

Spring 2022

# Haiti Outreach



Congrégation des Petites Sœurs de Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus  
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B.P. 11095, Port au Prince HAITI (W I)

Le 15-04-22

Dear benefactors,

We thank you very for all economic support you have provides us for our ministries in Haiti. Especially after the earthquake in the South of Haiti last August. We give a special thanks to the IHM, and HM sisters, and all other generous people for their solidarity. Things are still very hard for us. Please continue to pray for us and appreciate your generosity. One of our building convents is completed. By next week we are going to do the blessing. We have two others in construction in progress.

We take this opportunity to send you our best wishes for the Easter time. May the spirit of Christ Resuscitate continue to be with you, your community and your family?

With deepest gratitude and prayers, HAPPY Ester Sunday and Ester time.

*Sr Denise Desil*

Sr Denise Desil, psst

General Responsible



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## June 2022

**"I was hungry, thirsty, homeless,  
ill and in prison ... and you ..."**

-Quixote Center

Haiti has been experiencing food insecurity, storms, earthquakes, gang violence, and the added lack of any governmental structures.

Small, black and poor, the Haitian people remain in the background of news and public awareness. Yet, Fonkoze, Rich in Mercy, Partners in Progress and OSP/IHM Sisters keep connected and live in HOPE, along with a people who have shown courage and strength in the face of oppression.

Recent good news has been the persistence of the Montana Accord, a coalition of non-governmental groups, church leaders, human rights advocates and others with a proposal for a transition to stability. Rebuilding of convents for the Petite Soeurs of Ste. Therese that were demolished by the earthquakes of August 2021 is progressing.

But our brothers and sisters are experiencing high levels of food insecurity. Many regions are in levels 3-4, which is just below 5 (Famine). The reasons have only grown worse because of the Pandemic, the War in Ukraine, the assassination of Haiti's president and free-roaming gangs that kill, kidnap and keep people in fear. Access to markets, flooding, drought and the difficulty in delivering aid is devastating Haiti.

"At least 4.5 million people in Haiti or 45% of the population, are facing acute hunger. As the war in

Ukraine drags on, the number will increase. Food prices are spiking everywhere, with the cost of fuel adding to the pain. The immediate crisis in Haiti is thus symptomatic of global stressors largely outside the control of the people of the country. From a long-term point of view, the food crisis in Haiti has deep roots in years of exploitation." Click [here](#) to read more from this recent blog post by the Quixote Center.

Despite all this, the people keep trying to care for their families, neighbors and LIVE...thank you for joining us in this liberating mission.

Visit [www.quixote.org](http://www.quixote.org) for updated information on the situation in Haiti.



Our new convent at Vieux Bourg d'Aquin.



## Books by Edwidge Danticat

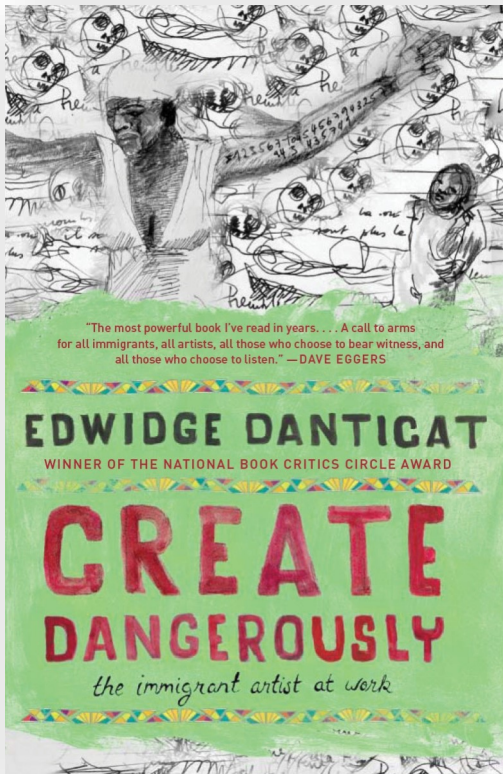
Edwidge Danticat is a gifted member of the Haitian diaspora with an understanding of Haiti's history and culture from her childhood to the present day. She recounts her memories and adult experiences in many formats, including children's stories, historical fiction, essays and lectures interweaving folklore, Vodou, politics and sometimes, "even when it feels we are chasing or being chased by ghosts."

