

Rebuilding Haiti Through the Empowerment of Girls

Some days find us wondering what we can do to bring healing to our very broken world. Here is one idea:

For the past five years, the Sisters of St. Joseph in the United States and Canada have collaborated with Mission Haiti to help rebuild the lives of the Haitian people after the 2010 earthquake. Our project has focused on Annunciation School in Leogane, Haiti, and the education of girls.

This Lenten calendar focuses on what is accomplished when girls are given the opportunity to attend school. The immediate results are obvious: ten girls receive an education that prepares them for the future.

The larger picture shows that the education of girls also benefits in the areas of health, medical care, moving out of poverty, civic leadership, family life, public service and longevity of culture.

As you follow the calendar during these days of Lent, be inspired by what your contribution makes possible. Blessings as we journey this Lent together and many thanks in advance.

Donations can be sent to:
US Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Haiti Project
 6400 Minnesota Ave.
 St. Louis, MO 63111

- ◆ Checks payable to the Federation of the Congregations of St. Joseph. Memo Haiti Project on check.

Ash Wednesday February 14	130 million girls around the world are missing from the classroom (UNESCO '16). Add 10 cents for each girl in your family who attends school.
Thursday February 15	Haiti ranks 168 out of 187 on the 2014 Human Development Index (UNDP 2015). Add 25 cents for Rose and Taila to support their development through education.
Friday February 16	Nearly 4,200 Haitian schools were destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. Add 50 cents for every school within 1 mile of your home. If you are able, fast from all but one meal.
Saturday February 17	90% of primary schools are non-public and managed by communities, religious organizations or NGOs (USAID 2007). Add \$1 to support Annunciation School.
Sunday February 18	An increase in female labor force participation results in faster economic growth. (Gender Equality in Employment) If education enables your work participation, add 50 cents
Monday February 19	Women and girl-children spend more than 10 million person years carrying water from distant sources annually. Add 25 cents for every water faucet in your home.
Tuesday February 20	For every year of additional education for women of reproductive age, child mortality decreased by 9.5% (E. Galcidlou, 2010). Add 10 cents for each 2 year old, you know.
Wednesday February 21	It is estimated that 50% of primary school age children in Haiti are not enrolled in any school. Add 10 cents for each elementary school grade level you have completed.
Thursday February 22	Globally, women are paid less than men. In most countries, women earn only 60 -75 % of men's wages (World Bank 2014). Imagine ways to change the wage gap.
Friday February 23	Women are the world's principal producers and providers of food. (UNICEF) Add \$1 if you grow a garden or for each of your favorite vegetables.
Saturday February 24	37% of Haitians are under the age of 14. Add 25 cents if you would be part of this statistic if you lived in Haiti.

Sunday February 25	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 February 26	Half of the people in Haiti have no access to safe drinking water. Add 25 cents if you have safe water in your house.
Tuesday February 27	Increasing the share of household income controlled by women changes spending in ways that benefit children. (World Bank,2012). Add 10 cents for each of our 10 girls.
Wednesday February 28	Haiti's healthy life expectancy at birth is only 44 -50 years . Give 5 cents for each relative living beyond 50 .
Thursday March 1	30 % of the Population of Haiti is considered food insecure (World Food Program '15). Estimate the amount of food in your cabinets, and contribute 10% of that.
Friday March 2	At places in our world, women spend up to 5 hours a day collecting wood for fuel and up to 4 hours preparing food. Add 10 cents for every piece of your kitchen cookware.
Saturday March 3	A total of 20% of the capital's (Port-Au-Prince) residents have telephones, many fewer in the countryside. Add 50 cents for each landline and cell phone in your household.
Sunday March 4	The mortality rate among children under age 5 is 123 per 1000 live births. Donate 25 cents for children living beyond 5 years old in your family.
Monday March 5	Girls in extreme poverty, such as Haiti, are particularly at risk as they are vulnerable to abuse and often confined to their houses. Add \$1.00 for each girl in your household.
Tuesday March 6	Almost 80% of teachers in Haiti have not received pre-service training (USAID '15). In support of the Annunciation teachers to further their education and certification, donate to them what your education means to you.
Wednesday March 7	Women are most often the collectors and managers of water in households and farmers of irrigated and rain fed crops. How often do you use clean water daily? Support clean drinking water access for students at Annunciation School, multiply your answer by 10.

Thursday March 8	Women could increase their wage by 76% if the employment participation and wage gap between women and men were closed. Support this for the future of girls.
Friday March 9	Haiti's literacy rate is 57% for women (CIA '15), compared to a 92% literacy rate in other Caribbean developing countries (World Bank '15). Think about that.
Saturday March 10	Only about 5% of the children who start school in Haiti are likely to finish. Add \$1 for each of our 10 girls at Annunciation School.
Sunday March 11	Women are the main producers of the world's staple crops: rice, wheat, maize. They provide 90% of the rural poor food intake. What do you do for those who are poor?
Monday March 12	The return on one year of secondary education for a girl in a developing country correlates with as high as a 25% increase in wages later in life (Global Partnership for Education). Donate 25 cents for every year of your education.
Tuesday March 13	Women and girls are most vulnerable to human trafficking when they are under-educated and poor. (UN Project on Human Trafficking) Learn more about ways to prevent it.
Wednesday March 14	Across the globe, women are under represented as voters and restricted from political involvement (UN Women's programs, Borgen Project). Protect girls through education.
Thursday March 15	Watch The Girl Effect on YouTube (2:20). Discuss the possibilities for girls in developing countries.
Friday March 16	Annunciation School students receive a free noon meal, often their only meal in a day. Add 50 cents for each meal you eat and 10 cents for each snack.
Saturday March 17	A girl on planet Earth has a 1 in 4 chance of being born in poverty (World Bank '11). Donate! Lift a girl out of poverty!
Sunday March 18	If you educate a man, you educate an individual. If you educate a woman, you educate a nation.- <i>African Proverb</i>

Monday March 19	Consider what you are learning about the lives of girls and women in the world today. What contributes to their circumstances? What would make a difference?
Tuesday March 20	30% of the population in Haiti is considered food insecure (World Food Programme, '15). Add 25 cents for each meal you have today.
Wednesday March 21	Children of educated mothers are twice as likely to survive past the age of five. ((UN Girls Education Initiative) Add 10 cents for each of our girls to become educated moms.
Thursday March 22	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 an investment you are part of!!
Friday March 23	Only 5% of Haitian children who begin school will finish. Add 50 cents to help 5th grader Rose stay in school until level 13.
Saturday March 24	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 March 25	Think about what you've learned about the lives of children in Haiti. What are some factors that you think contribute to their circumstances? How is it making a difference in your life?
Monday March 26	Violence negatively impacts access to education and a safe environment for learning. Many women experience physical and sexual violence. Work for peace.
Tuesday March 27	What are your hopes for the children in your family or household? How do you think they differ from the hopes of Laurie's family for her. How are you helping them?
Wednesday March 28	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>

Holy Thursday March 29

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

Good Friday March 30

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

Holy Saturday March 31

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

Join the Sisters of St. Joseph on a 2018 Lenten Journey With Our Neighbors in Haiti



Jesus called his followers to the three practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

This Lent, journey day-by-day with our "dear neighbors" in Haiti - praying, fasting and giving alms.