

Felician Mission: Haiti is sponsored by the Felician Sisters of North America through Our Lady of Hope Province to live our commitment to justice and peace and to raise the dignity of the human person, especially women and children, in the whole world.

FELICIAN SISTERS OF NORTH AMERICA

Mission: Haiti

2022 DONOR REPORT



Dear Friend in Christ,

It is indeed heartwarming to read this year's Haiti Report. Much good work continues to be done as our Felician Sisters partner with Haitians, volunteers, donors, and Madonna University to promote the flourishing of the Haitian people.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of our mission in Haiti. It is important to pause and ponder milestones. Anniversaries remind us of the commitments we have made because of the dreams that we have dreamt.

Blessed Mary Angela dreamt of sending Felician Sisters to North America in the 19th century. So, too, the dream of serving God's most vulnerable in Haiti has become a reality in the 21st century because of the vision, courage, and generosity of so many. And, as often happens when we dare to dream, the fruits of putting flesh on those dreams continues to harvest an amazing, grace-filled bounty. Yes, "God who is mighty has done great things through us and for us," (cf. Luke 1:49) and we are deeply grateful.

Above all, we are deeply grateful to our donors and celebrate your commitment. You are an essential partner in all we strive to accomplish. We need to continue to dream and to roll up our sleeves. The challenges in Haiti are great.

Together may we work with our Haitian sisters and brothers to enable them to realize their God-given potential and their dignity as God's precious children.

Peace and all good things!

Sr. Judith Marie Kubicki
Provincial Minister
Our Lady of Hope Province

Demand for Job Skills Grows — Sewing School Expands!

A Long-term Job Solution is Critical *Lately, we see more and more people coming to our door for food and assistance. Trying to estimate and meet the daily demand, Sr. Inga manages the kitchen so that the children can receive hot meals each day. When the kitchen runs out of a prepared meal, she serves sandwiches. Teaching sewing will help families to find work and feed themselves.*

The power of God's grace showers upon our sewing school! Since word has spread about the benefit our school provides people to make a living, many people want to learn this skill to support their families. We have welcomed 17 students to our most recent class, and sadly had to turn people away because of lack of space. We believe God is telling us to grow.

When Sisters Izzy and Julitta finished the second sewing class, they worked with Junior, their assistant and former student, on a plan to open the doors to more students. Through your generosity and a very special donor, we were able to plan a new building to accommodate more students for sewing classes and other activities.

Over the past few months, we have watched the construction team working. We know this is in God's plan, for never could we have imagined another building on the mission property. The building was completed on July 31 and is now ready for classes.

We named the new space and program the St. Clare Sewing School and now can expand our classes to include up to 20 students! +

The pandemic, political strife, gang violence, and 2021 earthquake have further devastated Haiti, **increasing the poverty rate to 52.3%**, double that of neighboring Dominican Republic.

- The World Bank



A child born in Haiti today will grow up to be **only 45% as productive as they could be** with access to quality education and healthcare.

- Human Capital Index



Building on Steady Rock

The sewing school in progress on June 5 (above) and completed by July 31. Students proudly show their final exams — school uniforms.



A Life-Sustaining Partnership

You have been a valuable partner in helping us follow God's will to serve in Haiti. We welcome every opportunity to join with others who share our vision for healthy, independent Haitian communities. Over the past year **we have been blessed with a new partnership that will spread support even further.**

Hearing about our *Servants of Living Water* clean water program, Dr. Sheryl Simmons, founder and CEO of the Michigan-based organization *Youth for Global Health and Social Justice (Y4GH)* reached out to us this year. Y4GH works with youth and young adults to help provide clean, safe water for communities in 13 countries, while also shaping the youth to become influential leaders. It is often youth who must walk miles each day to locate questionable water for their families. Illness and the time lost fetching it can rob entire communities of their futures.

Dr. Simmons learned of our work and wanted to help bring clean water to a local community! God showed us this door, and we knew we had to open it, walk through it and partner with Y4GH.

