



## Sponsor a Student in the Lunch Program at Saint Gabriel School, Haiti

June 17, 2020



In 2007 Sacred Heart Parish in Norfolk, Virginia, started a magnificent twinning relationship with St. Gabriel Parish in Lascahobas, situated in the Central Plateau in Haiti, close to the Dominican Republic. This unique relationship is based on a strong three-layer foundation: long-term relationship, mutual prayers, and an answer to a Call of Service. Both Father Ady Mytial at St. Gabriel and Father Paul Muyimbwa at Sacred Heart fully support this twinning relationship.

Twice a year a small group of parishioners go on pilgrimages to Lascahobas to share the Eucharist with the parishioners at St. Gabriel, deepen relationships, and learn the rich Haitian culture and language. During these visits, they have ample time to exchange what their pressing needs and long-range plans are. Our Family at St. Gabriel has identified four priority needs: Food, Education, Health Care, and Jobs. Food is a luxury in Haiti, and 50% of primary school age children are not enrolled in school. We have identified our need to be to answer our **Baptismal Call to Service** in order to have a meaningful life through mutual prayers and equal partnership.

One of the primary goals of the Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) at Sacred Heart is to find **sponsors for 25 children** for the Lunch Program. The school, 1<sup>st</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> Grades, has 450 students. A plate of hot beans and rice with occasional fresh vegetables is served each school day to the students. The school has a vegetable farm which helps supplement the food served to the students. Also, Fr. Ady has built a cafeteria with a kitchen which opened in March 2017. The cafeteria gives a dignified place for the students to eat in. He says that the students concentrate more on their studies and have better grades when fed a good, balanced meal. This might be the only meal the students will have since parents often are not able to feed their children. It costs \$1.60 per day to feed a child, \$35 a month for 22 meals, and \$420 a year. Last year, Sacred Heart and the larger community were able to feed 25 students. **100% of your donation goes directly to the program.** Also, your donations are entirely tax deductible.

If you wish to help one or more of these students, please write your check to Sacred Heart Church and add "*St. Gabriel Lunch Fund*" on the memo line. For online giving go to [www.sacredheartnorfolk.org](http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org), click on the "Giving" tab, then click "online giving." Under "designate fund amount," scroll down to Haiti: Lunch and indicate the amount.

Fr. Ady is looking for a sustained sponsorship which helps the students through the entire school year whenever possible. Together we continue praying for our Family at home and in Haiti. Special thanks go to the parishioners and friends who already sponsor this program.

For more information contact:



Students eating in classroom (2016), prior to the building of the cafeteria

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Students eating in cafeteria