

Parish Twinning Program of the Americas

Parish Visit Report – Sainte Rose de Lima (Gris Gris, Haiti)

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the parish visit to **Sainte Rose de Lima Parish in Gris-Gris, Haiti**, conducted on **April 14, 2026**, as part of the ongoing partnership with the U.S. sister parish, **Risen Savior**. The visit provided an opportunity to meet with parish leadership, review parish programs and facilities, and gain a clearer understanding of the needs and challenges facing the community.

The parish serves a rural population with significant economic challenges and depends greatly on the support of its sister parish. Through this partnership, Sainte Rose de Lima Parish has been able to sustain essential ministries, including education, basic healthcare, and a school meal program, while also making progress on infrastructure projects such as church roof repairs and classroom construction.

Despite these efforts, the parish continues to face serious challenges related to security, transportation, infrastructure, and access to financial services. These constraints limit the parish's ability to serve the community fully and highlight the importance of continued external support.

The partnership with the U.S. sister parish has had a meaningful and positive impact on the spiritual, social, and educational life of the community. Continued collaboration, regular communication, and sustained accompaniment remain essential to addressing priority needs and supporting the parish's mission.

Introduction

This parish visit was carried out as part of the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas to strengthen connection and communication between U.S. parishes and their twinned parishes in Haiti. The visit allowed parish leadership to share lived realities, review ongoing projects, and identify priority needs

Disclaimer

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1. General Information

- Date of Visit: April 14, 2026
- Parish Name (Haiti): Sainte Rose de Lima Parish, Gris-Gris
- Sister Parish (United States): Risen Savior
- Parish Priest: Fr. Luckner Isaac Pierre

2. General Observations

- Ongoing repairs to the church roof
- Construction of classrooms for the parish preschool

3. Security and Communication

- Security Situation: Unstable
- Internet/E-mail Access: Available via mobile phone
- Communication with Sister Parish: Monthly
- Translation Services Required: Yes

4. Health Services

- Visiting Medical Personnel: Yes (from Gris-Gris)
- Medical Staff Salary: Approximately 50,000 gourdes
- Services Provided: General medicine, pediatric, maternity
- Hours of Operation: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Average Weekly Patients: 60
- Medical staff reside within the community

5. Education

- Classes Offered: Preschool I through Grade 9
- Number of Students Enrolled: 516
- Teachers from the Local Community: Yes
- Average Teacher Salary: 10,000 gourdes
- Classroom materials: as recommended by the Ministry of Education
- Last Teacher Training: 2024
- Training Organization: Hope for Haiti
- Training Frequency: Quarterly
- Parents Committee: Active
- Schooling Subsidized by Sister Parish: Yes

6. School Nutrition

- School Canteen Funded by Sister Parish

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- Functional Kitchen: Yes
- Canteen Staff Recruited from Local Community

7. Financial Services and Transparency

- Bank Used: Sogebank
- Banking Service Stability: Unstable
- Account Type: Parish account
- Travel Time to Bank: Approximately 4 hours
- Frequency of Fund Retrieval: Monthly
- Expense Reports Sent to Sister Parish: Yes (Quarterly)

8. Governance and Organization

- Active Parish Committee: Yes
- Committee Composition: 7 members per chapel
- Meeting Frequency: Monthly

9. Infrastructure, Water, and Sanitation

- Condition of Buildings: Fair
- Access to Electricity: Yes (Solar energy)
- Potable Water Source: Available
- Water Storage: Water tower
- Functional Latrines/Toilets: Yes
- Water Purchased: No

10. Transportation and Livelihoods

- Parish Vehicle: Available but in very poor condition
- Nearest City: Jacmel (approximately 4 hours travel time)
- Main Livelihood Activities:
 - Livestock raising,
 - small-scale commerce,
 - agriculture

11. Priority Needs

- Acquisition or replacement of parish vehicle
- Repair of parish church roof
- Construction of four additional classrooms for the parish school

12. Impact of the Partnership

The partnership with the sister parish has had a positive social, educational, and spiritual impact on the community.

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13. Importance of Continued Support and Recommendations

Continued support is essential for the functioning of the parish and the well-being of the community. Without this assistance, the parish would face significant pastoral and social difficulties. Recommendations include strengthening sincere collaboration, ensuring regular communication, and maintaining structured and long-term accompaniment.

General Observations and Key Notes from Field Visits in the South and Southeast

Access roads to many parishes in the South and Southeast regions are extremely difficult, particularly during the rainy season. Rivers frequently overflow, making travel temporarily impossible. In some cases, priests and parishioners may go several weeks, sometimes up to a month without being able to enter or leave their parish. This level of isolation creates significant challenges for pastoral ministry, access to basic services, and overall community life.

During visits in the Grand Sud region, the field team encountered two to three foreign mission groups working within local parishes. Travel to the South is currently possible via Antoine Simon International Airport in Les Cayes, primarily through IBC Airlines, which operates small aircraft. **At this time, PTPA does not facilitate, organize, or host group visits to Haiti, as the situation on the ground can change rapidly and without notice.**

Any interest by a U.S. parish in visiting a sister parish in person should be coordinated directly with the Haitian sister parish. It is also strongly recommended that parishes consult with the PTPA team (Executive Director or Haiti representative) for additional context and guidance. **PTPA does not assume responsibility or liability for decisions made by U.S. parishes to travel to Haiti.**

Given the evolving security situation, conditions should be reassessed approximately every three months. Strong coordination, shared planning, and clear communication are essential to ensure that any future visits can be considered and carried out as safely and responsibly as possible.

Priests in the parishes visited generally reported a relative sense of calm and localized stability at the time of the visits with respect to security. However, the

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rainy season continues to present serious logistical challenges, significantly limiting access to parishes and compounding existing isolation.

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