

The ADVOCATE

Queen of Peace Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2024



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Editor's Note: *The Winter issue focuses on several youth groups both at OLQP and our sister parish in Haiti. Although the programs and projects might be different, they all share a common purpose: to grow in faith through love and service to others. We lead off our issue with an article on Father Joe Nangle, OFM, who received the Pax Christi USA 2023 Teacher of Peace award. Father Joe was recognized for his indefatigable determination to put his faith to action — especially for the poor — and even when it meant putting himself at personal risk. We also feature a Spotlight on Dr. Sue Carlson, whose commitment to the people of Medor, Haiti, knows no boundaries.*

Paula Cruickshank
Editor, The Advocate

Father Joe Nangle, OFM — Teacher of Peace

By Paula Cruickshank

Since 1978, Pax Christi USA has honored an outstanding peacemaker with the Teacher of Peace award. On September 29, 2023, several hundred people gathered at OLQP to celebrate Father Joe Nangle, OFM, as the recipient of the Pax Christi USA 2023 Teacher of Peace. The award was established to honor women and men whose lives exemplify the theme of Pope Paul VI's World Day of Peace message, "To reach peace, teach peace."

Father Joe follows in the footsteps of other Catholic contemporaries, including Sr. Thea Bowman, Cesar Chávez, Dorothy Day, and Pope Paul VI. In its announcement of the award, the national Catholic peace movement praised Father Joe for his "decades of dedication to the people of God and his commitment to justice, peace, simple living, and service. As a member of the Pax Christi USA national council in the 1990s, he was part of the "initial decisions to move Pax Christi USA to a more deliberate anti-racist, multicultural organization."



In opening remarks at the church service, Father Tim Hickey, CSSp noted that we are called to be "the presence of the peace of the risen Christ and that is what Father Jose Nangle has been doing." Father Tim continued:

"In the midst of all the war and violence in the world, [Father Joe] tirelessly worked as a builder of peace [and] as a challenger, speaking truth to power, calling for the

Fr. Joe — Teacher of Peace

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Teacher of Peace

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photo: Pax Christi USA



Fr. Joe with National Council (NC) Chair Charlene Howard and NC member Josephine Garnem

empire to seek to build peace. Joe has never shrunken back from protest or arrest in order to get the message of peace on the front page, trying to make it the center of a national conversation, trying to bring the peace conversation to the family dining table and that's where you teach peace."

"Teacher of Peace" is an apt description of Father Joe," said Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., Bishop-President of Pax Christi USA, who joined the event via Zoom. "His life has been lived in mission and service and he has taught first by example and then by words about what justice with peace means."

Father Joe was introduced at the awards ceremony by Marie Dennis, the Pax Christi USA 2022 Teacher of Peace and Program Chair of Pax Christi International's Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. Both Marie and Father Joe have been recognized multiple times over the years for their commitment to Catholic nonviolence. She is also a close friend and member of the Assisi Community in the Petworth neighborhood in Washington, D.C., which was co-founded by Father Joe in 1986.

In her remarks, Marie emphasized that being a Franciscan Friar is "central to every other step Father

Joe has taken – as priest, pastor, and radicalized missionary in Bolivia and Peru. Clearly his experience in mission had shaped him, his faith, his worldview, his spirituality, his theology, and who he has become as a Franciscan."

Father Joe served several years on the Pax Christi USA national council in the 1990s. For 12 years, Fr. Joe was co-director of the Franciscan Mission Service and, from 2011–2017, he was a member of the Provincial Council of the Holy Name province of the Order of Friars Minor.

But that only touches the surface. Marie described the transformative impact of his mission work in Latin America once Father Joe came back to the United States. "He returned to the U.S. believing that it was our responsibility to change the U.S. culture, business practices, and policies that were killing — literally killing — the people he had grown to love. He challenged his brother Franciscans and the U.S. Catholic Church, the U.S. government, men's religious communities and formators in women's religious communities."



photo: Pax Christi USA

Fr. Joe and Fr. Tim greet wellwishers

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Teacher of Peace

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"Father Joe challenged our society and the global North whether he was in this country, Central America, the Middle East, the Philippines or elsewhere around the world. He did so in private, in public, in word and in action. He risked arrest here for justice in Central America, in Haiti, in Iraq, on the U.S. Mexico border. And absolutely always he has been thoroughly pastoral."

