



## My Trip to Haiti

by Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC

When I returned from Haiti, people asked me: "How was your trip?" "Did you enjoy it?" "What was it like?" Although I spent a week there in June, immersed in the culture and ministry of our Sisters, I found these questions difficult to answer. I still do. What can you say when you have just visited the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere? After spending time in prayer, and being removed from the situation, I was able to put into words a few of my reflections.

My experience gave new meaning to the quote from our documents that says: "Where one Sister of Charity is in Ministry, we are all there." Sister Janet Lehmann's ministry is at the University of Notre Dame in Jacmel, where she serves as the Director of the Nursing Department. She works with young adults seeking an education in healthcare in the hopes they can lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Sister Dianne Moore, on the other hand, has a completely different ministry. Together with Dawn Colapietro, a Seton Associate, and Alexus Currie, a Choose Charity Volunteer, Sister Dianne does more of a hands-on and outreach ministry. They are involved in a health clinic, a goat project, a preschool, a micro-loan project, and a clean water project. Dianne collaborates with various religious communities, which she seems to do non-stop.

I was very impressed with the students Sr. Janet works with and their desire for an education under very difficult circumstances. At night I witnessed students studying under the lights of a hotel. Their homes did not have electricity, and yet they were determined to succeed.

My admiration and gratitude for Janet and Dianne has made real to me one of our



*Students in Haiti studying under hotel lights, as they did not have electricity at home.*



*Together in Haiti: Sister Dianne Moore, Sister Janet Lehman, Sister Elise Gittrich, Alexus Currie, a Volunteer for the Sisters of Charity, Sister Maryanne Tracey, and Dawn Colapietro, a Seton Associate.*

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Affirmation and Commitment statements from a Congregational Assembly that has always been meaningful to me. Our Congregational Constitution and our Vincentian Charism is expressed as: "We commit ourselves to make life more human for others." They in our name do this "...in the persons of the poor, either sick, prisoners, insane or those who through shame would conceal their necessities". They carry the presence of Christ to places of deep pain and suffering. They bring hope to the young seeking an education, healing to the sick, and love to everyone they touch.

So, when I am asked, "Did you enjoy your trip to Haiti?" my answer is an overwhelming yes. It is because of the love, commitment and dedication of the two Sisters of Charity, Janet and Dianne, who minister in our name.



*Sister Janet Lehman, SC (center) seen in a selfie with friends on the beach in Haiti.*

## My Summer Internship in Vocation

by Caroline Cianciara

I am a senior at the University of Arizona with a double major in Political Science and Religious Studies and a minor in Arabic. I applied to the Communications/Marketing Internship program at the Sisters of Charity to further my understanding of religious studies, as well as to interact with the community. I found that the Sisters of Charity's values of volunteering and social justice were very important to me. As a volunteer firefighter, I have always held volunteering near and dear. The sheer act of helping those in need brings forth such a wonderful feeling of worth and accomplishment. Seeing that the value of volunteering is also important to the Sisters meant a great deal to me. Additionally, their ministry in social justice is crucial in today's society. Everyone has a voice and should be treated with equality and fairness. To see that the Sisters are fighting for social change showed me that striving for a better community never dies, no matter the age. I can't wait to see what other movements they will support, as well as to hear more wonderful stories from the Sisters themselves.

The Sisters of Charity Internship was a great way to gain a greater sense of apprecia-



*Summer intern Caroline Cianciara with Jessica Bonder, Social Media Assistant for Vocation.*

tion for the Sisters and their service. We worked with Sisters from this order, as well as with others from throughout the state. The Communication/Marketing Internship helped to integrate technologies and new strategies with the founding mission of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. By helping to revamp the Sister's website to attract a younger audience, the internship gave me a greater appreciation for the Sisters and their impact on the community. I also met a slew of fantastic interns who made the task of bettering the community their number one priority.

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