

The Felician Mission in Haiti, Responding to the Cry of the Poor, 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

2019 REPORT



Dear Friend in Christ,

You have made a profound difference in the lives of so many, and we are truly grateful. In 2012, Felician Sisters Marilyn Minter and Inga Borko were called by Christ to visit the people of Haiti. At first, they both lived in one room in Haiti as they canvassed the country to find the right region to lay down roots and begin what Sister Marilyn said was "a compassionate ministry of presence."

By seeing what people lacked and what they needed, they began to discern where the spirit of the Lord called. Through your generosity and the prayers of so many, the FSNA dedicated the mission complex in Jacmel, Haiti, on October 10, 2018. The mission is now a complex of several buildings, which include a kitchen, a mobile clinic, a volunteer house, an activity center, a playground and a computer lab. Through your support, we have accomplished so much and wanted to share a glimpse into the life of Mission Haiti to help you understand the impact you have made in the lives of our Haitian family. Please continue to pray for us, as we pray for you.

Yours in Christ,

Sister Mary Christopher Moore, CSSF
Provincial Minister

Mobile Clinic Brings Medical Care to ALL



The Mother Angela Mobile Clinic — staffed by a Haitian team of medical professionals including two doctors, a nurse and a pharmacist — serves 28 places in the mountains in our Diocese. Many of our people have never had access to medical treatment due to distance and rocky roads. The treacherous travels require new tires every year, filter changes, and this year, new shocks. But the clinic team does not allow that to stop them from visiting places where there is a need!

The clinic recently traveled to a distant site in Decouze. We only visit this site every other week, since we have so many places to visit. The roads took us so high — it felt like we could touch the clouds.

Once we arrived, many people were waiting for us. As always, we began with prayer and then a few minutes of health education. On this day, it was the importance of not sharing medications, unless it is prescribed by a doctor.

We also share the story of the Felician Sisters here in Haiti and Mother Angela's passion for the sick. We tell them how happy we are to be with them.

We are blessed to be able to meet the medical needs of the community in these poor places, as well as to provide continued care to them monthly. With the political unrest and inflation, the price of medication has doubled and purchasing medications has become difficult at times. But with God's help we have been managing to get back and forth from Port au Prince safely. We thank all of you who assist us with your prayers and support to make this possible. +



1 trained doctor or nurse
in Haiti for every
3,000 citizens



FELICIAN SISTERS
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Our Mission: As Felician Sisters, called by God, we cooperate with Christ in the spiritual renewal of the world.

Our Lady of Hope Province Provincial Council

Sr. Mary Christopher Moore
Provincial Minister

Sr. Mary Jolene Jasinski
Provincial Vicar/1st Councillor

Sr. Mary GERALYN Mroczkowski
2nd Councillor

Sr. Janet Marie Adamczyk
3rd Councillor

Sr. Suzanne Marie Kush
4th Councillor

Sr. Mary Rosita Brennan
5th Councillor

Sr. Constance Marie Tomył
6th Councillor

Sr. Michelle Marie Stachowiak
7th Councillor



Women walk several miles through rugged terrain to the well and return to their home with a bucket of water weighing nearly 40 pounds that they will share with three families.



Meet Our “Fanm Dlo”

We are so pleased to present our “Fanm Dlo” — which means Water Women in Creole. When we arrived in Haiti, we saw that in addition to sufficient food, clean water was a great need. Many villages did not have sanitation systems, and Jacmel was no different. Water sources were contaminated with human waste, which led to waterborne diseases — the leading cause of infant mortality and illness in the children of Haiti. But God helped us to create a plan.

We partnered with the “Water With Blessings Program” — a water purification education program that educated Haitian women about safely filtering water.

Each woman receives a filter and bucket to clean water for their home. To help spread the word and to pay it forward, each Fanm Dlo is required to provide water for three other families. More and more people in our area now have access to clean water.