On a personal note, Marie also reflected on Father Joe's continued pastoral work "when the pandemic (and a little aging) began to slow him down." She noted that when blessing ashes on Ash Wednesday in front of the White House or walking the Way of the Cross across the city of Washington D.C. on Good Friday became less possible, Father Joe figured out ways to carry out his calling from home. He phoned many parishioners to see how they were doing and agreed to do spiritual direction at home. "At the same time, he has kept up well with OLQP and the

independent Eucharistic communities he loves," Marie said.

After the speakers' remarks, National Council Chair Charlene Howard and National Council member Josephine Garnem presented Father Joe with his award. Father Joe was humble about his years of courageous work and that humility carried through in his acceptance remarks. He spoke briefly and meaningfully. Beginning with his first words (in English and Spanish), Father Joe quoted German theologian, Meister Eckhart:

"If the only prayer you say in your life is thank you, it will suffice."

"Si la unica oracion que dices en tu vida es 'gracias' sera suficiente."

He added. "That has to be my word this evening."

A Cloud of Witnesses



All photos: Pax Christ' USA

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Teacher of Peace

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While he wrote a book, *Birth of a Church*, about his years in Latin America, he limited his reflections on it to a paragraph. Fr. Joe said: “In my years in the Latin American church with its gift to the Catholic world, liberation theology, I was taught that all who struggle for the transformation of the world should do so from within community — and in the case of gospel ministers, from what they called a “pastoral base.”

Father Joe’s pastoral base now is the one where he began in 1990 — OLQP. Father Joe said, “When we were choosing a venue for this evening’s event it was clear to me that it had to be here at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish. This wonderful community, led for its 75 years by members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, has been my pastoral base and my spiritual home.”

Then Father Joe spoke fondly of the Latinx community that he has served for more than three decades: “In this regard, a towering word of thanks to our Latino sisters and brothers of this parish. You have been my teachers of peace and kept me constantly aware of the struggle for true liberation.”

In concluding his remarks, Father Joe looked out at everyone seated in the pews: “Finally, all of you who are here this evening. Look around at yourselves. You

are that cloud of witnesses that St. Paul writes about in his letter to the Hebrews.”

No OLQP event would be complete without a warm reception and plenty of food accompanying it – much of it made by the Latinx parish community. As for the cloud of witnesses, the line of well-wishers appeared to be endless as one-by-one everyone who knows and loves Fr. Joe waited patiently for their turn to talk, hug, kiss, and take photos with him.

When later asked about the September 29 event, Father Joe said the celebration was as much about the parish as about his award. “Queen of Peace is a synodial parish. It all begins with the laity. That is exactly what Pope Francis believes. It’s being in touch with the people and their realities. Queen of Peace is my spiritual home.”

<https://paxchristiusa.org/who-we-are/teachers-of-peace/>

<https://paxchristiusa.org/2023/10/05/joe-nangle-honored-as-2023-teacher-of-peace/amp/>

(Editor’s Note: Father Joe Nangle is the author of *Birth of a Church*, *Engaged Spirituality*, and co-author of *Say to This Mountain*, and *St. Francis and the Foolishness of God*.

