



St. Theresa Basic School

— Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica —



“Let the little children come to me; do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”

MARK 10:14



We are a Catholic ministry

that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.



Executive Summary

Description

This project will empower the St. Theresa Kindergarten to staff its early childhood education center — a Catholic preschool created to proclaim God’s love in a poverty-stricken region of Jamaica.

Project Goal

To raise the wages of five hardworking teachers and three support staff, which will help to maintain stability at the school and provide the workers with the dignity of earning a living wage.

Location

The town of Black River in the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica.

Cost

Just **\$12,000** will enable the school to raise the wages of eight teachers and support staff to the national minimum wage. The diocese took a step of faith to launch the St. Theresa Basic School, and we have the opportunity to reward their obedience to God with financial support.

- With meager resources, leaders started the early education center in a run-down home and prayed for God’s intervention. Today, the school operates out of three new classrooms and has become the largest early education program in Black River. It has an admirable reputation for providing students with a sound academic foundation and enriching spiritual formation.
- The ongoing success of the school is in jeopardy. With many needs in a poverty-stricken area, the diocese does not have the funds to adequately pay and retain its dedicated teachers and staff. Also, about 70 percent of the student population is unable to pay the small fee required for tuition, uniforms and daily lunches.
- By partnering with Cross Catholic Outreach, you enable the good work of the Lord to continue. Your generous gift supports the dedicated workers of St. Theresa as they labor on behalf of Jamaica’s next generation.



To provide children with early education, we must first provide for their teachers!

Please share your blessings with fellow servants of the Lord!

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

Matthew 25:35



Two out of every three Haitians live on less than \$2 a day, with some of the worst cases in Kobonal and the surrounding Diocese of Hinche.

A Catholic School in Need

Even after Catholic leaders in the Diocese of Mandeville had done all they could afford to provide the poor with access to food, health care, and primary and secondary education, they still felt called by God to stretch themselves further — to do even more. Feeling they could not ignore the needs of young children who lacked proper preparation for school and who craved the tender love of Jesus, they dedicated themselves to finding a solution.

“They trusted the Lord would honor their compassionate hearts and provide,” explained David Adams, Cross Catholic Outreach’s vice president for missions.

This incredible act of faith was an inspiration to all, and God’s call soon began to touch others.

For example, the community responded to the commitment of the diocese, and although only low salaries could be offered, Christ-centered teachers and staff enthusiastically signed on to advance the school’s important mission. Together, they all prayed the Lord would provide — and he did! Today, St. Theresa Kindergarten has moved out of its old, dilapidated building and into a new building with three classrooms. It is the only Catholic school in the rural town of Black River, and it has become the largest early education program in the community!

These accomplishments are surely a blessing from God — but thanks to the region’s harsh poverty, nearly 70 percent of families are not able to pay the small fee that covers tuition, uniforms and daily lunches, and as a result, the school cannot afford to pay its staff minimum wage. Devoted educators work tirelessly in overcrowded classrooms to meet the needs of more than 150 poor students, and they receive barely any reward in return.

Now, help from outside the community is needed. Cross Catholic Outreach has been asked to assist, and in our own step of faith, we have agreed to contribute to this important mission, confident American Catholics will also joyfully join us to supply what is needed. Together, we can fill the financial gap so the Lord can continue to work miracles in young hearts at St. Theresa!



Ministering to Hearts and Minds

Without access to an early education, poor children often struggle to adjust once they begin primary school. But St. Theresa's students receive the preparation they need to start off on the right foot — academically, socially and spiritually!

At this incredible Catholic school, children ages 3 to 5 can receive up to three years of preschool- and kindergarten-level instruction. In addition to teaching literacy and language, educators work hard to develop their students' motor skills, decision-making skills and emotional maturity. This preparation makes a monumental

difference, and over time, St. Theresa students have earned a reputation for academic and behavioral excellence. With increased confidence, they are much more likely to complete their education in the long-run.

St. Theresa also provides its students with an important foundation of faith. The Assumption Sisters of Nairobi work closely with diocesan leaders to ensure that students receive quality Catholic formation. Every day begins with a 30-minute devotion, and Father Paul Maguambe celebrates children's Mass on the first Tuesday of each month. By prioritizing Christ, the school strengthens Jamaica's next generation in a meaningful and lasting way.

"It is critical to have them introduced to Christian formation. For as they grow, they will be able to learn and choose a better life," said Sister Juliette Myaga, the school's administrative director.



St. Theresa's teachers believe in their mission. They go above and beyond, accepting minimal pay, to give their students hope for the future.



The teaching team at St. Theresa has poured years of prayer, patience and effort into its students. These dedicated servants of Christ deserve to earn a livable wage — but the funds are not there. The diocese has too many needs, and the parents are too poor...

But they do have one amazing resource — prayer.

Consider sharing your God-given blessings to answer the prayers of these devoted leaders. By responding generously, you will encourage educators who have committed their lives to caring for poor children in need.



Help Now!



Please — answer this call to action with the same faith that Catholic leaders in the Diocese of Mandeville have shown. Be the hands and feet of Jesus in Jamaica! Bless the poor!

Clearly, the Lord wants to pour mercies out on the poorest of the poor in Black River. The teachers and staff at St. Theresa Basic School are working hard to free children from the cycle of poverty that has ensnared their families for generations — *but they need your help to succeed.*

With your generous contribution, this important mission can increase the wages of three supporting staff members to the national minimum wage, and we can provide a small increase to five teachers who earn less than teachers at other schools. As the Lord has blessed you, please give generously to help fellow Catholics in need.

By partnering with Cross Catholic Outreach, you will be empowering the team at St. Theresa Basic School and blessing their life-transforming outreach. Your compassion will also show these dedicated workers that their efforts are valuable to God. Please help us guarantee their work can continue for years to come. Please be an answer to prayer!

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2022, the close of our ministry’s fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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