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2026 REPORT

Mission: Haiti

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.

**“For nothing will be impossible with God.”
(Luke 1:37)**

Praise the Lord!

We have experienced the truth of these words while living here in Jacmel, Haiti. This past year has been filled with countless blessings and graces. Time and again, we have witnessed what once seemed impossible become possible through God’s love and providence.

How often do we hear good news about Haiti? Too often, the only stories we hear describe it as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere—a nation overlooked, dismissed and forgotten amid the many tragedies of our world. But that is not the whole story.

Haiti is also a place of miracles, where God continues to make the impossible possible.

We have witnessed the healing of both body and soul through the Mother Angela Clinic and our Faith Formation Program. We have watched young men and women discover new hope and dignity as they learn lifelong skills through the St. Clare Sewing School and the St. Francis Computer Lab.

We have seen families gain access to clean water as neighbors teach one another how to use simple bucket filters and then share that gift with others throughout their villages.

Yes, we have witnessed miracles unfold before our eyes.

And soon, you will see another dream come to life. A vision first imagined years ago is now becoming a reality through the House of Bread Bakery. What once seemed beyond reach is taking shape because, with God, all things are possible.

What moves us most is seeing how God works through ordinary people. He meets us where we are and uses each one of us to bring hope to those who have felt forgotten. Through your generosity, lives are being transformed. Families are fed, meaningful jobs are created, dignity is restored and lasting relationships are built. ***Together, we are helping people believe once again that they have a future filled with hope.***



Thank you for being part of what God is making possible in Jacmel. Thank you for sharing your time, your talents and your treasure in service to God’s Kingdom. Your prayers, support and generosity are bearing fruit in ways that only God could accomplish.

May God continue to bless you abundantly, for through Him, all things are possible.

God bless you,
Sisters Inga, Julitta and Marilyn

A Dream Rising: Building **Hope** Through Bread in Jacmel

Meet the hearts behind this mission.

Sisters Inga, Julitta and Marilyn have dedicated themselves to serving the people of Jacmel with faith, compassion and hope. Read their personal message on the back cover.

**Caritas (officially known as Caritas Diocésaine de Jacmel) is a Catholic humanitarian and community development organization operating in the southeastern region of Haiti.*

For many years, we have dreamed of building a bakery in Jacmel—a place that would nourish people, create meaningful jobs and bring the community together. There are many sayings about dreams, and one of the most inspiring is that when you believe deeply enough and faithfully pursue them, they can become reality.

This dream has been shared for many years with our dear friend and companion on our Haitian journey, Dr. Jean-Paul Bonnet. What began with a visit to a poor single mother and her sons, living in a small home surrounded by banana trees, gradually grew into countless conversations around kitchen tables and meeting rooms. Again and again, we asked ourselves: ***How could we make this happen? Where should we begin?***

For years, the conversation continued until we realized it was time to stop talking and start walking. In early 2022, we began seeking opportunities, asking questions and knocking on doors. Eventually, we met with Bishop Erik Glandas Toussaint of the Diocese of Jacmel. He embraced the vision and generously offered land at the Diocese’s Pastoral Center for the project. From there, the dream began to take shape. Plans were drawn, agreements were signed, a well was dug and construction began.

Like any mission inspired by faith, the journey has not been without trials. Every calling from God is tested and our path was no exception. The greatest challenge came when escalating gang violence forced us to leave Haiti.

Overnight, we found ourselves leading the Mission virtually. Supplies could no longer reach Jacmel and construction on the bakery came to a halt.



During this difficult period, we also suffered the heartbreaking loss of Fr. Bertrand Dieuville, then Director of Caritas Jacmel, who became gravely ill and passed away. Soon afterward, the project engineer left Haiti and construction completely stopped.