Spotlight on Dr. Sue Carlson – In Her Own Words

Interviewed by Kathy Desmond

*Sue shares her story and three key turning points in her life’s work.**

I grew up in a Catholic family that strongly emphasized prayer and service. From early childhood I wanted to be a doctor. I always viewed becoming a physician as a way I could assist others. (*Sue went to Catholic schools in St Louis, Missouri, graduating from the Loretto Community’s Nerinx High school.*)

Getting admitted to medical school was the first key turning point. In college, I majored in nutrition and worked for several years as a nutritionist as I

gradually discerned my vocation to be a physician. Getting accepted to medical school was not an easy journey, and it was a happy day when I got the acceptance letter from Georgetown Medical School. (*Sue and Dave married in 1974. They had two children while Sue was in her ophthalmology residency program. She worked full time as an ophthalmologist at Kaiser Permanente from 1989 until she retired in 2017.*)

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**Italicized words were written by the interviewer, Kathy Desmond.*

Sue Carlson

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The second turning point was joining OLQP, which allowed me to learn about its Haiti Ministry. We found OLQP after years of searching for a welcoming faith community. From our first Mass at OLQP we were struck by its welcoming atmosphere and dedication to social justice; we found our church home.

The third key turning point was my first visit to Haiti. This transformative trip set me on a path of partnership with the people of Haiti. "Once you go there, you just get kind of hooked. Haiti is where my heart is."¹

How would you describe your life's work?

Dr. Paul Farmer said, "The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong in the world."

I tried to incorporate this in my 28 years of caring for patients at Kaiser Permanente, in each of the surgical mission trips I attended, in all my work in Haiti, and in my daily life. *(Sue spent her Kaiser vacations on 16 surgical mission trips, restoring sight, with World Blindness Outreach to Vietnam, Ecuador, Honduras, the Philippines, Cambodia, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and twice to Ethiopia. She later traveled with Eye Care International on five surgical trips to El Salvador, and once on her own to India.)*

You have chaired the Haiti Committee for 20 years. What lessons have you learned?

1. Relationships are at the heart of the twinning program.
2. It is critical that Haitians lead all the initiatives we partner with them on. They describe their needs, and we try to assist. They know best.
3. We serve the community, not specific individuals.
4. Dozens of OLQP members have contributed their time and money to the Committee. "It takes a village" and our work reflects our parish's generosity.

^[1] Spotlight on the Med Mission Work of Dr. Sue Carlson," *The Connection: Newsletter of the Parish Twinning Program of the America*, Christmas 2012.

What keeps you motivated after all these years and all the tribulations in Haiti now?

My motivation is the relationships that we have with the people in Medor and elsewhere in Haiti. Having visited Medor 35 times, I am friends with many people there.

OLQP working shoulder to shoulder in partnership with our Haitian family brings great joy and riches to both groups. God loves us — We are God's daughters and sons, ALL of US — and our relationships flow from that identity.

I try to remain hopeful, knowing that God is greater than the tribulations in Haiti. Each of us who are working through our twinning program are His servants and are doing His work.

Why did you take on being Executive Director of Raising Haiti Foundation (RHF) six years ago?

I retired from my full-time ophthalmology position at Kaiser Permanente in 2017 to have more time to work with the people of Haiti. As I prepared to transition from this position, the president of the board of RHF asked me to join the board and soon after asked me to become its executive director. The successful twinning relationship between OLQP and St. Joseph's in Medor showed me that RHF could help foster similar successes in other Haitian

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Dr. Sue in group hug with Medor school children.

Sue Carlson

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communities. *(It has, especially by working with the Parish Twinning Program of America)*. My service with RHF allows me to provide support for the people of Medor that complements the crucial work of OLQP. Besides, no one else would take the job!

You've said Paul Farmer is your hero—explain why.

Dr. Paul Farmer and Partners in Health, the organization he co-founded, revolutionized health care in developing countries. By insisting that people with tuberculosis, HIV, or other diseases who live in Haiti, Peru, Rwanda, Liberia and elsewhere receive the same state-of-the-art therapy as those being treated in the United States. Dr. Farmer proved that this care in developing countries can bring similar successes. He practiced holistic medicine, reasoning that a person cannot be healthy without proper nutrition, clean water, and housing. Paul Farmer set

the example for how to respect every patient, regardless of circumstances.

What is your message to OLQP?

Thank you for being such a welcoming and wonderful parish. Thank you for your dedication to social justice. Thank you for your prayers, kindness, and support of our Haitian family in Medor.

