

Silent Auction/Family Fun Night – Thanks to everyone who supported our silent auction. We raised \$13,834 this year! This was slightly above last year, setting a record by \$18. This would not have been possible without all the people who donated items, brought soup, helped set up and tear down, and all those who came out for the fun evening. Next year's auction will be a week later than this year, **save the date** - Saturday, Oct 26th, 2024.

Bishop Toussaint sent us this message today – *“Last weekend, I was in Gandou for the feast of Saint François Xavier and for the inauguration and the blessing of Center of Health Jean Parisot. So, I want to translate to you and to all of you my acknowledgement for your great support to the Parish of St François Xavier. You bring in your heart the situation of the population of Gandou. You know, now days the situation is more and more difficult for them. Thank you and thank you for your generosity and your attention to the Parish of Gandou. I appreciate that. Please translate to the Parishioners of Sister Parish and your Pastor my gratitude. I continue to pray for all of you! May God continue to protect you and to bless you and your families!”*

Kinds regards in the Lord!

*+ Bishop Marie Erick Glandas Toussaint
Diocese of Jacmel*



School – Each year our 9th and 13th grade students take a national exam. During the 2022/23 school year, they far exceeded the national average on these exams. This year, the parish school has around 450 students in grades K-13. In addition to providing education to the children, the school empowers local individuals by employing eleven teachers in the primary grades, eleven teachers in the secondary grades, six cooks, and one custodian. New dishes and silverware were recently purchased for the school food program to keep up with the increasing enrollment. We are in the process of having the school wired for electricity and solar panels will soon be installed. Three new university students (pictured below), recent graduates from our school, are beginning to study education with the hope of returning to Gandou to teach in the school.



Water – Our Gift of Water program continues to provide clean water to 800 families. Each of these families is visited monthly by one of our four water technicians who provide ongoing training and monitor the systems to ensure they are working and being used correctly. The monthly reports we receive consistently show that around 96% of the systems are working well when the technician visits. When a system is not working, the technician either repairs it or provides education as needed to the family.

Family Empowerments – There are twenty-four families in our microloan program. Each family received a loan of \$300. Many of these families used their loan to purchase supplies in bulk in the city to sell at retail at the local market. Other families used their funds to purchase breeding animals. So far, three families have graduated from the program. In addition the microloan families, an additional 130 families are in our family aid program and receive other assistance. Many of these families are elderly couples or disabled individuals who are unable to support themselves.

Medical Care – Dr Marseille and our two nurses had 2641 patient visits this past year. There are forty-nine children in our malnutrition program and ninety-four people in our blood pressure program. In addition to the physician and nurses, our health clinic employs six health care workers who run our blood pressure program and help with our referral program. Although our referral program is going slowly now due to the insecurity in the country, six patients received eye surgery and five patients received hernia surgery in the city this year.



Parish – We are excited to be in the process of having Starlink Internet installed at our sister parish. This will allow to have zoom meetings with our sister parish priest. We will also be able to zoom with the leaders in all our projects, including Dr. Marseille and the nurses. It has exciting possibilities for our school. It will be possible to zoom with the students in the school and opens many other opportunities.

Church - We had a donor provide funds to allow us to have pews made for the church. Previously some parishioners carried chairs for Mass while other used benches from the school. These pews were made over several months at a religious community a few hours away from Gandou. The pieces were then transported to Gandou and the final pews were assembled in the church this past month.