At the end of July 2025, we were finally able to return to Jacmel. The dream of the bakery had never left our hearts. When we visited the site after nearly three years, it had become overgrown with grass and vegetation. Yet standing there, we felt the same passion and determination that we had when the project first began. ***Our vision of creating jobs and feeding people came alive once again.***

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Life-Giving **Water**: Bringing Clean Water to Communities in Jacmel, Haiti

Access to clean water remains one of the greatest challenges facing the people of Jacmel and the surrounding rural communities in Haiti. Every day, families struggle to obtain safe drinking water. Without a public water system, they depend entirely on natural springs, wells and rivers to meet their daily needs. This reality places an enormous burden on families, especially children, pregnant women and the elderly. Many people must walk several kilometers through mountainous terrain, often spending hours carrying heavy buckets of water back to their homes. The lack of clean water not only makes daily life more difficult but also increases the risk of waterborne illnesses.

To help address this need, our *Servants of the Living Water Program* has been reaching villages and communal sections in and around Jacmel, including Marigot in Saint Dominic Parish and Meyer, Grand Colline, in the 6th Communal Section of Grand-Goâve in Notre Dame of the Assumption Parish over the last two months. The program is led by Sr. Inga Borko, who is preparing two young women, Melinda Laurent and Rosemarie Charles, to provide training for each family receiving a water filter. As the program continues to grow, the team is traveling to additional communities so that many more families can benefit from access to safe drinking water.

Each distribution begins with prayer and a reflection on John 4:6-26, the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, reminding participants that Christ is the source of living water. Families are also invited to pray for the generous donors whose support made it possible to provide the filter buckets. The training emphasizes the importance of drinking clean water, explains how the filtration system works, teaches proper cleaning and maintenance of the filter and includes hands-on practice so every recipient feels confident using it. Participants also learn how to safely filter their water and review the agreement for participating in the program. Each family is encouraged to share clean, filtered water with three neighboring families for four months. After that time, the filter bucket becomes the permanent property of the receiving family, allowing the benefits of the program to continue expanding throughout the community.

Reaching these communities requires determination and perseverance. The team traveled approximately three hours round trip to Marigot and six hours round trip to Meyer, Grand Colline. Although the roads were in very poor condition, they safely reached each destination and returned home despite the long hours and physical exhaustion. The commitment shown by the participants was equally inspiring. Some walked four hours or more through difficult mountain terrain simply to attend the training. Even those who arrived late had made extraordinary efforts to be there because they understood the value of receiving clean water for their families.

The training is intended not only for those who attended the sessions but ultimately for everyone in the community who is in need of safe drinking water. The joy and gratitude expressed by the families were overwhelming. Many shared heartfelt testimonies about never having had reliable access to clean drinking water in their homes. Receiving a filter bucket gave them hope for healthier lives and brighter futures. They expressed deep appreciation for everyone who supported the project, those who helped make this ministry possible and the team members who traveled to conduct the training. Many promised to pray each day for the generous donors who made this ministry possible, offering sincere words of thanks and encouragement.

The *Servants of the Living Water Program* is one of the simplest, fastest and most effective ways to provide communities with safe drinking water. By making clean water readily available, it plays a vital role in preventing waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea while improving the overall health and well-being of families. More than simply providing clean water, this initiative restores dignity, strengthens communities and offers hope. With continued training, faithful follow-up and the generosity of supporters, this program is transforming lives one family at a time. We are deeply grateful to everyone whose prayers, compassion and generosity make this life-giving ministry possible. **Thank you for helping bring clean water, better health and renewed hope to the people of Haiti.**



We immediately got to work clearing the property. The young men who have been with our mission since childhood—and who are now valued members of our team—worked tirelessly to restore the site. Once again, we sought the partnership of Caritas. The new director, Fr. Altidor Jean Baptiste, connected us with a new engineer, and after Dr. Bonnet visited Jacmel last fall, construction resumed with renewed energy.

The next step was finding a skilled electrician to continue wiring the buildings that had been started three years earlier. The bakery complex includes the bakery itself, a café, restroom facilities and a home for the property's caretaker. We were blessed to work with the same electrician who has assisted our mission for years and has extensive expertise in solar panels, inverters, lithium battery systems and generators.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this phase has been watching our young mission workers spend time alongside the electrician, learning every part of the installation process. This reflects the heart of *Felician Mission: Haiti's* vision—to accompany, empower and equip people with skills that lead to long-term sustainability.

