

Congrégation Sœurs de St Joseph de l'Apparition

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ECHOES FROM HAITI

25.06.21

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Gonaïves. We have some news to share with you. The country is once again down with the pandemic. Activities were asked to close from the 11th of this month.

SCHOOL: The school conducted its final exams in the 1st week of June and results were given on the 21st June. We have 678 primary students who have moved on to their next respective classes. The high school has 100 students and 23 from the 9th grade will be writing their final exams and leave school. In spite of the country's political unrest and the pandemic, teachers tried their best to give the children their due, and the parents cooperated well with the school. The whole of February we had to close the school due to the political unrest and the kidnapping episode that created a lot of fear among the people. St. Joseph the patron saint's feast was celebrated in the school with a lot of enthusiasm as this year is also dedicated to St. Joseph by the universal church. In the month of May the school had their parents' day celebration where all the children were excited to participate and the parents were very happy to witness their children's talents. Seven Catholic children had their baptism and three received the first communion during the time of Easter.

Though it is very difficult to get things from out of the country we were happy to receive milk from RES (France) and the children enjoyed hot milk before their morning prayer.

THERAPY CENTRE: We have more and more babies registering with the therapy Centre. There is no possibility of sending the children for the treatment

needed to the capital because of the political situation, threat of the Mafias and the kidnapping incidents; movement is restricted. Sr.Pyari tries her best to treat these babies and we see many children progressing. This year we have about 55 new babies registered for treatment. A special thanks to sponsoring association help Haiti from Regensburg for helping the therapy center.

NUTRITIONAL CENTRE: The mothers of the nutritional Centre celebrated the international day of woman on 8thMarch. This year we have 68 mothers and 70 babies. Due to Covid19 we took precautions to divide into two groups to reduce crowding in the Centre. The mothers benefited from the different formations given. They were on moral, religion, social life, health and hygiene .We were able to provide dry food for the mothers every week. Thanks to the many benefactors who provided financial assistance towards this cause.The elderly and the poor too received dry food from the nutritional Centre. A special thanks to Cross Catholic outreach for their effort in feeding the poor in the zone.

TAILORING CENTER: Job is available for those learning from our center. Currently we have 38 tailoring students. We have two shifts, morning and afternoon to enable the students to spend more time at the machine. Eight students of the last year group received their diploma after two years of learning. All the students who finished last year's course are already working in the polo shirt factory, which is in our campus run by an American Catholic who is interested in helping the poor of Gonaives. There are 40 workers from Pravail and some trainers from Port au Prince; 35 trainees in the polo shirt factory. We see a lot of changes in the area. The workers families are able to send their children to school without difficulty and they have regular food at home. The families are able to live a decent life. Thanks to Mr. Jim and Jenifer Weber for their efforts in spite of lot of difficulties.

**OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO ALL THE PARTNERS OF OUR MISSION
THE MISSION RUNS BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROUS HELP.**

With warm affection and assurances of our prayer
Srs Asha ,Balandina, Margaret, Neelam, Pyari, and Rosa.

STORY OF ONE OF OUR STUDENTS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL





Bobs AUGTESTEIN is a special student in the school. He came to the high school in the year 2020; a special child who is physically challenged. He cannot write and cannot walk freely in the campus so he needs someone's help to move around. His speech is also not very clear. As no other high school could take him he was given a chance here.

We had few students in the school when we were in the other part of the village (Polkose) so the school took this as a challenge for the school's direction and for the students.

His presence became a blessing for the whole school. The whole school became interested in his well-being. Teachers took lot of interest to educate him and writing the exams for him as he orally gave the answers. The students became so much interested in him accompanying him with his basic needs and feeding him milk and food. Through his presence the children learnt to help each other.

Seeing his condition Sr.Pyari talked to his mother and asked him to come to the therapy Centre. He comes daily for the therapy; we are beginning to see lot of changes in his movements. First thing we begin to notice is that he has stopped the uncontrollable drooling; his limbs are becoming flexible and easily moving around the campus. We are happy see to all these changes. We hope soon he become independent.

The mother feels that he has improved tremendously and feels happy that he is in a better place where his all-around needs are taken care of. She recognized the difference in him after coming to the school. But now he is able to act and respond to the events well. She is very grateful to the sisters for allowing her son to be in this institution.