

Fall 2021

Haiti Outreach



“Nou kenbe rev yo!” “We cling to our dreams”

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It seems that we only hear about Haiti when there is an earthquake, or refugees land on our shores.

The mismanagement of relief funds in Haitian hands means, after two years, Haiti still suffers. There is gang violence, fear and ever-present poverty where relief should be.

“The New York Times” and “Miami Herald” tell us Haiti’s President was assassinated. This was confirmed by our in-country contacts.

Parliament disbanded. The former prime minister resumed power as interim President. The senior-most member of Haiti’s judiciary died of COVID. It is difficult to get goods into Port-au-Prince due to violent gangs who control half of the nation’s capital. Haitians want to be involved in their own future. The USA must stop supporting corrupt governments.

The Haitian people never give up despite the many challenges they face. OSPIHM (Oblate Sisters of Providence and Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary) members were thrilled when PSST Sisters, Bernadette Nicholas and Denise Desil, were able to join our Zoom meeting on Oct. 6, 2021. The Little Sisters inform us some sisters in the southwest are living in tents. Travel is difficult due to gang violence and the availability of fuel. The infirmary is built, but will need additional support as more sisters need assistance. We are brothers and sisters, those whom Jesus calls. We will continue our important support.



Pictured on the left is Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Denise on the right.

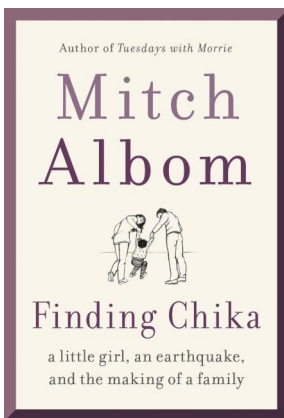
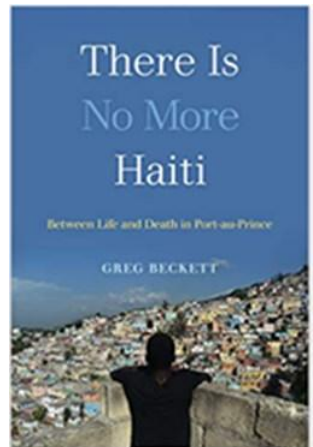
The hummingbird legend

There was a fire in the forest and all the animals ran out. They noticed a Hummingbird repeatedly filling his beak with water and dropping it on the fire which engulfed the forest. The animals asked what he was doing. He answered: “I am doing my part”.

Book Reviews

There is No More Haiti

There is No More Haiti is an ethnographic study of Port-au-Prince residents from 2002 through the 2010 earthquake and its aftermath. Author Greg Beckett teaches anthropology at Western University in London, Ontario (Canada). Beckett talks to both poor and elite. With interviewees he explores, disorder, respect, and insecurity. He observes groups in a small forest within PAP (Port-au-Prince). The Groups are at war: squatters vs gangs vs conservationists sans municipal intervention. From the groups, Beckett solicits impressions of the ongoing crisis, including the coups against Aristide in '91 and '04. The men recall the free-spending tourists of the '80s and now "look for life" an expression of their efforts to find work. The book's title reflects the country's loss of selfhood as outside forces continue their assault.



Finding Chika

Mitch Albom's *Finding Chika* is the story of an orphaned little girl from Haiti with a brain tumor. Albom and his wife, who are childless, bring Chika to the US to secure treatment for her. Despite the anticipated tragedy, the joyful child brings the Alboms the gift and vulnerability of parenting, the depths of love and grief.

Haiti action alert

Call for justice for Haitian immigrants

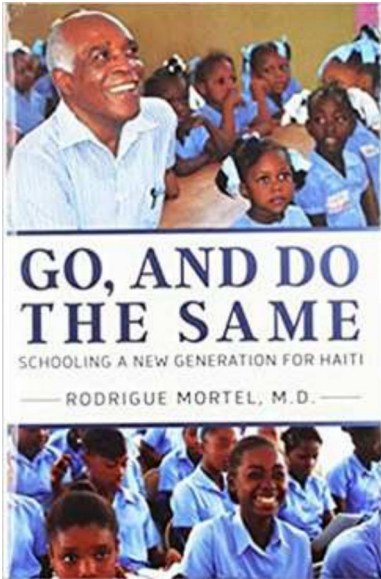
Black undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers have been subject to racist and dehumanizing treatment in the United States. The recent treatment of Haitian immigrants at the Southern Border is no exception. Video and photos of Haitian immigrants, including women and children, being whipped by the U.S. Border Patrol agents on horseback have surfaced. The Biden administration began daily mass deportation flights to treacherous conditions in Haiti. In the last two months, Haiti's president was assassinated and both an earthquake and tropical storm rocked the nation. The Biden administration recently extended Temporary Protected Status for Haitians already living in the U.S. while simultaneously deporting newly arrived Haitians, claiming the country is safe.