Word has spread and we just received an invitation, asking us to prepare a group of women in another part of Haiti for a parish that wants to purchase the filters and buckets. The Fanm Dlo program is empowering for these selected women, and life-giving and life-changing for their families and neighbors. We thank all our benefactors who make possible this project of giving clean drinking water to the poor in our midst. +



On this project, we collaborated with the Spiritan Sisters, who helped to invite the women and who also participated in the formation process. It was a joy to have our four Felician Sisters — Margaret, Angela, Julitta and Rita — participate and help us teach the women.



HAITI BY THE NUMBERS

POVERTY STATISTICS

59%

of Haitians are impoverished and live on less than \$2 a day.



24%

are extremely impoverished and live on less than \$1.25 a day.



2 out of 3

do not have steady jobs due to lack of education.



40%

of Haitians have NO ACCESS to clean drinking water.



80%

of illnesses in developing countries are due in part to unsanitary water.





Feeding the Hungry

“I’m hungry” was one of the first phrases we heard in Haitian Creole from the local children. The Mother Angela Kitchen feeds nearly 100 children one substantial meal each day, Monday through Friday. We employ two Haitian women to prepare the food and the children and teens are responsible for serving and clean-up. The children and teens are given a hot meal of rice and beans, spaghetti, corn meal (polenta), a special sweet soup and filtered water. This program offers much-needed nutrition to children who would otherwise go hungry. Often, this meal is the only nourishment available to the children in a day. +



100,000

Haitian children under age 5 are malnourished.

Back to School in Haiti!

At the Felician mission in Haiti, August means preparation for the new school year: filling our Felician backpacks with school supplies, measuring for uniforms, and buying shoes. There is so much to do!

Every day in August we go to the market to buy material and shoes. Yes — material!! Every school has its own colors and every uniform is made by hand. We hired a local resident to sew the girls and boys uniforms.

Last year, we had a few new students. One was 13-year-old Geraldine, who had never attended school and could only write her name. She is so excited to be in school!

Because of your support, we were able to sponsor 50 students last year!

When we sponsor a student, they are responsible to come to the mission to do their homework and participate in our **Pay It Forward Program**:

- Teens tutor younger students — which also helps to assess their academic progress.
- Two teens learned how to manage our student computer lab and oversee updates and maintenance.
- Teens assist us as catechists with our Faith Formation Program and meet weekly to teach our children how to grow in our Catholic faith and prepare for sacraments.

Through the **Pay It Forward Program**, every sponsored student is given a specific job at the mission complex. This is so important for them to learn discipline, work ethic and, most of all, responsibility. Your help and assistance with our education program is a blessing. +

Education provided by the Haitian government is not strong. Students must pay a fee, have a pair of shoes, buy or make a uniform, and buy school supplies and books. When most families live on less than \$2 per day, survival, not education, becomes the priority.



30% of the overall population is food-insecure.



Dear Friend in Christ,

Praise the Lord!
God has blessed us
by knowing you!
We thank our
God for all of you,
for your support,
donations, prayers
and faith as we
continue our journey



in Jacmel, Haiti. We have been here since 2012
and so many good things have happened that
we wanted to share a few stories from our blog:
feliciansistershaiti.com.

We live among the marginalized and those
living in poverty, accompanying them through
the challenges and celebrating the joys of life.
Above all, the Felician Mission in Haiti is a
ministry of presence.

Please keep us in your prayers. Be assured you
are in our prayers as we follow in the footprints
of Francis, Felix, Clare and Blessed Mary Angela
in Haiti.

Your sisters because of Jesus and Mary,

Sisters Inga and Marilyn

The Felician Sisters are 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.



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In 2010, an earthquake left Haiti — the poorest country in the western hemisphere — devastated and nearly without hope. Felician Sisters Inga Borko (pictured) and Marilyn Minter were called by Christ to visit the people. They began to meet the people and assess the enormous poverty. By seeing what people lacked and what they needed, they began to discern the Spirit's call.