

A Magis Approach - Raspberry Pi “with Ice cream” - December 2021

Many members are familiar with Central Region's Haitian Common Apostolic Mission (CAM) and the formation of the Raspberry Pi Computer WG. Kuruvila Zachariah, Denis and Eleannore Tchuente CVX of Montreal, Sr. Nadia Gbaguida, Fr. Jean Bertin St. Louis s.j. and Mary Balfe) met on ZOOM November 17, 2021 to update each other, to listen and to consider next steps in the project.

The hills, valleys and plateaus of Covid-19 left hospital emergency rooms over run, hospitals closing without sufficient gas to run the facilities, while political uprisings had an ongoing presence and gangs terrorized citizens in the streets. A Jesuit was kidnapped.... gratefully returned unharmed and a JRS building burned to the ground with all the records. Jobs were lost, food at times was scarce and international travel restricted.

Under threatened safety, CVX communities did not meet face to face as CVX. Consequently, in the last several months, 2 face to face gatherings were held with Sister Nadia.

As we shared our personal circumstances (Covid and otherwise) the group was moved to consider creatively how we might better serve the principle of Magis in solidarity with our Haitian 'friends in the Lord' at this critical time. Attentiveness to relationships with small acts of kindness in the midst of isolation offers hope. Raspberry Pi ‘with ice cream’ was emerging with God's grace:

1. The Hope of Advent and Christmas seasons will be shared through Christmas cards sent to each CVX member in Port au Prince and the CVX in Ouanaminthe.
2. CVX Haiti photos will be shared with Central using What’s App.
3. The WG would prayerfully consider how to respond to fundamental needs at this time as 'friends in the Lord.'

Central Region met and heartily endorsed inviting Central Region members to offer a Christmas donation toward 'lifting Haitians up to re-build' in each of the 2 communities (P au P and Ouanaminthe).

Sister Nadia, a spiritual mother of CVX will serve unexpected ice cream at Christmas to those who most need it. As for the Raspberry Pi? It is yet in the oven bubbling to perfection!

In addition, October 2021, Central Region discerned unanimously to extend our CAM to Ouanaminthe in the north of Haiti supporting the CVX community in parish life.

Walking with you All this Advent, Peace+ Mary Balfe