Reflection on the Haiti Proverb: Mountains Beyond Mountains. When walking in Haiti, you hike over one mountain only to find another one. Most people think the meaning of the proverb is that the people of Haiti face challenges after challenges, but I like to think of the proverb in relation to our work with the people of Medor. Our twinning relationship provides blessings after blessings after blessings to both groups.

OLQP Summer Camps — Putting Faith to Action

By Jack Sullivan

For Catholics born in middle class America, it may require considerable maturity to understand what Jesus Christ was “all about” in his call to service. Rebecca Grant Jenkins, the parish Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, is working to short circuit that process by exposing OLQP youth of high school age to situations that bring His message to a new generation clear and strong.

Much of that process occurs in the Queen of Peace summer camps that with the help of Father Martin Vu, CSSp have made an impact on dozens of our parish youth. Hired in 2019, Rebecca's efforts were initially sidelined by the Covid epidemic, but she has arranged summer youth camps since 2021. This past summer saw parish young people participating in one of two week-long programs.

Lasting from June 20 to June 24, the first camp was for junior high school students who worked at the parish assisting regular volunteers in a number of existing ministries. Those included the Food Pantry, Matt 25 thrift shop, Feast on the Street, and Backpack Program. Each day the seven young people performed a wide variety of tasks essential to those ministries during the morning hours. Those activities were followed by Mass and prayer.

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OLQP Summer Camp teens at Jardine Academy.

Last Summer

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The afternoons required participants to learn new skills. They worked with Phoenix Bikes, an Arlington nonprofit that combines youth educational programs with a full-service professional bike shop. There they learned bicycle repair and rehabilitation. The bikes restored to use were donated to Afghan families currently being assisted by Queen of Peace.

The second camp last summer saw 14 parish high school students, plus 5 adult staff, traveling to Haledon, a small community near Paterson, New Jersey. They were assigned to the Jardine Academy, a private school operated by the Cerebral Palsy League. The Academy provides elementary and secondary education to children and young adults, ages 3-21, with severe disabilities.



Bikes rehab

The Queen of Peace contingent performed a wide variety of services to the school. They included outside maintenance chores such as clearing brush, repairing fencing, and power washing sidewalks and structures. Working with Father Martin, an accomplished carpenter, they helped to make desks, tables and chairs — both for outdoor and inside use — and they assisted in the school library. Perhaps their most unusual task was shredding mounds of paper documents generated by the school. Privacy concerns dictate that Academy staff are not allowed to shred. Our students were recruited for the job.

During their work at Jardine Academy, the young people and staff lodged nearby at Mary Help of Christians Academy, a girls' school. Because the building was closed for the summer, the Queen of



Building furniture

Peace group was able to bed down in classrooms, make use of school shower and bathroom facilities, and have space for religious activities, including daily Mass. Simple meals were prepared by the adult staff.

In addition to the broadening experience of interacting with severely disabled youth, some of ages similar to their own, the week provided participants opportunities for enriching their spiritual lives. At midweek, an exercise called "Four Corners" allowed each individual to reflect on their spiritual life, to seek counseling if they chose, and to write a letter of reflection to their future selves.



Library work

Rebecca counts both programs as successful. Feedback from participants indicates that for many of the young Catholics, the camps resulted in spiritual growth and enhanced human understanding.

Eagle Scout Projects Benefit OLQP Campus

By David Carlson

During the summer two Scouts from OLQP were working toward their Eagle rank and completed projects that enhance our parish's campus. One was Everett Broadbent's new pergola, improved garden beds, and repaired benches at the site in the back of the property around the statue of Mary. The other project was done by Connor Detrick and involved re-setting the Peace Pole, making and installing new signs directing the one way exit from the parking lot, and identifying the site for mail delivery.

The purpose of the Eagle Scout Project is for the candidate to demonstrate leadership by carrying out a project or service that is beneficial to others, in this case, OLQP. These Eagle projects required planning, recruiting help, meetings with the beneficiary, and raising money for tools, supplies, safety gear, and, of course, pizza and cold water or sodas for the volunteer crews.



