

*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

2020 REPORT



Dear Friend in Christ,

You have made sure that our brothers and sisters in Haiti are not forgotten. You put food on empty plates, provided buckets and filters to cleanse polluted water and stocked empty shelves with medicine. Most importantly, you brought hope where there was none.

You are making a difference.

COVID-19 has turned our world upside down, and our brothers and sisters in Haiti are much more poorly equipped to face what lies ahead. But true to their nature, the Sisters are adapting to the changing needs.

Thanks to our Sisters, the people of Jacmel are likewise not alone, and thanks to you, our Sisters in Haiti are not alone. They are sustained by your prayers, donations, volunteerism and words of encouragement.

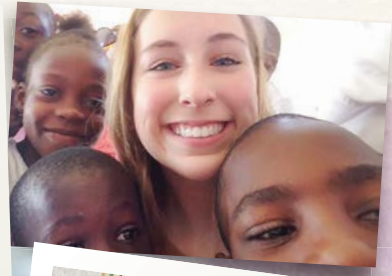
Their work would not be possible without you.

While 2020 has been a challenging year (with even more challenges ahead), we are not alone. We have you, and you have us, and we all have the love of our Lord, Who will never forsake us.

Thank you and God bless you and yours.

Yours in Mary, Our Lady of Hope,

Sister Mary Christopher Moore, CSSF  
Provincial Minister  
Our Lady of Hope Province



## God's People

Our mission would not exist without volunteers. From the beginning, we relied on people who helped guide us in:

- setting up our mission
- working to secure land and
- connecting us with other organizations to learn and help support our work.

One volunteer who has been helping us from the beginning is **Jean-Paul Bonnet, DO**. Dr. Bonnet visits *Felician Mission: Haiti* several times a year to continue his work for "God's people."

Most recently, he visited and met with **Bishop Glandas Marie Erick Toussaint** to share his ideas about perhaps opening a bakery to provide food and jobs, as well as digging wells for purified water. This meeting was truly blessed and, as always, Dr. Bonnet found time to work with the Mother Angela Clinic team.

We had new volunteers from Michigan this year. **Peter Purzycki, MD**, his wife, **Małgorzata** and daughter **Katarzyna** brought great medical skills

L-R: Dr. Bonnet with a patient; Abby Moyer with our kids; Dr. Peter Purzycki making rounds; Pete Hahn teaching our boys; Eric and Abby Moyer entertain.

and compassion to share with our people. Seeing for themselves the great need for healthcare and education, the Purzycki family continues to support our work by sending needed medications that keep our clinic open.

Our good friends **Eric Moyer** and **Pete Hahn** visit several times a year. During their last visit, they taught the boys a few new skills that would be helpful for them and us. In three days, they installed a clothesline, repaired the merry-go-round and ping-pong table, updated the computer lab server, and built a new workbench for Jean Philip!

We are so grateful to our brothers and sisters in Christ — and for their example, dedication, and love of God, which they shared with us as they gave of themselves to our people. +



**Welcome Sister Mary Izajasza ("Izzy") Rojek** from Przemyśl, Poland — our new Sister in our community. Yes, the Lord has answered our prayers! When Sister Izzy read the letter from Provincial Minister Sister Mary Christopher Moore, inviting Felician Sisters to consider ministering to the people of Haiti, she knew it was her chance to fulfill her dream of ministering to the poor in the spirit of Blessed Mary Angela.

Sister Izzy visited us last fall and confirmed that she belonged. Her talent for sewing and love for the Haitian people have been a great gift! Each day is a new challenge and response to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, which she accepts with much joy.



While **half** of Haitian households are women-led, women suffer severe inequality and violence.