Since the Biden administration began, the African Bureau of Immigration and Social Affairs joined in calling for the End of Title 42. Title 42 allows the deportation of immigrants at the border without the possibility of asylum. Title 42 is the policy used to expel Haitians.



Click [here](#) to contact your Senators and Representatives asking them to end Title 42; stop the deportation of Haitian asylum seekers; and hold the individuals who violated the human rights of Haitian immigrants accountable.

Fundraising for Les Bons Samaritans



Dr. Mortel's book was published in July 2018

The French Club at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg PA (where IHMs have been on staff since 1937) is sponsoring two primary grade students at Les Bons Samaritans (LBS) in St. Marc, Haiti. LBS is part of a complex that provides pre-school to adult education founded by Dr. Rodrigue Mortel, MD who sees his [mission to empower the poorest of the poor through education](#).

Dr. Mortel, who came to the US in 1963 after graduating from medical school in Port-au-Prince and working in rural Haiti, specializes in gynecologic oncology and has been in academic leadership at Penn State University since the 1970s.

McDevitt French instructor, Jill Tenny, met Dr. Mortel when he spoke at the Harrisburg Diocesan Education Conference in 2019 and invited him to speak to her class. He is familiar with the school as two of his grandchildren were students there and he is a lay deacon at nearby [St. Joan of Arc, Hershey, PA](#).

After meeting Dr. Mortel, students were eager to raise funds to support children in Haiti. They met their goal of \$700 by selling soft pretzels at school (with the help from Philadelphia Pretzel Company.) "The pretzels were a hit with staff and students," reports Sr. Cathy Nally, IHM. The club presented a check to Dr. Mortel and sent Christmas presents to all the children in the class with Stephen and Darvens, their sponsored students. Ms. Tenny and her husband also are sponsoring a child.



Some McDevitt French club members with Ms. Tenny and Dr. Mortel



French club officer presents a check to Dr. Mortel

Twinning

Update on Partners of Parishes Program

The Parish Twinning Program of the Americas (PTPA) focuses on creating relationships between churches in the US and parishes in Haiti. OSP-IHM is paired with Little Sisters of St. Therese in Haiti.

Because of unrest in Haiti, many visits have been canceled. Well-established personal connections help clarify what is happening in specific parts of the country and allow donors to continue support to projects.

IHM congregations initially contacted the Little Sisters of St. Therese (Petite Soeurs de St. Therese) (PSSTs) through the assistance of [Parish Twinning of the Americas](#).

In solidarity with the Oblate Sisters of Providence, we continue communication and exchange of visits with PSSTs. Through the generosity of our members, staff and friends we have been able to provide help for the Little Sisters' after the 2010 earthquake. Support was given for improvements to their infirmary as well as their ministries in nutrition, healthcare, and education.

The Twinning program initiated the contact between US-based organizations (e.g. Haiti MaryCare in CT and Haiti Outreach Mission in Detroit). While PTTA is affiliated with the Diocese of Nashville and works through the hierarchy in Haiti, Michigan's HOM has three Episcopal and three Catholic parish participants that work with one Episcopal and one Catholic parish in Mirebalais, Haiti. This program supports health clinics, schools, and general assistance to pastors. [Learn more about this partnership](#).



HOM volunteer Anne Murphy IHM explains nutrition supplement on a 2016 visit.

- ♦ In the 1990's Marian High School (Bloomfield, Michigan) graduate, [Mary Louise Larkin](#), led the evolution of New Haven CT's PTTA Haiti twin with Jacquesyl, Haiti starting with safe birthing kits and developing public health improvements like building wells for clean water.
- ♦ Rich Gosser and his wife Daneen are associates of the Spiritan Congregation. The Spiritans have been in Haiti for over 150 years and have several parishes in Haiti. [Rich in Mercy](#) coordinates funding for many projects in the Spiritan's Haiti parishes from agriculture to education.

Having these relationships in place promotes continuity and encourages prayerful support of our suffering neighbors.