Everett (second row - center) and his team honor Mary by beautifying the area around her statue

sling throughout the project. Despite these challenging circumstances, Connor kept his helpers on task and they successfully completed the job.

Connor is an Eagle Scout at Troop 2535, which meets at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, and sometimes at OLQP. All of the Scouts in his troop know that its troop number was chosen to honor the Gospel of St. Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

When describing what he learned from his project, Connor stated, "It made me realize that even I can make a multi-step, multi-month project, and lead a team; I can do anything I set my mind to."

Everett's project involved 218 volunteer hours to complete. About 100 of those hours were from Everett himself and involved planning, fundraising, gathering materials, and executing the project. Everett, a frequent lector and altar server at our 9:30 Masses, states that he looks forward to seeing the project every time he goes to Mass. Everett is now an Eagle Scout with Troop 638 which meets at Little Falls Presbyterian Church.

Connor's project required 112 volunteer hours to plan, make the signs, paint the exit driveway, and reinstall the Peace Pole. Connor was able to demonstrate leadership for his project even though he had taken a fall while mountain biking and suffered serious injuries to his shoulder. As a result of the accident, Connor had to wear his arm in a



Connor, (foreground) directs the installation of the Peace Pole.

By Alejandra Gonzalez

It all began in 1984 when at the close of the Holy Year of Redemption, over 300,000 young people from around the world responded to the invitation of his Holiness John Paul II for an international Jubilee of Youth on Palm Sunday in St. Peter's square. At this gathering the Holy Father entrusted to the youth what is now known as the World Youth Day (WYD) Cross to be carried throughout the world as a symbol of the love of Christ for humanity. The institution of the World Youth Day was announced on December 1985 and the first official WYD was held in 1986. Since then, there have been twelve International World Youth Day Celebrations.

Some of our young parishioners were able to attend the last one in Lisbon, Portugal, from August 1 to August 6. They were accompanied by Rebecca Grant Jenkins and Father Martin Vu. They are grateful for the financial support received from the OLQP community. In this article we share the experience of three of them and of Father Martin. What motivated the young people to go to the event and what was their most memorable moment?

Connor Joseph Cuevo:

"I was motivated to attend World Youth Day out of a sense of belonging. I wanted to see just how big the Church is and how many Catholics my age find joy in their faith. Just as much, I wanted to get to know my own parishioners better, as I only knew some of the other pilgrims before the journey. Finally, I was not going to pass up the chance to see the Holy Father and hear the message he has for my generation."

The best moment of the trip: "After the Welcome Mass, the streets of Lisbon, which had been almost empty just a few days earlier, were packed with pilgrims from countless countries. Flags fluttered in the evening sky. My friends and I ran through the streets high-fiving pilgrims from around the world. In such a gigantic jubilant crowd, I felt a belonging unlike any I'd ever experienced before. In the midst of it all, some of the OLQP pilgrims and I embraced, and I was reminded of Psalm 72:17: "Then all nations will be blessed through Him, and all nations shall call Him blessed." And I found myself wondering, "I shared the world with everyone here, but I just didn't know it until today. Maybe this is what heaven feels like?"

Kryztien Loza wanted to grow his faith and get closer to God. He said the trip did both of those things and more:

"The best moment of the trip was meeting Catholics from all over the world. Every day, on every corner, there were new friends to be made. We celebrated Mass and did the Stations of the Cross together. It was amazing!" While the language barrier was "probably the most difficult part at times," he said that it was also the most amazing. "It forced me out of my comfort zone trying to communicate and also made for more interesting conversations. It was the hardest, but best part."

Mayarí X. Loza Muñoz said her mom was "my biggest influence in attending World Youth Day. She was so excited to see the next generation being able to experience what she wasn't able to. Her excitement was contagious and she "gave into the idea." Although not fully understanding what the trip entailed, as time proceeded Mayari began to learn more from her parish, leaders, family members, and past attendees and concluded that it would be an unforgettable trip. "They couldn't have said it any better." Mayari noted.