## Sewing School Offers Skills, Jobs

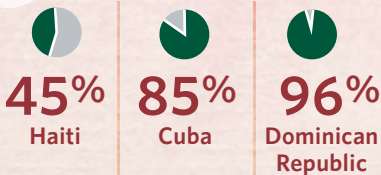
Many Haitian women have no education or skill set to seek employment. Sewing is a skill that can help our mothers provide clothing for their families and an opportunity to earn income. We have been blessed with Sister Izzy's sewing skills — and a special donor who made it possible to purchase everything needed to open a sewing school!

Solar panels and batteries were needed to supply the additional electricity. Pedal-operated treadle machines were needed for women who do not have electricity. And of course, material and supplies to sew!

Sister Izzy spent months developing the curriculum, with the goal of teaching women marketable skills they can use to help support their families. We are excited to offer this new program! +

### LACKING POWER

Third-world homes with access to electricity



# On the Road to Emmaus

Sister Victoria Marie Indyk possessed a passion for Christ — and for humanity. She accompanied and served the poorest of the poor, and Haiti was her second home. This spring, COVID-19 took our beloved Sister Vicky from us. She will be truly missed by her Haitian family.

From her very first visit to our mission in 2014, Sister Vicky was moved by the people of Haiti. She saw the lack of basic medical supplies and nearly nonexistent materials for nursing students. From that moment, she made it her mission to bring what was needed each time she returned.

And she did 100 times over. Several times a year, she led groups of volunteers, mostly nursing students from Madonna University, to Haiti.



With only **0.6 nurses per 1,000 Haitians**, Sister Vicky's student nurses brought valuable nursing skills and hundreds of pounds of medications and supplies nonexistent or extremely expensive to purchase in Haiti.



A Felician Sister for 50 years, Sister Vicky held a Ph.D., as well as an M.S.N. and R.N. from Madonna University, where she was a professor of nursing for more than 20 years.

Sister Vicky's passion was infectious. Students never packed for themselves. There was no wasting precious space in suitcases. Instead, they were stuffed to the brim with over-the-counter medicines, supplies, baby formula, educational materials, and many other items desperately needed at the mission. Sister Vicky's visits not only brought nurses and volunteers, she also filled our medical clinic with supplies unavailable in Haiti.

Somehow, Sister Vicky also found room for candy, toys, and other surprises for the children, who loved her visits! And she loved *them*.

On the day we received news that Sister Vicky had gone home to the Father, how befitting it was that the Gospel proclaimed the story about the Road to Emmaus. Sister Vicky was on a journey, her own road to Emmaus. She made connections and formed relationships. She accompanied many to seek a better life, one full of hope.

Now her journey to Emmaus is completed, but her spirit is here with us in Jacmel. We thank God we were able, for a time, to walk the way to Emmaus together. +

# Madonna University Empowers

When the 2010 earthquake devastated Haiti, former Madonna University President Sister Rose Marie Kujawa gathered a group of Felician Sisters to visit Haiti to assess the needs of the people. She knew immediately that more than temporary relief was needed. In August 2011, the Madonna Business School launched the Haitian Education Leadership Program, a three-year online bachelor's degree program in Business Administration, with the goal of creating Haitian leaders who will ultimately improve their country.

With average Haitian salaries ranging from \$300 - \$600 per year, Madonna University and the Felician Sisters of North America committed to making the program accessible. Tuition is \$200 per semester, but costs remain the same in the U.S. — nearly \$28,000 per student.

The program continues to evolve to meet the needs of Haitian students. English as a second language, leadership

training, and a community volunteer project in their local communities have recently been added. The result is an evergrowing list of Madonna alumni located in Haiti who are rebuilding their country. For example, Madonna alumna and Fullbright Scholar Bethanie Saint Louis (2014) is currently a Human Resource Officer for Catholic Relief Services in Port Au Prince.

