



St. Margaret's Quarterly

St. Margaret's Convent

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SR. SARAH'S FIELD EDUCATION IN HAITI

By Sarah, SSM

This summer I swam in the clearest, warmest green ocean I've ever imagined, tried any number of wonderful new foods, entertained a precocious two-year-old, and learned that "rustle, rustle, THUMP!" means that a ripe mango has just fallen out of a tree and is waiting to be eaten. I discovered the limits of my courage when faced with tarantulas and with goat intestines in my soup. I went off-roading down a river, rode horseback up mountains, took a motorcycle taxi, and walked and walked and walked.



Heading back down the mountain from a parish visit

Why? I was blessed this summer with the opportunity to do one of my units of seminary field education in a parish in Haiti. I had wanted for years to go to Haiti, and this requirement was the perfect opportunity. With the help of Dr. Ian Douglas at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, I prepared



Hiking up the mountain to church to preach my first sermon in Creole

a proposal that included a mini-course in missiology (the theology of mission) with a focus in Haiti and an internship through the Episcopal seminary in Port-au-Prince. A class in Haitian Creole at the Harvard Medical School also helped me to prepare for the trip.

When I arrived in mid-May, I was greeted by the sights and sounds of Port-au-Prince, all new to me: colorful, hot, bustling and noisy, as is any big city, but utterly unlike anywhere I had ever been. The Sisters greeted me warmly and helped me to get



L'Eglise de l'Annonciation (Church of the Annunciation), Darbonne, Haiti

acclimated during the week prior to the start of my internship.

The next two months were spent in Darbonne, a rural town to the southwest of Port-au-Prince surrounded by fields of corn and sugar cane and home to many goats and a sugar factory. It is a beautiful region, a lush plain situated between the ocean and the mountains.

The Episcopal parish in Darbonne is itself amazing; the longer I was there, the more fortunate I felt to have been given this placement. It consists of the central church in Darbonne (Annonciation) and eight outlying mission churches in the mountains. The main church campus includes the rectory, where I



A goat from the Darbonne Goat Project

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lived with the rector and his family; a small water treatment facility, the only one in the area; a Pre-K through 10th grade school which also holds an afternoon program for working children; a vocational school; a goat project; a dispensary at which local health workers are trained, as there is no hospital or ambulance service in the area; a dormitory for visitors; and several small homes for families in need. Recently they have also given space to a group desiring to start a library and to another which will make available an additive to make water potable. There are also six small mission schools attached to the parish, answering a real need in the community given that the public schools in Haiti have space for approximately 10% of school-age children.



After giving the invocation at a kindergarten graduation in Darbonne, Haiti

Now consider that the parish is doing all this in an area with little electrical power and much poverty. Where I suspect most of us Americans might be tempted to throw up our hands and say, "We have no resources," this parish asks, "What needs to be done in this community and how can we do it?" This is a place with an impressive "can do" attitude. I have never been so proud to be an Episcopalian.

During my stay in Darbonne, my goal was to study how they "do

church" in Haiti. More specifically, we focused on liturgy, on pastoral care in a rural setting, on the lay leader system that keeps the small mission churches running, and the relationship between church, community, and development.

My supervisor, Père Samuel Saint Louis, put me to work right away



The evangelism committee visiting a parish family for prayer

by assigning me to preach at a funeral and, not long after, a wedding, both of which included preparatory meetings with the parishioners involved. My rudimentary Haitian Creole was pressed into service, as many parishioners did not speak French (fortunately my college major); and while the first three homilies were in French, the last two were in Creole. I also needed to use it during the many short house calls I made during my stay. I must say, I was grateful and impressed with the hospitable patience that greeted my linguistic floundering! It was a truly welcoming parish.

One of the most interesting experiences was that of visiting three



outlying mission churches. This is where the off-roading down the river, the hiking, and the horseback riding came in. A priest in Haiti needs to be in good physical shape for such a ministry!

