

Rebuilding Haiti Through the Empowerment of Girls

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake shook the island of Haiti. In the aftermath, 200,000 people died and 1.5 million homeless. Homes, hospital, schools crumbled. Lives changed, ours too, as we sought to respond to the need.

Lent, 2019 finds us in our 7th year of supporting 10 girls at Annunciation School and College Coeur de Marie. We are inspired by those who have so little and their achievements are so big.

As we begin this year's Lenten calendar, we are aware that the benefit of our contribution is not only for 10 girls, but also for their families, teachers, the Sisters, Leogane and Haiti.

The effect of a girls education reaches out to the larger community. It's called the ripple effect. As you pray with this Lenten calendar consider the ripple effect you have made on others and others on you. It's how we change our world for good.

You are invited to make a difference in the lives of 10 girls who live about 800 miles from Florida. This year we invite you to make a connection with the children of Leogane, Haiti. Blessings on the journey.

Donations can be sent to:
Sisters of St. Joseph of NW PA—Haiti Project
5031 West Ridge Road
Erie, Pa 16506

Checks payable to
Sisters of St. Joseph of NW PA
Memo: Haiti Project

Ash Wednesday March 6	Of 187 countries, Haiti ranks #168; the U.S. ranks #13; Canada #12 .Human Development Index '18. If you live in a top ranking country commit to help 10 girl-children in Haiti.
Thursday March 7	Income of 2/5 of Haitians is from agricultural production. 30% of Haitians struggle to obtain food daily. (Borgen Project). Consider contributing the cost of your favorite dessert .
Friday March 8	Ninety percent of farmers must depend on the weather for their crops to be sufficiently watered. If you have an outside water source for your garden, donate 50 cents/
Saturday March 9	Fifty-nine percent of Haitians live below the national poverty line; 1 in 2 Haitians live on less than \$2.41 a day; 1 in 4 live on \$1.23 a day. What is your average cost of food a day? Donate that amount or a portion of it.
Sunday March 10	Low education levels, food insecurity and poor access to health care contribute to the high poverty levels in Haiti. How much do you value helping our neighbors in Haiti?
Monday March 11	The average Haitian, 25 years or older, has less than 5 years of schooling. (USAID 2016). Count your years of education? Contribute an amount for each year.
Tuesday March 12	Taila, Rose, Kimberlie, Princess, Ferlanda, Wilca, Sorina, Sheidna , Michela and Nastacia are being educated at Annunciation and Coeur de Marie schools. Every day they are grateful for your generosity.
Wednesday March 13	Half of public sector teachers in Haiti lack basic qualifications. (USAID 2015) At Annunciation, 3 have a teaching diploma and 4 have a teaching certificate.
Thursday March 14	AND for more good news, 2 staff members from Annunciation School are currently studying for a teaching certificate in a 3 year program. Congrats to these teachers and to YOU for your generosity to help educate them.
Friday March 15	Haiti faces shortages in qualified teachers. At Coeur de Marie Secondary School, The teachers in a secondary school are required to have a teaching certificate and/or a diploma (depending on what year they teach).
Saturday March 16	Ten graduates of College Coeur de Marie received university scholarships. What an achievement! University living can be difficult...can you help support them?

Sunday March 17	An educated girl is more likely to stay healthy, save money, build a business, have healthy children, educate sons and daughters equally. Ponder that for world growth!
Monday March 18	Only 10% of Haitians have access to piped water. (UNICEF.org) Add 25 cents for each faucet in your home.
Tuesday March 19	Women are most often the collectors, managers of water in households and farmers of irrigated and rain fed crops. Support clean drinking water access for students at Annunciation School.
Wednesday March 20	Rose, Laurie, and Tamara moved with their family from Leogane. Michela, Nastacia, and Wilca are now among the 10 girls we support. They (and their family) are grateful to be able to continue their education.
Thursday March 21	Watch <i>THE GIRL EFFECT</i> on YouTube. Find it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlvmE4_KMNw Share it with your friends. Invite them to also to make a difference in the lives of 10 girls in Haiti.
Friday March 22	Food insecurity in Haiti is substantial in rural areas (34%) especially in households with children. Students at our primary and secondary schools receive one meal daily.
Saturday March 23	In Haiti, only 5% of children in 1st grade will arrive at 6th grade and only 29 % will reach the final year of upper secondary. Together we can help move that statistic to 100%! Wouldn't that be great!
Sunday March 24	A large number of poor children have to work while attending school, raising the probability of dropping out for financial reasons. With your help, our 10 girls can stay in school and not have to work, that's improving their chance of being lifted out of poverty.
Monday March 25	Only 29% of Haitians, age 25 and above, attended secondary school. (USAID'15). We want to help our girls beat this statistic!
Tuesday March 26	On average, an additional year of education generates 10 % increase in earnings for individuals and contributing to economic development. That creates the ripple effect, making life better for more people.
Wednesday March 27	Haiti's healthy life expectancy at birth is 62 years. Give 5 cents for each of your relatives over the age of 62.

