



Saint Gabriel and Sacred Heart Scholarship Program, Lascahobas, Haiti

June 10th, 2020

In 2007, Sacred Heart Parish entered into a twinning relationship with St. Gabriel Parish in Lascahobas, situated in the Central Plateau of Haiti, close to the Dominican Republic. Pilgrims from Sacred Heart regularly visit Father Ady Mytial, pastor at St. Gabriel and the parishioners. They experience a growing, mutual, and loving relationship and see the need for sustained mutual support. Because of these frequent pilgrimages, they are able to share with Father Paul Muyimbwa, pastor at Sacred Heart Church, the parishioners, and the community, the fruits of this relationship and the combined efforts of both parishes.

One of St. Gabriel Parish's needs is a good education beyond the 6th Grade. In rural Haiti there are few middle and high schools. Father Bernard Desras (previous pastor at St. Gabriel) and the community wanted to build a school to fill that gap. Construction of the school began in 2010 and the doors opened to students 7th-12th Grades in October 2012. Each year a grade was added, and in September 2017 the school was completed with 1st – 13th Grades. St. Gabriel School currently has 450 students.

Furthermore, Fr. Ady asked Sacred Heart and the larger community for their support in developing a **Scholarship Program**, which Fr. Bernard started. For the last eight years, we have been able to support St. Gabriel School with 20 scholarships. Each year, the Scholarship Selection Committee at St. Gabriel meets and selects deserving students for an annual scholarship of \$275. The scholarship selection criteria has three components; the highest performer, the hardest worker, and the most in need. A scholarship supports a deserving student for one year, and families can reapply if the student meets the criteria. These criteria are designed to both reward and motivate well-behaved students, while providing much needed financial support to their families. Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, four students will have the opportunity to receive a \$170 scholarship to attend vocational schools.

The scholarship recipients write a note to Mrs. Regina LeMay, who started an endowment, to thank her for her generosity. The students say they work harder at their studies because someone cares for them, and this scholarship helps their families to send an additional child to school.

What can you do? Become a donor and help find others to contribute to the Scholarship Program for St. Gabriel. It costs \$275 each year to send a student to St. Gabriel School and \$170 to send a student to vocational school. **100% of your donation goes directly to the program since this ministry is blessed with generous volunteers and sponsors.** Donations are entirely tax deductible. If you feel a **Call to Service** and wish to help one or more of these children, please write your check to Sacred Heart Church and add "*St. Gabriel Scholarship Fund*" on the memo line. For online giving, go to the Sacred Heart website at: <http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/>, click on the "Giving" tab, then click "online giving." Under "designate fund amount," scroll down to Haiti: Scholarship and indicate the amount.

For more information please contact:

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<http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/>