Next came the plumbing. Water lines were installed before work began on the parking area. Slowly but surely, everything started coming together. Sinks and toilets have been installed, water tanks will soon be placed on the rooftops and ceiling fans and lighting fixtures are being installed throughout the property even as this article is being written.

A bakery also requires specialized equipment. Several years ago, we purchased the essential ovens, mixers and baking equipment needed to produce bread and, in the future, pastries and cakes. At the beginning of May, these items were finally shipped to Haiti and have arrived in Port-au-Prince and are awaiting release before being transported to Jacmel.

Although we have come a long way, there is still much to do. We still need industrial sinks, refrigerators, freezers, baking sheets, large cooking pots and many other essential items before we can open our doors.

This is where we ask for your prayers and support.

God has brought us this far and we know He continues to walk beside us. This bakery is about much more than bread. It is about creating opportunities, restoring dignity through meaningful work, strengthening families and offering hope to the people of Jacmel. We believe this dream was placed in our hearts by God and we trust that it is His desire for the people we are called to serve.

As we continue this journey, we pray, listen and carefully discern each step. With God's grace—and with your partnership—we look forward to the day when the aroma of freshly baked bread fills this bakery, nourishing both body and spirit and serving as a lasting sign of hope for the people of Jacmel.

For us, every loaf of bread will be more than food—it will be a reminder that when faith is placed in God's hands, even the smallest dream can become a blessing for an entire community. ■



Seeing God's Blessings in Humble Places

Mother Angela Mobile Clinic

"Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing."

— Camille Pissarro

Blessings are seen everywhere here in Haiti. Because of people like you, we are able to see those blessings and share them with you. One of the greatest blessings is the Mother Angela Mobile Clinic.

This year, we celebrated 12 years of serving the Diocese of Jacmel by bringing healthcare to 28 rural communities where access to medical care simply does not exist. Through God's providence and your generosity, doctors, nurses, medications and medical supplies have helped sustain the lives of thousands of people over the years.

Operating a mobile clinic in Haiti is not easy. Every day brings new challenges. We travel through mountainous terrain, roads are sometimes blocked because of gang activity, essential medications must be purchased in the Dominican Republic and transported across the border and our vehicles endure years of wear on rough roads. Yet one thing remains constant: God always provides what we need. He does so through people like you who believe in the mission of the Mother Angela Mobile Clinic.

One of the greatest blessings has been the consistency of our medical team. If you have followed our mission over the years, you may have noticed many familiar faces in our photographs. The same dedicated staff members have faithfully remained with us, providing stability, valuable experience and compassionate care to those who are sick. Their commitment has also created meaningful employment, allowing them

to share their God-given gifts and talents with the people they serve.

Many of you may remember the story of Dr. Tchery Louis. Through your support, *Felician Mission: Haiti* was able to assist him throughout his years of medical education. Today, he serves as one of the physicians with the Mother Angela Mobile Clinic—a wonderful example of paying forward the generosity he once received. Dr. Louis also lives at the mission, where he is an invaluable resource in responding to medical emergencies that come to our door at any hour. In addition, he is authorized to practice at St. Michel Hospital in Jacmel, further strengthening the care available to our community.

Another tremendous blessing this year has been the purchase of a new Toyota ambulance, the same dependable model that has faithfully served us for the past twelve years. Acquiring the vehicle was no small task. With Port-au-Prince largely cut off from the rest of the country because of gang violence, what might normally have taken a few weeks became a four-month journey of paperwork, logistics and perseverance. Working through Caritas, and with God's guidance every step of the way, we were finally able to receive this much-needed vehicle. We are deeply grateful to Caritas and to everyone whose generosity made this possible.

The Mother Angela Mobile Clinic continues to go where many others cannot. We travel

to remote villages, bringing healthcare to families who would otherwise go without medical attention. In these humble places, we witness beautiful things every day. People are able to manage high blood pressure and diabetes, children are treated for scabies and other skin conditions, patients receive care for malaria and common illnesses and expectant mothers receive vital prenatal care that helps protect both mother and child.