I experienced so much this summer, but I'm only beginning to understand what I learned. I still can't put much of my time in Haiti into words. I do know that it changed me. I pray God may use me for this ministry in the future. I believe that he will. I know someday I will go to Haiti again.

If you are interested in learning more about the experiences of this summer, seeing more pictures of Haiti, or finding out about how to help, you may read more at srsarah.blogspot.com.

76TH GENERAL CONVENTION IN ANAHEIM, CA JULY 8-17, 2009

By Kristina Frances, SSM



The sight of over 800 people ready to conduct the business of the church was an amazing sight. Watching the resolutions, everything from budget to liturgy, move from committee, to the floor of the House of Deputies and then to the House of Bishops was marvelous. I attended a number of sessions of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops and five committee hearings. I found

the process fascinating and was very impressed with the eloquence of the many deputies, bishops and visitors who spoke at these sessions.

Sr. Marie Margaret and I heard the Archbishop of Canterbury speak at a forum and at the Eucharist. The Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies also preached at the daily Eucharist. It was a special joy to hear Ray Suarez, a fixture on NPR and public television, preach and exhort us to continue to be thinking Christians.

Having Eucharist with thousands of people in a convention hall was a new experience for me. The liturgy varied day to day as did the music. The readings and prayers were read in multiple languages - French, Spanish and Navaho. I sang in the Ubuntu choir and Sr. Marie Margaret and I were lay Eucharistic ministers.

Sr. Marie Margaret and I also spent time in the CAROA (Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas) booth and in the Meditation Chapel. There were more than twenty religious representing six communities. The overwhelming response from people was positive and affirming of the religious life and our importance to the church. I met Associates, priests who remembered us from Louisburg Square, bishops from around the world and many others who had questions about vocation and discernment.

All together it was an exciting and fast moving week. It was a privilege to represent the community at General Convention, and Sr. Marie Margaret and I are grateful to the community for this opportunity.

ASSOCIATE NEWS

By Grace, SSM

Sr. Mary Gabriel will be the new Coordinator for Associates. A letter will be coming out for all Associates soon. Meanwhile, any news, questions, or requests can find me at marygabriel@ssmbos.org or at the Boston Convent, 17 Highland Park St., Boston, MA 02119-1436. The phone number is 617-445-8961 (voice mail x169).

Dee Tavolaro was received as an Associate in Boston on July 23, 2009.



Associates Dee Tavolaro and the Rev. Bill Locke

Three Associates were received on St. Margaret's Day in New Hartford on July 18, 2009. Pictured with Sr. Mary Gabriel, below are (left to right) Janet Fish, Karen Anderson, and Linda Balutis.



HAITIAN GIFT SHOP

By Claire Marie, SSM



The Haitian Gift Shop is located in the Boston Convent and is one way that the Sisters raise money for Haiti. The Sisters import one of a kind crafts made by skilled artisans in Haiti. This allows the artists to earn some income and buy more raw materials. The crafts are then sold here, and all profits from the sale are used for scholarships for children in Haiti to attend school, buy books and uniforms, etc. In addition, the Sisters use donated yarn to knit and crochet scarves and hats to sell in the shop, with these proceeds also going to support education in Haiti.

The season for holiday fairs is coming soon. You can help the Sisters by inviting us to have a table at your parish fair. If possible, providing transportation from the convent to the parish is also a great help! It helps us to get the word out about the religious life and St. Margaret's and also to support this vital and important cause. Please call Sr. Claire Marie at 617-445-8961 x230 if you can help!