This fall marks the tenth cohort of the program that has graduated 62 students. To learn more or provide support, visit [feliciansistersna.org/haitionline](http://feliciansistersna.org/haitionline). +

### TUITIONS COSTS TO PAY FORWARD



## WATER

# Response to COVID

Like everywhere else in the world, plans in Haiti changed daily in the spring of 2020. COVID-19 did not discriminate and arrived in Jacmel. In a day, we were under quarantine to adhere to the Ministry of Health recommendations. Thankfully before quarantine, we purchased special water buckets with valves and filters and distributed them to our families. With nearly 70% of our families not having access to clean water, it was important for them to be able to wash their hands to prevent the virus from spreading.

Watching COVID-19 worsen every day, we can get caught up in our present suffering and lose an awareness of where God is leading us. Always, God is leading us to encounter His divine presence. We are grateful that God has led you to us. +



## HEALTH

# During Hospital Closures, Mobile Clinic Serves

Political unrest and the COVID pandemic closed hospitals during most of 2019 and 2020. Medicine, medical supplies, and protective gear were nearly nonexistent.

With new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements in Haiti, we also faced the possibility of shutting down. But God is good! Our Lodi, New Jersey team gathered a supply of masks, face shields, and thermometers and sent them the next day.

Without protective gowns, we still could not go out. Thankfully, we found sheets that Sister Izzy, our new missionary and a talented seamstress, sewed into protective gowns. Within a day, we distributed two gowns each, Clorox, and PPE to our entire medical team. We are now able to go out each day helping patients with monthly prescriptions and basic medical care. We are grateful to you and so many who helped us continue providing health care throughout Jacmel during this pandemic.

And the need continues to grow. Bishop Toussaint asked us to also serve the people of LaSaline and Lavaneau, poor areas no longer being served, as the missions tending to them have either closed or were sent home.

While Haitians see so many people come and go, we do not leave them. Please pray for the Mother Angela Clinic team who willingly faces the battle against the coronavirus and continues to serve in places where people have no access to health care. +



## Disparity in annual per capita public health spending



**\$13**  
Haiti



**\$781**  
Cuba



**\$10,000+**  
USA

## FAITH FORMATION

# All Things Are Possible With God

An essential element of *Felician Mission: Haiti* is to “cooperate with Christ in the spiritual renewal of the world.” It is the overall mission of the Felician Sisters of North America — it exists in everything we do. It is in this spirit that lives are transformed and given hope. Our Faith Formation program is life-giving not only for our youth but for the universal Church. Our faith formation is all-inclusive with the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

For Americans, when a child or person is not baptized or confirmed, it is usually by choice. In Haiti, many people are poor and live on less than \$2 a day. They cannot afford food or school, let alone small fees to receive sacraments, or afford the special clothing and food for a celebration. This is a very important mission for us.

All things are possible with God, Who uses His people to show His holiness and presence throughout the world — and now, too, in

our children. Through you, God makes that possible.

For us, this is what the new evangelization is about — walking and accompanying our brothers and sisters on the faith journey. This is total availability. +

**■ Celebrating the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ:** After Mass at our Cathedral, Bishop Toussaint leads the Eucharistic procession through the streets.



Dear Friend 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 and our Haitian brothers and sisters on our blog: [feliciansistershaiti.com](http://feliciansistershaiti.com).

We are not deterred by the challenges before us. Political unrest and COVID-19 have not dampened our resolve to do God's work here. We will continue to evolve in our **ministry of presence** as we meet the ongoing challenges of the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours as we follow in the footprints of Francis, Clare, Felix, and Blessed Mary Angela in Haiti.