The blessings we see every day.

Once again, God provides exactly what is needed through people who believe in this mission. Thank you for believing in the *Felician Mission: Haiti* and our Mother Angela Mobile Clinic. Your prayers, generosity, and partnership make it possible to bring healing, hope and the love of Christ to thousands of our brothers and sisters throughout rural Haiti.

Together, we continue to see beautiful things in humble places, discovering God's blessings in the lives of the people we are privileged to serve. ■



Spiritual Renewal of the World: Renewing This Corner of Haiti

As Felician Sisters, we believe that lasting transformation begins with spiritual renewal. No meaningful change in a person's life can occur without encountering the Good News, experiencing God's love and growing in faith. For this reason, wherever we serve, we are committed to creating opportunities for children, youth and adults to deepen their relationship with Christ. We strive to provide not only sound catechetical instruction but also meaningful experiences of prayer, the sacraments and Christian community where faith can take root and flourish.

This year, our mission catechetical program was very vibrant, with 75 students enrolled in classes and most participating faithfully throughout the year. The sisters worked closely with catechists who served seven different age groups, providing instruction and preparing students for the sacraments of First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. We were blessed to have seven young catechists serving in this ministry, although two entered the seminary midway through the

catechetical year. Fortunately, another catechist was found to continue supporting the program and ensuring that the children and youth continued receiving the formation they needed.

Youth also had many opportunities to grow in faith through overnight retreats organized at our mission and in other locations in Jacmel. They participated in the Charismatic Congress, celebrated the Eucharist with our community and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

When our community experienced the loss of a young mother, only 22 years old, her family and many youth gathered for Mass and a time of sharing that brought comfort, strengthened their faith and helped them begin the process of grieving and healing together. In moments of both joy and sorrow, our faith community continues to be a source of support, prayer and hope.

A significant improvement this year was the purchase of a large screen for our computer room, which allowed us to incorporate

technology into catechesis. This resource made lessons more engaging and enriched the students' experience of learning and growing in faith.

The catechetical year concluded with a joyful celebration. In addition to receiving their certificates, the children and young people enjoyed watching the children's version of *The Chosen* in French. The catechists served popcorn, chocolate, juice and a delicious cake baked at the mission. It was a beautiful celebration of faith, gratitude and community, marking the end of a *year filled with spiritual growth and God's abundant blessings.* ■



Education as a Mission of Hope: My Testimony at the Felician Sisters Mission in Haiti

My name is Gaëlle Candio. I am a student of Educational Sciences and I am privileged to be part of the Felician Sisters mission in Haiti education program as a beneficiary. When I look back on my journey, I realize that it is thanks to the love, solidarity and commitment of this mission that I have been able to continue pursuing my dreams.

Since my classical studies, the Felician Sisters mission has believed in my abilities. The sisters committed to supporting me by paying my school fees, which allowed me to continue my studies despite my family's economic difficulties. When I entered university, this support did not stop. On the contrary, the mission continued to accompany me so that I could pursue my degree in Educational Sciences.

The work of *Felician Mission: Haiti* is led with great dedication by Sisters Inga, Marilyn and Julitta. With their vision and love for the most vulnerable children and families, they have implemented several programs that give many people hope for a better future.

But receiving help never made me feel like I had to just wait. Since I was still studying, I chose to give back to the community a portion of what I received. I started helping the children in the program with after-school lessons, preparing them for exams and encouraging them to love studying. Today, I work together with Sister Inga, Sister Marilyn and Sister Julitta to support the educational and social activities of the mission.

My responsibilities are varied. I follow the children's files, check the report cards to assess their progress during the school year and together with the sisters we decide what support each child needs. When we notice that a child is struggling with a subject, we find teachers to give them remedial lessons. Our goal is not only to pay for the children's schooling, but to help them succeed and develop their full potential.

I also participate in the mission's food program. I am responsible for purchasing food, preparing expense reports and helping to organize food distribution for those working in the mission and for the most vulnerable families. We prepare food kits and support families in dire need. The mission also helps the sick, families in difficulty and others who need a helping hand. This shows that our commitment is not limited to education, but seeks to improve people's lives in all dimensions.