"My favorite moment of the trip was during the opening Mass," Mayari added. "It was amazing seeing the streets filled with flags, hearing the chants in different languages, getting packed closer and closer together

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World Youth Day

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as the park drew nearer. I stayed with my group for the most part, but for some reason got called to move in closer to the Holy Father and just to the heart of the Mass. I dragged my brother with me to see if we could squeeze in closer. We didn't get very far in. Everyone was packed in like sardines and could barely move, but we could see the stage from afar, and that was good enough for me." Mayari said:

"Mass was wonderful and easy to follow along with. Communion was my favorite part. I was trying to wrap my head around if there was going to be communion, how it was going to be distributed, if there was going to be enough. All these questions were quickly answered when white umbrellas started to open all throughout the crowd around me, indicating it was a place to receive the Body of Christ. There were so many, I couldn't count how many in total. But there was a such a huge density of people that there had to be at least hundreds, and this was only as far as my eyes could see. There were more pilgrims stretching further than I could see. This was



World Youth Day — OLQP Pilgrims

my first visual representation of the universality of the church and how it unites us. I couldn't help letting tears of joy."

Father Martin Vu said he had wanted to attend the WYD because of his interest in young people. He also was grateful for the generosity of many OLQP parishioners who were able to contribute financially to support the trip – a journey he almost had to miss!

Just two days before departure, Fr. Martin fell. He was doing exercises to prepare for the trip and part of the routine was biking. Sadly, he fell and broke his arm. He was disappointed, but prayed so he could get better and the doctors allowed him to go. He did not want to disappoint the youth nor the generous people of the parish who sponsored the trip.

When in Portugal, he had a second fall while walking to lead the group to the house of the three children who witnessed the apparition of Our Lady in Fátima Portugal. He saw a priest from his congregation who he had not seen for a long time; while they were talking, he tripped and fell down. This slowed him down but did not stop him.

For Fr. Martin, this trip was a blessing because he was able to see so many young people. Almost two million witnessed their faith and their encounter with Jesus. He appreciated the opportunity to pray with the Holy Father Pope Francis; he was a few feet away from him.



"You didn't really think a broken arm was going to keep me away, did you?"

By Sue Carlson, M.D.

Three youth groups serve St. Joseph parish: the Eucharistic Youth Movement (MEJ), the Kiro Movement, and the Boy Scouts. Together they enroll about 75 young people. Each group has a distinct mission, but they are united in serving others and the parish.

The 30 members of Medor's MEJ, ages 6 to 18+, strive to walk in Jesus' footsteps, with the Eucharist as their foundation, and service as their moral compass. MEJ members help clean the church before Sunday Mass, and assist as lectors, choir members and liturgical dancers. (Visit <https://youtube/ZwVATY6JATc> to view the liturgical dance that was part of the Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Sisters of Saint Theresa serving in Medor.)

They also visit the sick. Nephtalie Féné states, "I carry MEJ deep within me. It has trained me to become a good Christian and defines my life."

"Kiro" refers to the Greek word used by early Christians when referring to Christ.

According to Nedjensky Altidor, a seminarian

currently working in Medor, Kiro Movement members "live to love and serve, making Jesus the center of their lives". The group has over 30 members from 3 to 25 years of age. They perform similar parish activities as MEJ members, but their reach is broader: both groups serve in Medor, but Kiro members also support each of Medor's 12 chapel areas, leading weekly prayer services and assisting the pastor when he travels to each chapel once or twice per year for Mass. Marie Jacqueline Saint-Louis a Kiro member, said: "Through Kiro we grow in God's will and we assist others to do the same."

