jean-Bonner, who had come to Haiti to provide emergency health care. Dr. Bonner provided Hubert with a job as a baker. The land was then prepared for construction. For the bakery to work, access to clean water is necessary—a true luxury when most Haitians must walk several miles to the nearest well. To access water, Dr. Bonner is collaborating with Water for Life, making plans for a well and being prepared for the bakery (right).

Sr. Mary Modesta Pinowar was happy to receive her COVID-19 vaccination. Some long-time Sister and President of St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, MI, Sr. Mary Modesta Pinowar was one of those who received the COVID-19 vaccine. Please pray for her recovery.

### A Los Angeles Beacon of Hope

**Joins the Felician Family**

From Our Provincial Minister

Dear Friend in Christ,

When I was a high school principal, I had a speaker come in to talk to the students about the risks of hunger in our community. After the talk, a student raised his hand and asked a simple question: “What can we do?”

He recognized that change requires action, and that simple question spurred the establishment of a food pantry on the campus that continues to serve the community today.

It was a good reminder to continue asking ourselves: “What more can we do?”

During these challenging times, we have been blessed with the capacity to collaborate with other organizations who are trying to answer the same question. From our collaboration with Catholic Charities USA to create an Eviction Prevention Fund to the transfer of sponsorship of St. Ama’s Family Services from the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, we have found that we can do more together.

The needs of God’s children continue to evolve, and thanks to supporters like you, the Felician Sisters of North America continue to adapt their ministries and find new ways to serve.

Because of you, we can continue to ask ourselves: “What more can we do?”

Yours in Mary, Our Lady of Hope,

Sister Mary Christopher Moore, CSSF Provincial Minister

### Maryville Retreat Center

**MONTHLY PROGRAMS TO**

**Ignite Hope**

**Energize your spirit with uplifting programs at Maryville Retreat Center.**

To register call 248-634-5566 or email maryville@felicianfamilies.org

### Felician Sisters of North America

**2020 Year in Review**

Dear Friend in Christ,

As Felician Sisters we are called by God to cooperate with Christ in the spiritual renewal of the world. The Felician Sisters of North America, with a mission rooted in the Gospel of Jesus, are dedicated to serving women, children, and families in need since 1908.

At St. Ama’s, located in Los Angeles, CA, Teresa found stable housing and childcare that allowed her to maintain gainful employment. Through the St. Ama’s Workforce Development Program, Teresa was also connected with a mentor who provided her with opportunities to learn valuable job skills in accounting, human resources, and development.

These skills were put to good use when Teresa was hired as a full-time Family Advocate at St. Ama’s in 2018. Today, she is a homeowner and is currently working toward her degree in social work.

### Rebuilding Haiti, One Student at a Time

**Mission:**

As Felician Sisters we are called by God to cooperate with Christ in the spiritual renewal of the world.

**Vision:**

The Felician Sisters of North America are called to be a mission and values so aligned to the missions and values of the Catholic Church that the lives of women, children, and families in need are transformed.

**Goals:**

1. To foster the education of children, so that they may be self-sufficient.
2. To provide employment opportunities in order to be self-sufficient.
3. To provide spiritual guidance to hundreds of children who are now young adults.

**Method:**

The Les Cayes bakery produces approximately 1,600 dozen rolls per day. In Haiti, 30% of the population is food insecure. bread can be a lifeline. Instead of decorative cupcakes a bakery in Jacmel could be a lifeline. Instead of decorative cupcakes.

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