Most families who come to ask for support live in very difficult economic conditions. Many parents are unemployed and have between five and eight children to take care of. In many homes, children do not have a desk to do their homework, nor electricity or good light to study at night. That is why the mission opens its doors to these children to come and study in a more favorable space.

When we select beneficiaries, we do not differentiate between girls and boys. We consider the needs of the family, the child's desire to learn and the effort he or she makes in school. **Every child deserves the same opportunity to build his or her future.**

One example that stands out to me is the Anis family, which has five children. The mission helps these children continue their education. Initially, their academics were not always strong. However, thanks to encouragement, regular follow-up and reinforcement lessons, they improved a lot and became successful. This story shows how support, discipline and love can transform a child's life.

For me, being part of the Felician Sisters mission is more than receiving financial aid for my education. It is being part of a family that believes in the dignity of every person, in the power of education and in service. **I am proud to have benefited from the mission's support and today I have the opportunity to serve alongside Sisters Inga, Marilyn and Julitta to continue bringing hope to the most vulnerable children and families.** I believe that every child who has the opportunity to go to school is a seed of hope planted for the future of Haiti. ■



Teaching Hope Through Code

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of volunteering to teach a multi-week Introduction to Coding course for the young men and women at the Felician Sisters mission in Jacmel, Haiti. Although I have taught computer programming for many years, this experience was unlike any other because it fulfilled a dream that began when I was a teenager.

My name is Jean-Marc Julien. I was born in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti and moved to the United States when I was six years old. When I taught myself to code at the age of fourteen, I often imagined that one day I would be able to return and share that knowledge with young people in Haiti.

Years later, that dream became a reality through an unexpected connection. Peterson Momplaisir, a former student from a previous coding course I had taught, remained in touch with me as he pursued his own goals in technology. Together, we believed that students at the Felician Sisters mission would benefit from the same opportunity. Peterson introduced me to Sister Inga and Sister Marilyn and they warmly welcomed my desire to volunteer. Peterson joined me as an assistant instructor, helping to teach the course and support the students throughout the program.

From the first day of class, I enjoyed getting to know the students. Many were quiet and hesitant at first, unsure of what to expect or whether computer programming was something they could learn. Week after week, however, I watched that uncertainty give way to curiosity and confidence. Students who had once been reluctant to speak began asking thoughtful questions, helping one another and taking pride in what they were creating.

One of the most memorable moments came during our final capstone presentations. I was genuinely impressed by the quality of the projects the students produced. Even more meaningful than the technical work was seeing students who had started the course shy and reserved stand proudly before the class, confidently presenting something they had built themselves. My hope throughout the course was to show them that coding is not as intimidating as it first appears. Watching them succeed convinced me that they had discovered not only new technical skills but also greater confidence in their own abilities.

This experience has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling of my life. It reminded me that education is about far more than teaching technical skills. It is about helping people recognize their own potential and giving them the confidence to pursue opportunities they may never have imagined possible. Before the course concluded, I shared resources with the students so they could continue learning on their own, but I also came away convinced of the importance of mentorship.

When young people have someone who believes in them, encourages them, and walks alongside them, their possibilities expand tremendously.



I am deeply grateful to Sister Inga, Sister Marilyn, Peterson and the Felician Sisters for allowing me to experience a lifelong dream while investing in the next generation of Haitian technology leaders. It was truly an honor to give back to the country of my birth and I will always cherish the relationships we formed and the hope we shared together. ■

Peterson: A Life of Faith, Learning and Hope

Peterson Momplaisir is a young man with a deep passion for learning and personal growth, particularly in the fields of computer science and technology. From an early age, he has been eager to learn new skills and apply his knowledge in practical ways. His interest in programming and computers stems from his belief that technology is a powerful tool for building a better future and creating opportunities for others.

