

# Jamaica Site Visit

December 2022



franciscan  
mission  
service

# Where the missionaries live: Immaculate Conception Convent

FMS Missioners live in a convent on a large campus with religious sisters. The convent is in a safer area of Kingston, and the campus itself is secluded and beautiful (though you can sometimes hear sounds of the city at night).



# Where the missionaries live: Immaculate Conception Convent



The campus holds the convent, home of a group of Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany, an all-girls high school, and a grade school. There are many prayer spaces (including this chapel where there is daily Mass), gardens, and areas to exercise.

# Community at Immaculate Conception Convent



The convent is home to about 10 religious sisters, who live on the third floor. (Left, Sister Maureen Clare) A few lay people live on the second floor along with FMS missionaries, sharing a kitchen and social space. (Right, our missionary Joleen, FMS lifelong missionary Hannah, and Debra.)

# Meals with the sisters



Our missionaries regularly share meals with the sisters, which gives them a chance to share in prayer (like nightly Advent prayer, left) and traditional food (like fried whole fish, right).

# Ministries: Education



The sisters run 7 schools in Jamaica, and all FMS missionaries devote some of their ministry to education. Joleen assists in the Reading Resource Center in St. Francis School, which serves lower income students grades PreK-8.

# Snapshots of the Franciscan schools: St. Francis



...full of Franciscan spirit!



Left: Rose and Joleen appreciate a statue of St. Francis on the school's campus. Right: a San Damiano cross tucked in among the paperwork, awards, and schedules.



# Snapshots of the Franciscan schools: Alvernia and St. Joseph's Teacher's College



# Ministries: Bethlehem Home



Joleen ministers at Bethlehem Home, a home for children with severe physical disabilities. Many receive no visitors other than Joleen and Jeanne, a Jamaican woman who has been serving there weekly for over 20 years (and has accompanied all FMS missionaries in Jamaica). Both Joleen and Jeanne gave and received many hugs while we were there, and it was clear that their ministry of presence was a light in the children's lives.

# Ministries: Home visits



Along with Jeanne, Joleen engages in one-on-one accompaniment with many individuals through home visits and meal delivery. Some of these visits take them into the hills of Kingston, areas that are rich in natural beauty but lacking in resources and opportunity for residents.

# Impact: Lifelong Missioner Hannah Hagarty



Hannah served as an FMS missioner from 2019-2020. Since finishing her time with FMS, she has stayed in Jamaica and continued to work at the school where she served, Alvernia Preparatory School, which serves lower middle class children grades K-6. She has done many things at Alvernia, including teaching PE, kindergarten, and computer class. Now she is the guidance counselor, providing a peaceful presence in the school.

# Impact: Lifelong Missioner Hannah Hagarty



While serving as the computer teacher, Hannah applied for a grant to expand the computer lab and was awarded enough funding to buy 20 additional laptops. Now, there are enough computers for an entire class to work at once. Before the lab can be put to use, though, each computer must be chained to the desk to prevent theft, a high risk.

# Impact: Lifelong Missioner Hannah Hagarty



Left: Hannah's guidance office is a place of peace for students. Right: Hannah and Alvernia's principal, Mrs. Dixon, who thanked FMS for sending missionaries. "Hannah is an example of how much FMS missionaries can help."

# Day of Reflection



We spent our day of reflection on the Caribbean Sea at the beautiful home of Margaret (left photo, left), an Associate of the Sisters who shared what being a Secular Franciscan means to her: “A way of being that transforms your heart.” Sister Marita (right photo, center) accompanied us.

# Day of Reflection



“God has abundantly blessed me in my time so far in Jamaica.” -Joleen, FMS Missioner (right photo, right, with Associate Director Rose Hardwick)

# Fellowship



Left: the “second floor girls” went to dinner at the nearby Peppathyme Jamaican restaurant. Right, top: Joleen and Rose share ice cream during a one-on-one check in. Right, bottom: embracing simple relaxation in community with facemasks.

# Natural Beauty