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

**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](http://feliciansistersna.org).

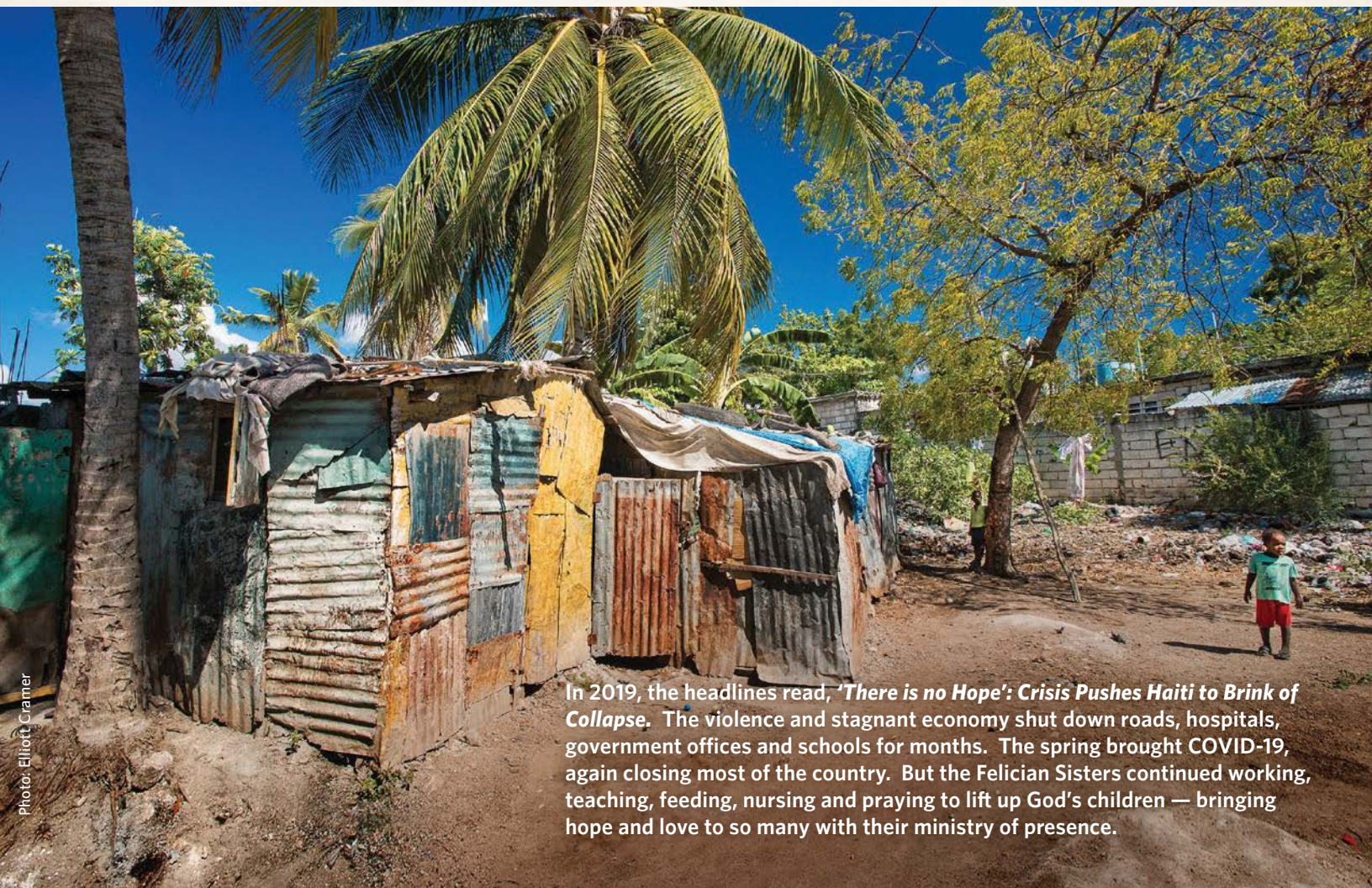


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In 2019, the headlines read, **'There is no Hope': Crisis Pushes Haiti to Brink of Collapse**. The violence and stagnant economy shut down roads, hospitals, government offices and schools for months. The spring brought COVID-19, again closing most of the country. But the Felician Sisters continued working, teaching, feeding, nursing and praying to lift up God's children — bringing hope and love to so many with their ministry of presence.

Photo: Elliott Cramer