-*Create Dangerously* p. 148.

Perhaps in this time of restrictions on visiting, we can learn more about Haiti through the reflections of this talented author.



Edwidge Danticat is a Haitian-American novelist and short story writer. Her first novel, *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, was published in 1994 and went on to become an Oprah's Book Club selection. Danticat has since written or edited several books and has been the recipient of many awards and honors.



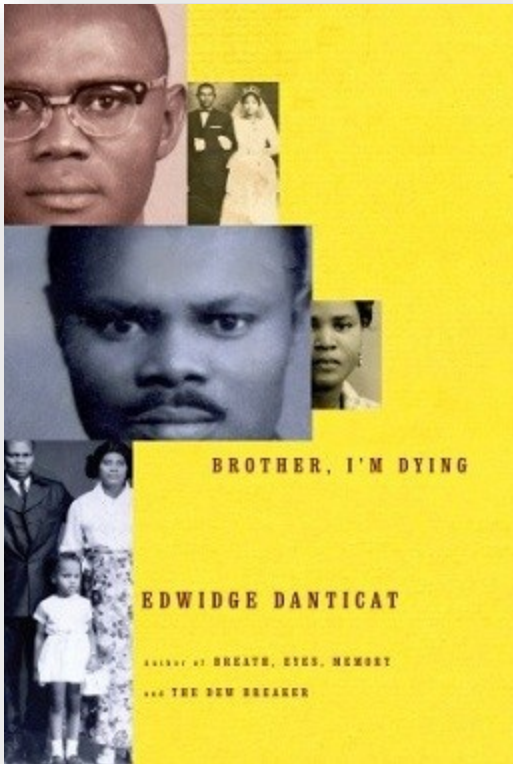
## *Create Dangerously*

In *Create Dangerously* 2010, Danticat uses her status as an "immigrant artist" to share reflections on Haiti's complicated history, from executions and assassinations to hurricanes and earthquakes, from the paintings of Hector Hypolite or the prose of Marie Vieux-Chauvet, or the poetry of Felix Morisseau Leroy. She starts with the death by firing squad of rebels Numa and Drovin in 1964 (Five years before her birth), later to the 2000 assassination of an influential radio commentator, Jean Dominique, whose killers were never found. She recounts a visit, partially on foot, to an elderly aunt living in the hills and recalls the complication of trying to repatriate the body of a cousin, an undocumented immigrant in Miami, who died of AIDS. The book's title comes from a poem by Camus suggesting that subversive literature may inspire courage.



See <https://edwidedanticat.com> for a complete list of her books.

## *Brother, I'm Dying*



*Brother, I'm Dying* 2007 is a memoir of Danticat's childhood and Haiti's social and political history from the end of the Duvalier regime through Aristide's two partial presidencies. She tells how her father and his surrogate negotiated their survival in Brooklyn and Haiti, respectively.

By age four, Danticat's parents had moved to New York, leaving Edwidge and her brother with their father's brother, Joseph and his wife Denise in Port au Prince. Joseph Dantica, 12 years older than his brother, led a Baptist congregation with a school and health clinic. Edwidge's father, Miracin, worked as a gypsy cab driver in New York, increasingly disabled by breathing problems. In 1980 at age 11, Edwidge and her brother rejoined their parents and two more brothers (born into the family in the interval years). In 1978 Joseph had traveled to New York for a radical laryngectomy; in 2004, he died in the prison ward of Jackson Memorial Hospital (Miami) after an acute illness at the Krome Detention Center during an interview for asylum. "Mira" died six

months later. The two brothers share a gravesite in Queens, New York.

## *Farming of Bones*

*Farming of Bones* 1998 depicts the precarious toleration of Haitian agricultural laborers in the Dominican Republic (which continues to this day.) In the novel, Amabelle, who watched her parents drown crossing a river, is a Haitian servant in the house of a Dominican army officer. While Amabelle is somewhat protected by the officer's wife, who is the same age and sympathetic to her grief, she observes the disdain with which the Dominicans regard their Haitian workers and the hostility of dictator Trujillo culminating in the murder of thousands of Haitians in the 1937 massacre.