We had recently completed digging wells for our neighboring school, parish, and our own property, but we knew of a school in



More than half of Haiti's rural population lacks access to clean water, but \$60 will afford a filtration system providing clean water for three families.

Marigot, 15 miles east of Jacmel where they have **more than 750 children attending school with no running water.**

We helped identify six youth from our program who would benefit from this leadership experience. They worked in partnership with Y4GH to expand the opportunity for clean water.

After orientation, the team traveled to Marigot with the sisters. While

the youth team talked with community members to learn more about the water problem, we presented our bucket and filtration program to 20 women from St. Dominic's Parish.

Through the generous donation of a family foundation that offered a matching gift, we have been able to partner with parishes back in the United States and money has been raised to dig a well, provide a solar power pump and the materials needed to bring water to the children of Marigot!

While violence continues in Haiti, we see God's light in the offering of hope through you and others who always look to do more for our Haitian brothers and sisters.

We welcome our partners and all of you have helped us bring clean water to the people of Haiti. +

For more information about clean water in Haiti, visit FelicianSistersNA.org/Haiti.



■ Teaming Up to Solve a Water Problem: (counter-clockwise from the top) One of our team, Madam Omanie, at the clean water presentation; presenting to the women of Marigot; Sr. Julitta demonstrating a water filter; our youth involved in Y4GH did research in the community.

HEALTH

Healthcare Need Doubles

The Mother Angela Clinic celebrated its 8th anniversary in March! In 2013, it was estimated that 95% of people in rural areas did not have access to quality health care. Thanks to a generous donor and many who provided support funds, medications, supplies, and prayer, our team of Haitian doctors, nurses, and driver provided critical health care to more than 57,000 residents of nearly 30 isolated mountainous areas near Jacmel.

This year has been our most challenging due to civil war, violence, kidnappings, and gangs controlling both the roads and 75% of Haiti's capital city, Port-au-Prince. **The Mother Angela Mobile Clinic has doubled in its number of patients.** These challenges have doubled our expenses for medications.

Amid the chaos, we continue to provide care and learn how to improve our work with our Haitian brothers and sisters. Sr. Marilyn completed an online certification in Healthcare Management



sponsored by Medicines for Humanity and tailored for missionary sisters in developing countries. She has managed the clinic for the last

eight years, but learned additional business elements for more effective management in the delivery of health care. It was through the power of the Holy Spirit that this course was found, and Sr. Marilyn will certainly put this new knowledge into practice! +

40% of Haiti's population lacks access to essential health and nutrition services.
- USAID

An Oasis of Faith in Troubled Times

For most of us, sacraments in the church are a choice. In Haiti, many people cannot afford food, so the fees to receive sacraments are not possible. **Your support helps us to provide faith formation and sacramental celebrations for our families!**

First Holy Communion is a two-year process with intensive preparation. Sr. Inga oversees 16 children weekly for catechesis and they learn prayers with Dalandie, a youth catechist. Sr. Marilyn and Annette lead children who have received Holy Communion. Sr. Julitta began a group with children under 7 years old! Our community participates in many special services that include Reconciliation and weekly Bible Study with our teens — who now love to share the Word of God! We also host retreat groups who enjoy our peaceful grounds. Everyone helps set up, clean, and prepare food. We use these opportunities to focus our prayer on the ongoing crisis in Haiti, for the kidnapped missionaries and the conversion of the kidnapers, for those who are suffering, and to end the war in Ukraine. Join us in our prayers! +



Earthquake Fund

A magnitude 7.2 earthquake shook Haiti on August 14, 2021, killing 2,200 people and injuring 12,200. Nearly 140,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed, with more than 38,000 people displaced from their homes. **Our ministry in Haiti is a long-term strategy to empower the people, not just relief for a moment.**

We sent what supplies we could to Les Cayes, the city at the epicenter, including sheets and blankets. People have to sleep outside after an earthquake in case of aftershocks or because their houses were damaged. Before long, many concerned and generous people began donating to help with relief efforts. Nearly \$30,000 was collected! With such a large amount of money, we wanted to be sure it would bear fruit in the lives of people, and not just be a moment of relief.