Thursday March 28	Think about what you're learning about life in Haiti for our 10 girls, both the opportunities and the challenges. On this Lenten journey, how does it speak to you?
Friday March 29	Haiti is susceptible to natural disasters: Earthquake 2010, Hurricanes Matthew 2016, Irma and Maria 2017. The devastation lingers long among families to rebuild their lives.
Saturday March 30	Education is transformational for individuals and societies--it creates pathways to better health, economic growth, a sustainable environment, and peaceful, democratic societies. Lets help 10 girls transform their country.
Sunday March 31	Girls around the world face enormous obstacles to get a quality education, among them: poverty, geographical isolation, minority status, disability, early marriage and pregnancy, gender-based violence, and traditional attitudes about the roles of girls and women. Ponder that!
Monday April 1	Education saves lives: A child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past age five. Weren't we fortunate!
Tuesday April 2	Across the globe, women are under-represented as voters and restricted from political involvement (UN Women's programs, Borgen Project). Protect girls through education.
Wednesday April 3	More school for girls=greater earning: an extra year of secondary school can increase their future income by 10%. Support Michela and Nastacia (now in year 2 of secondary school) through another year at College Coeur de Marie.
Thursday April 4	What are the dreams of the children in your family? Would they differ from Wilca's or Sorina's dreams for their life?
Friday April 5	Imagine what the day is like for Taila, Rose, Sorina, and Sheidna. What challenges do you think they face?
Saturday April 6	A girl on planet Earth has a 1 in 4 chance of being born in poverty (World Bank '11). Help change it to zero chance.
Sunday April 7	If you educate a man, you educate an individual. If you educate a woman, you educate a nation.- <i>African Proverb</i>

Monday April 8	In developing countries, 20% of family income is needed to send 1 child to school. Often the boy is chosen to attend and the girl stays home. (UNICEF)
Tuesday April 9	By investing in education for a girl from a developing country, you can lift her out of poverty and alter the condition of her family, community and world. (UN)
Wednesday April 10	Estimates are that the average girl in Haiti only attends school until the age of 7 years. Girls are often pulled out of school to assist with household chores or when families are faced with steep tuition fees.
Thursday April 11	By investing in education for a girl from a developing country, you can help lift her out of poverty and alter the condition of her family, community and world. That's quite a investment to be a part of!!
Friday April 12	Only 5% of Haitian children who begin school will finish. Add 50 cents to help Ferlanda stay in school through graduation at level 13.
Saturday April 13	Girls are half the youth population in the developed world. Little attention is given to challenges facing them in their community (World Bank). For each challenge you name, contribute 25 cents.
Sunday April 14	225,000 Haitian girl children are restaveks or child slaves with little or no opportunity to attend school. Our 10 girl children are grateful for your generosity which allows them to stay in school.
Monday April 15	Violence negatively impacts access to education and a safe environment for learning. Many women experience physical and sexual violence. Work for peace!
Tuesday April 16	A wise woman once asked "How many people are in your community?" After allowing time for thought, she said: "If you answer any less than 7 plus billion, you have left someone out." Food for thought on your journey.!
Wednesday April 17	"So let us lead a global struggle against illiteracy, poverty, and terrorism. And let us pick up our books and our pens. They are our most powerful weapons. "- <i>Malala Yousafzai</i>

Join the Sisters of St. Joseph on a 2019 Lenten Journey With Our Neighbors in Haiti



"In the poor and outcast we see Christ face;
by loving and helping the poor,
we love and serve Christ. "

Pope Francis

This Lent journey day-by-day
with our "dear neighbors" in Haiti

Holy Thursday April 18

Jesus washed his disciples' feet as a sign of His love and service. How can you be a sign of Jesus' love?

Good Friday April 19

Today recall Jesus' suffering and death. How is Jesus' suffering like the suffering of the people of Haiti?

Holy Saturday April 20

Today await on the New Life that the Resurrection brings. Pray for new life for the people of Haiti.