The 15 members of Medor's Boy Scout Troop strive to "do a good turn daily" and pride themselves in being

prepared to help whenever and wherever needed. Father Frantz Aime, pastor of St. Joseph parish, depends on Troop members to welcome parishioners to Sunday Mass and to assist in cleaning the church after Mass. Scouts help repair the road after each rainy season. It is thanks to the Scouts that transportation to Medor is a little easier for the walkers, mule riders, and those who transport food, school supplies, and other



Liturgical dance

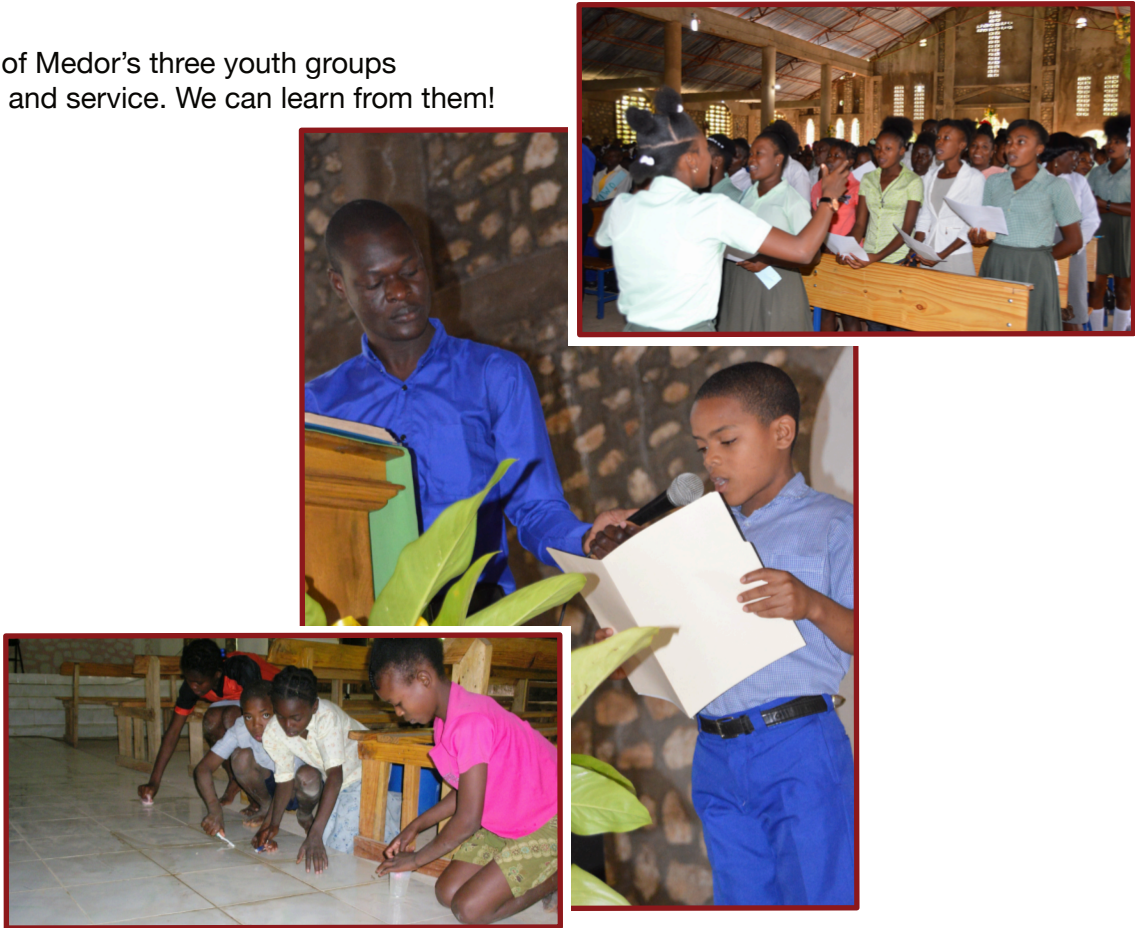
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Youth Groups Serve Medor

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needed materials to Medor in the parish 4-wheel drive vehicle.

The members of Medor's three youth groups exemplify love and service. We can learn from them!



Medor's MEJ and Kiro members clean the church before Sunday Mass, and serve as liturgical dancers, choir members, and lectors

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