We worked with Eglise Sacré-Coeur — Sacred Heart Parish — in Les Cayes to identify families whose homes were destroyed. We asked them to write what work needed to be done, and all responded with minimal requests to simply repair what had been damaged. As of April, 12 families received funds to rebuild walls, roofs, and other parts of their houses that were destroyed. The remaining \$10,000 will be used to continue helping more families as they rebuild their homes and lives. +



Dream of Higher Education Becomes a Reality

Only 60% of Haiti's elementary school students go to school. Older children often need to earn money to help feed their families, which is why **only 20% of Haitian teenagers attend high school**. College is a far-reaching dream for most, with **less than 1% attending university, compared to the U.S. rate of 42%**.

But you have helped give hope to our Haitian children. Your support of our *Pay it Forward* program has helped us grow from sending a handful of children to school a few years ago, to sending 120 children this year. You have watched Tchery grow, and he will graduate from medical school in 2023. The gardener of our mission has a son whose education we also support; he begins his 4th year of study in the seminary. Two students who will serve in medicine and spirit — God is good!

It has been a joy over the past 10 years watching our children learn and grow. Another joy we have to share is about one of the young women whose education we sponsor. Edwina Deiudonne finished her second year at the University of Notre Dame Haiti and learned enough English to pass her entrance exam for the Madonna University Haiti Education Leadership Program (H.E.L.P.).

Edwina will begin her first semester at the end of August!

Haitian students who want to attend Madonna University's H.E.L.P. must first be able to speak English. To help meet this need, the Felician Volunteers in Mission (VIM) program, has volunteers from the United States and Canada meet with students twice a week on Zoom for English lessons. Meet two students who graduated from H.E.L.P. in 2022 at **FelicianSistersNA/HELP**.



If you would like to participate, learn more or complete a volunteer application at **FelicianSistersNA.org/Tutor**. +



The Felician Sisters is an international community of more than 1,000 vowed women religious across four continents. Founded in Poland in 1855, we arrived in North America in 1874 with the blessing of our Foundress Blessed Mary Angela to minister to Polish immigrants. In 2009, the Felician Sisters of North America formed Our Lady of Hope Province by uniting eight Felician provinces from across the U.S. and Canada to sustain and expand our mission. Today, we continue to minister in a variety of ways as we seek to fulfill our mission to “cooperate with Christ in the spiritual renewal of the world.” Learn more about our work throughout North America at FelicianSistersNA.org.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Praise the Lord! We are so grateful for your ongoing prayers and support of our Felician Mission: Haiti and thank our God for **you** as we continue our journey in Jacmel, Haiti.

With your support, parts of our ministry that were once only dreams are becoming reality. We invite you to follow the stories of our mission on our blog: FelicianSistersHaiti.com.

The challenges of political unrest and COVID-19 have not dampened our resolve to continue our ministry of presence in Haiti.

Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours. We invite you to celebrate 10 years of Felician Mission: Haiti this Fall in New Jersey, Michigan, Illinois, or California. To register, visit FelicianSistersNA.org/Haiti10.