At the age of seven, Peterson moved to Jacmel to pursue better educational opportunities and now lives with his aunt. This move opened doors that would have otherwise been unavailable to him, allowing him to continue his education and develop the skills that have shaped his future.

A significant influence in Peterson's life has been the sisters at *Felician Mission: Haiti*. Through their guidance and support, he has received not only an education but also formation in discipline, moral values and faith. *The mission has helped him grow academically, intellectually and spiritually, giving him the confidence and strength to face life's challenges while deepening his relationship with God.*

Today, Peterson gives back to the mission by serving in its computer lab. There, he assists students and community members with computer use, internet research, document preparation, printing and technical support. Through this work, he is able to share the knowledge he has gained while serving others and helping members of his community develop valuable technology skills.

Peterson also teaches computer courses at a variety of different levels—from basic knowledge about computers to more advanced technical skills. Most recently, he had the privilege of working alongside Jean-Marc Julien, a Technical Trainer, Full Stack Software Engineer and AI Specialist at Deloitte University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, to offer an online course that taught Haitian youth in Jacmel how to build websites.

Looking to the future, Peterson has a clear vision and an ambitious dream. He hopes to establish a technology school that will serve his community by providing education in computer science, programming and other essential technological skills. His goal is to create opportunities for children and young adults—especially those from rural communities with limited resources—to gain the knowledge they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world.



Peterson believes that education, technology and faith together have the power to transform lives. Through his future technology school, he hopes to strengthen his community, support his family and contribute to the development of Haiti by equipping the next generation with the skills, values and hope they need to build a brighter future. ■



Work Gives Dignity

Work gives dignity and dignity empowers. From the beginning, God has inspired us to make every person is welcomed, respected and valued. Over the years, we have had the joy of watching the children who grew up at our mission become responsible, hardworking young adults. Whenever possible, we also seek ways to provide meaningful work that affirms their dignity and helps them build a brighter future.

One exciting opportunity has come through the House of Bread Bakery. As construction continues and the finishing touches are being added, we realized that many of the remaining tasks could be completed by the young men who grew up at our mission. What better way to prepare for a bakery that will nourish our community than by providing honest work to those who helped make it possible?

As painting and landscaping began on the bakery site, we hired several of our own young men to work alongside us for a fair wage.

Alberto and Gabriel have faithfully worked at the Felician Mission for the past five years, caring for the grounds and assisting with maintenance. When two of the mission houses needed painting, we asked if they would be willing to take on the project. Their answer was an enthusiastic yes. They did such an excellent job that we knew they were ready for the much larger task of painting the bakery complex. Three buildings, countless windows, and many hours of work lay ahead, but they embraced the challenge with confidence. It was inspiring to see the pride they took in their work.



Their growing skills, confidence and sense of purpose reflected the dignity that meaningful employment brings.

The landscaping required strong hands as well. Soil from the excavation of the new cistern had to be moved and spread throughout the property. Once again, God provided the right people. Jameson, Ricardo and Wanson, whom we have known since they were young boys, eagerly accepted the opportunity. They have often come to the mission looking for work and now they were able to use their strength and determination to help transform the property. Learning a strong work ethic, developing practical skills and receiving fair wages all contribute to building character and restoring hope.

What is especially meaningful is that each of these young men learned by watching others who came to serve at the mission. They worked beside skilled volunteers, observed their example and gradually developed valuable abilities of their own. Their journey reminds us of the familiar proverb: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." While meeting immediate needs is important, equipping people with skills and opportunities empowers them to become self-sufficient and to provide for themselves and their families for years to come.

As the House of Bread Bakery prepares to open its doors, we hope these young men will continue to be part of its story—as bakers, gardeners, maintenance workers and drivers delivering fresh bread throughout the community. *The bakery is more than a building; it is a place where lives can be transformed through meaningful work.*

Yes, work gives dignity and dignity empowers. In a world longing for hope, every opportunity to work, to serve and to grow becomes a reminder of God's love in action. Here in Haiti, we are witnessing that truth every day, one life at a time. ■



Sewing My Dreams into Reality

My name is Shelle and I am 23 years old. I live in the Saint-Tropez neighborhood of Jacmel.