A PROFESSION IN INITIAL VOWS IN PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos by Edy Alcindor, Text by Grace, SSM and Marjorie Raphael, SSM

As you may have read in the last edition of the Quarterly, Sr. Kethia made her profession in initial vows at the Convent in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on April 18, 2009. Sr. Marjorie Raphael had emailed her account of the day, but unfortunately, the photos had not arrived from Haiti by the deadline to publish that edition. The photographs did eventually arrive and we are pleased to offer them to you now, along with an explanation of the steps in profession service, known as the Office of Profession. I am reprinting Sr. Marjorie Raphael's account of the day as well:

At St. Margaret's Convent, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Saturday in Easter week, April 18, 2009, at 9 a.m., Sr. Kethia, nee Kethia Jean-Simon, made her Initial Profession as a Sister of St. Margaret. The opening hymn was a fitting introduction, "The Voice of the Lord calls me", (#452 in the French hymnal, Diocese of Haiti). Bishop Jean Zache Duracin celebrated the Eucharist. The Rev. Jean Patrick Eugene, CSSp, a cousin of Sr. Kethia's father, preached the sermon on the meaning of the three traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. He spoke his message as an answer to a young friend of Sr. Kethia's who met him in the street of Cayes, Sr. Kethia's hometown. This young friend questioned him on the good sense of a beautiful, intelligent girl, walking away from such good things as success, marriage, children, home, and riches.

The vows were received by Sr. Marie Margaret representing the Superior in Boston, MA. Sr. Kethia's reading and signing the Instrument of Profession, and the blessing of the Scapular, Cross and Ring by the Bishop were special moments.

In the Chapel were Sr. Kethia's mother, sister, brother and uncle, as well as many friends. Associates of the Community were well represented. Also present were two young women seeking to discern if God is calling them to the Religious Life.

The small convent chapel could hold about a quarter of the hundred persons present. Many, therefore, participated from the porch to the west of the chapel and from the garden that stretches east from behind the altar.

The reception that followed took place in the garden. At 4:30 pm, when all the guests had left, the Sisters enjoyed a quiet recreation at which the new Sister opened her presents.



The chapel at the Convent is filled with family, friends, Sisters and clergy.

Professions always take place within the context of the Holy Eucharist, as the Eucharist is central to the Sister's spiritual life.



Sr. Kethia begins the service without her solid black novice cross, which she has worn for the past two and a half years.



At the appropriate time, Sr. Kethia comes forward, kneels in front of Sr. Marie Margaret and professes her vows in response to questions by Sr. Marie Margaret.



Sr. Kethia makes her vows for a year at a time, with the intention to make them perpetually, and then recites the Instrument of Profession.



The Right Reverend Jean Zache Duracin, Bishop of Haiti, blesses Sr. Kethia's new scapular, cross and ring.



Sr. Marie Margaret puts Sr. Kethia's new cross on.



The newly professed Sister kneels again, this time to receive a blessing from the Bishop.



Sr. Marie Margaret prays in French "Lord, look with mercy on your servant. You have called her and she desires to be wholly consecrated to you. Keep her steadfast in her resolution; fill her with your love; perfect in her Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and Charity, which, for your sake, she has promised. May she be united to your Son, our Savior, and be brought with all your saints, to glory everlasting. Amen."



Sr. Kethia gets her profession ring. In annual vows, she is given a silver ring. At life profession, she will be given a gold ring as a sign of her consecration to Christ.



A newly professed Sr. Kethia and Sr. Marie Margaret inviting everyone to the reception.



Sr. Marjorie Raphael (left) and Sr. Marie Margaret (right) help Sr. Kethia put on her new scapular.



Sr. Kethia signs the roll book, then Sr. Marie Margaret signs it.



Doesn't she look happy?

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Sr. Grace spoke about the Religious Life to the Men's Group of St. John the Evangelist Church in Duxbury on Saturday, June 27 at the Bertram Conference Center.

Sr. Kristina Frances was the Preacher and Officiant for Evening Prayer and Morning Prayer on August 1 and 2 at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Charlestown, Rhode Island.

Sr. Sarah did an hour-long forum after the Eucharist at Christ Church, Cranbrook, in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan on Sunday, August 16, on her experiences in Haiti over the summer.