Your sisters because of Jesus and Mary,
Sisters Marilyn, Izajasza, Inga and Julitta

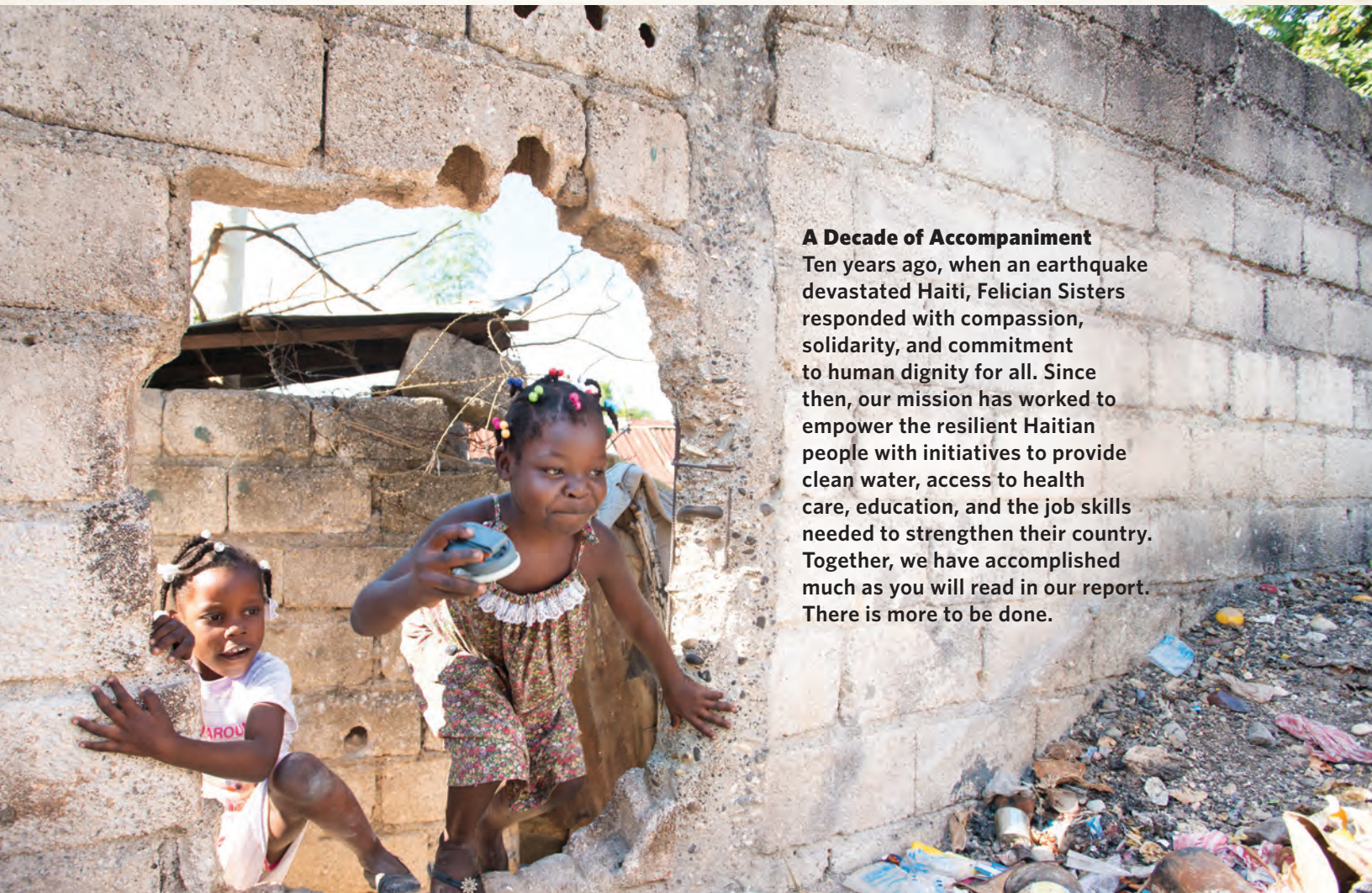


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A Decade of Accompaniment

Ten years ago, when an earthquake devastated Haiti, Felician Sisters responded with compassion, solidarity, and commitment to human dignity for all. Since then, our mission has worked to empower the resilient Haitian people with initiatives to provide clean water, access to health care, education, and the job skills needed to strengthen their country. Together, we have accomplished much as you will read in our report. There is more to be done.