

Optical mission St Pius X Eye Clinic Kingston, Jamaica

Oct. 31 to Nov 4 +, 2023

Patients seen in 3 clinic days: 172

Rx Eyeglasses to be made: 144

Patients on Surgery list (Cataract etc): 30



THANK YOU TO THE TEAM: Left to right: Paul Connor, Dr Tom Kelly, Peggy Johnson, Jeanne Pittman, Dr Tim Diegel, Amy Kuzma (mission leader), Susan O'Brien, Bill Pittman

Oct 31: Paul arrived and found that the 2 older phoropters were missing (later found that Dr Zimm had taken them in July to be serviced in Naples). Paul got Fr Mario and friends to pick up Dr Zimm's donated suite, which had luckily just arrived at the Food for the Poor warehouse. Paul installed it (including its phoropter) and the extra JOP-purchased phoropter Paul had brought. All equipment was serviced, tested and ready for the first clinic day.

Clinic days Nov 1-2-3: See stats above. Great team to work with including three new volunteers (Dr Tim Diegel, Sue O'Brien C.O.T. and Bill Pittman, all from Naples). Patients given thorough eye exams, visual acuity, frame selection and prescription eyeglasses will be received from Paul's Ohio lab sometime in January. Numerous reading glasses and sunglasses given to patients as needed. Readers were sorted by power and labeled for next mission. Eyeglass repairs and frame replacements were also done where possible. Cataract and other surgery list was retained by Amy who will distribute to Dr Zimm, his staff and Ms Bradford. All patient records were filed (mostly by Bill), including those from earlier 2023 missions.

Thank you to the staff at St Pius X: Fr Mario, Marie, Rosemarie, Boxer, Ms Bradford, and Patrick the driver. All were welcoming and worked diligently to provide us with all we needed during this mission.

Travel challenges: The 4 Ohio team's flights were delayed and they had to spend the night in Miami, arriving a day later than planned. The 4 Naples people had flights canceled and had to stay in Kingston hotels two extra nights (courtesy of JetBlue). All arrived home safely. Doing God's work is rewarding but sometimes exhausting.

Notes for next year:

1. Consider adding Seaford Town with split teams. Seaford will need clinic assessment beforehand since it has not been used since 2019.
2. Bring 2.75 Readers , we have sufficient inventory for other powers.
3. Ship more sunglasses if we can get them donated.
4. Bring large zip lock bags to store and sort readers.
5. Bring eyeglass cases
6. Need large plastic frames (none left in inventory)
7. Plan on no more than 40 patient appointments for day 1, and 50 on days 2-3.
8. Bring notes with St Pius X office telephone 876-932-5014 (for patients to check on status of eyeglasses delivery).