Sr. Claire Marie spoke about Haiti to the ECW on Saturday, September 11, at 10:00 am at St. Paul's Cathedral, Boston.

WHERE WE'LL BE

Sr. Sarah will be visiting St. Alban's Church, Annandale, Virginia, on September 25-27. She will preach at all three services on Sunday, Sept. 27, and will give a talk for the adult education hour between the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Sr. Grace will be attending the Congregational Resource Day of the Diocese of Massachusetts at Bentley College on Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm.

Sr. Kristina Frances will be preaching on September 29 for the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Montréal. The Mass is being offered in celebration of the 100th anni-

versary of the Requiem Mass of Fr. Edmund Wood, the founder of the church.

Sr. Claire Marie and Sr. Grace will be attending the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts on Saturday, October 24.

Sr. Claire Marie, Sr. Sarah and Sr. Kristina Frances will be attending the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts on Friday and Saturday, November 6 and 7.

Sr. Jane Mary will be attending the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire on Saturday, November 14.

Sr. Gloria, Sr. Ann, Sr. Promise, and Sr. Grace will be attending the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of New York on Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21.

Sr. Mary Gabriel will be preaching at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Westchester, PA, on Sunday, November 22.

“DOT COM” BECOMES “DOT ORG”

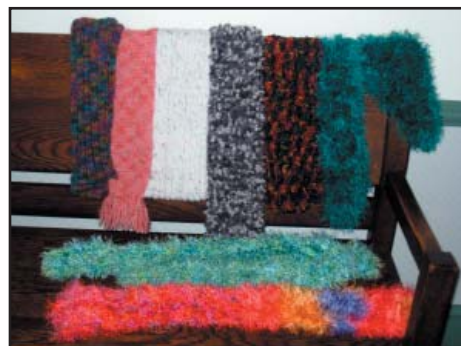
By Grace, SSM

Our website address is changing to more accurately reflect who we are. The Sisters of St. Margaret are a non-profit organization and we would like our website to show that. So we have changed the website address from www.ssmbos.com to www.ssmbos.org. You won't see any difference in the website itself due to the change. For a while, the www.ssmbos.com address will automatically reroute you to the new address.

THE SCARF PROJECT

By Grace, SSM

The Sisters of St. Margaret have continued their scarf-making venture to raise money to support our mission in Haiti. Through the generosity of many donors, particularly by The Wool Basket, a yarn shop in Duxbury, the sisters have amassed a large supply of yarn. They have begun knitting and crocheting scarves, hats, mittens, and ponchos to be sold in the Haitian Gift Shop. The crafts are then sold here, and all profits from the sale are used for scholarships for children in Haiti to attend school, buy books and uniforms, etc.



Scarves knitted and crocheted by the Sisters for the Scarf Project to benefit Haiti.

How can you help? We would welcome all donations of quality, good condition yarn to be used for this purpose. We would also welcome your donation of knitted and crocheted items to be sold in the shop. When visiting the convent, do your holiday shopping in our Haitian Gift Shop, and you won't be disappointed! If you have occasion to be in Duxbury, do stop by the Wool Basket, at 19 Depot Street, and thank them for their long-term and continuing generosity to the Sisters. The Sisters are grateful for your support of this project, and of their mission in Haiti.

EVENTS 2009

Friday - Sunday, October 9-11: An Invitation to Explore

The Sisters of St. Margaret will be offering a weekend for inquirers to come and experience our life and work. It will be a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about the religious life to come and be our guest, to explore what our life is really like and to be able to ask questions, to visit with the sisters, and to see us "in action" - at work, at play, in prayer and in worship. If you are a woman, lay or ordained, looking for a community in which to live out your faith in an intensive way, and are between the ages of 21 and 45, we invite you to join us for this informative event. The weekend is offered at no cost and includes room and board. Guests are responsible for their own transportation to and from the convent. Space is limited, so apply now. For more information and an application, visit our website at www.ssbos.org, or email us at info@ssbos.org or call us at 617-445-8961. We look forward to meeting you!