Today, I am a university student, but the journey to this point has not been easy. Every day, I face many challenges, especially the high cost of pursuing a college education. There are times when my financial situation becomes very difficult, but I refuse to let it discourage me. Instead, I choose to see every obstacle as an opportunity to move closer to my dreams.

One of the greatest blessings in my life has been my relationship with the Felician Sisters, whom I have known for the past four years. I first met them at St. Clare Sewing School when I knocked on their door to enroll in a sewing course. **That decision completely changed my outlook on life.**

Throughout the course, the instructors were patient, encouraging and always willing to help whenever I faced difficulties. They taught with kindness, dedication and genuine care.

After I completed the program, the sisters offered me the opportunity to sew school uniforms for the children supported by the mission. They recognized my dedication, believed in my abilities and gave me a chance to build a better future. Their trust opened a new door in my life. Today, I work as a teaching assistant at the sewing school, a role that fills me with pride. This job has helped me pay for my university studies and cover many of my daily expenses.

Even more importantly, their support has given me confidence in myself and shown me the true value of compassion, solidarity and believing in others.

Because of everything I learned during my own training, I now have the privilege of sharing my knowledge with new students. Passing on the skills I gained at St. Clare Sewing School is one of the most rewarding parts of my work. It reassures me that all my efforts have been worthwhile. I am able to serve my community while continuing my education and growing both personally and professionally. **For me, sewing is no longer just a way to earn a living—it is also a source of creativity, fulfillment and joy.**

Through the training I received, I gained valuable skills that will continue to benefit me in the future. I learned to sew clothing and bags and worked hard until I became confident in my abilities.



These experiences have made me stronger, more determined and more hopeful about the future. I have learned not to let hardships take away my hope. Instead, I use every lesson I have learned to keep moving forward and preparing for a better future.

Today, I am deeply grateful for the path my life has taken. I know I still have much to learn, but I truly believe that through hard work, discipline and faith, I can achieve my goals. I thank my parents from the bottom of my heart for the sacrifices they have made on my behalf and I am especially grateful to the Felician Sisters for their trust, encouragement and the opportunities they have given me to build a brighter future. ■

Juniors Journey: From Loss to Leadership

My name is Junior Dessin and I'm 29 years old. Today, I'm a professional seamstress, a first-degree black belt in karate and a law student. Looking back on my life, **I clearly see that meeting the Felician Sisters in 2014 was a true blessing that completely changed my future.**

I was a small child when I lost my parents. The sisters lived near my house and would come and talk to the local children. They invited us to watch movies we called "Sinema" and gave us food and sweets. One day, I decided to visit them. From that moment on, they began helping me in every way possible.

The extent of their support for me and my loved ones was enormous. They helped pay for my classical education and English lessons, brought us Christmas gifts and regularly provided food for my family. Whenever someone at home was sick, the sisters made sure they were well cared for at their clinic. In addition to this practical support, I greatly benefited from the spiritual formation, catechesis and sacramental preparation they offered. I also attended sewing and English classes at the mission.

Participating in these classes allowed me to gain tremendous self-confidence and develop strong leadership skills at home and in my community. During my training at St. Clare's Sewing School, learning to operate an electric sewing machine was a huge challenge, but I overcame it. I learned to organize my work efficiently and significantly improved my skills in tailoring clothes. Throughout this process, my teachers were incredibly patient. They made every effort to ensure I fully understood everything they taught us. They gave me numerous opportunities to hone my skills while sewing school uniforms for the children.

Thanks to their trust, my role in the mission evolved. Today, I am a sewing teacher at the *Felician Mission: Haiti*. I was also entrusted with the important task of sewing school uniforms for all the children the sisters support in their education.



Together with the assistants and the young people who have completed the course, we strive to work on the uniforms to the best of our ability. Developing sewing skills in this way opens a new path to financial independence for young people.

Now, thanks to the Felician Sisters, I can earn my own living. Their presence in my life has transformed my hardships into opportunities, giving me the tools, education and faith I need to build a meaningful, multifaceted life. ■