Thursday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am. Thanksgiving Dinner at 12:45 p.m. All are welcome. Please let us know that you are coming by November 22.

Sunday, Nov. 29 : A Service of Advent Lessons & Carols will be held on Sunday, November 29, at 4:00 p.m. The service features congregational participation. Supper will follow. Please let us know that you are coming by November 25.

Saturday, Dec. 12: An Advent Day of Prayer, led by Sr. Mary Gabriel, SSM, will be held on Saturday, December 12, from 9:30 am until 3:30 pm. Join the Sisters for a Day of Prayer as we anticipate the coming of Christ into the world. Luncheon is included. The suggested donation is \$35.

Friday Dec. 18 – Saturday, Dec. 20: Personal Prayer Weekend - Begins Friday evening and ends on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. An opportunity to savor Advent's final days and to prepare for Christmas in the setting of a private retreat supported by an atmosphere of prayerful silence, the Eucharist and the Daily Office. Suggested donation \$60 per night. Deposit of \$60 required when registering.

Thursday, Dec. 24: The Christ-Mass 9:00 p.m. Reception follows.

Thursday, Dec. 31: Welcoming the New Year - A Service of Lessons & Carols. 7:30 p.m. Reception follows. One of our most popular events of the year, this service of Scripture readings and the singing of carols is a memorable way to ring in the New Year! Accommodations are available by calling the Reservations Desk at 617-445-8961 x127. But be sure to register early, as the Convent always fills up for this weekend! Please let us know that you are coming by December 23.

EVENTS 2010

Thursday, Jan. 01: Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. Holy Eucharist Preacher: the Rev. Mark Edington. 11:30 a.m. Dinner following. Please make reservations by Dec. 26.

Saturday, Mar. 6: A Lenten Day of Prayer from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$35.

Financial Aid is available for those who are unable to make the suggested donation for any of these events. Reservations can be made by contacting the Reservation Desk at the Boston Convent at 617-445-8961 x127 or emailing reservations@ssbos.org.

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SUPPORTING THE SISTERS OF ST. MARGARET

There are many ways that you can assist the Sisters in their daily life and work, and not all of them are financial! There are donations of your talents to help the Sisters with skills they need but do not have among themselves. There are ways that you can help the Sisters by spreading the word about who they are and what they do. There are donations of your time to help the Sisters to accomplish tasks and projects that need a lot more hands than just that of the Sisters. And yes, there are ways that you can help us with your financial resources.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENTS

Do you have a particular talent that might be useful to the Sisters? Do you design and maintain websites? Do you love to do jobs like mailings, data entry and database management that take concentration and focus? Do you have a passion for graphic design? Are you a whiz at Photoshop, Access, Adobe InDesign, Publisher or Excel? Are you a genius at knitting, sewing, typing, gardening, housework, cooking, or baking? If you have time and talents that might be useful to the Sisters, let us know! Contact us at and tell us who you are and what you can do. We will see if your passions and abilities are a match with any of our needs. And if you don't see your particular talent mentioned, that doesn't mean we don't need it. It just means we haven't thought of it yet! You can reach us by emailing us at info@ssmbos.org or calling us at 617-445-8961 x146.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Are you retired? Do have free time that you don't know what to do with? The Sisters are always in need of volunteers to help out! We need a receptionist during the day (weekdays and weekends) to answer the phones and put people into our voicemail. Are you available to drive Sisters to medical appointments during the week? We need volunteers to visit our Sisters in nursing homes, and a myriad of other things. Let us know if you have time and want to help, and I can assure you that we can find something for you to do! You can reach us by emailing us at info@ssmbos.org or by calling us at 617-445-8961 x146.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SSMBOS.ORG
