Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes
Celebrating 14th Year of Twinning with Saint Gabriel
2020-2021-Education/Vocation School, Playground, Stationery/School Supply Shop

Vision: We, the parishioners of the Sacred Heart have been called to enter in a twinning relationship with our brothers and sisters at Saint Gabriel, Haiti. Together, we follow the principals of Catholic Social Teaching to foster faith-filled relationships, self-sustainability and an end to dependency. **Mission Statement:** End Dependency while following the principals of Catholic Social Teaching.

Pope Francis designated 2021 as the Year of St. Joseph
First meeting for FY July 2021-June 2022

Tuesday, June 13th, 2021 (6:30 pm - 8:00 pm in Commons)

Present: Patricia Britz, Silver Ibenye, William Wallace, Susie Clapham, Alison Boulba, & Francesca Smith **Excused**: Brendan Pigott

Patricia welcomed & thanked all present: The goals of this meeting are to continue growing close relationships among members and our family in our twin parish, inform all present of SH Haiti Twinning Ministry's activities, continue formation on Catholic Social Teaching, and share the news from both parishes. **Opening Prayer**: William read the Prayer for Students. **Prayer Intentions:** members prayed for Fr. Paul & Fr. Fitho, all who have been affected by COVID-19 especially the most vulnerable; all who are struggling especially young families; newly departed especially Neil Walsh; Global Vaccination; and all students in US & around the world especially at SH and SG who are taking their exams. **Special Intentions:** Members shared their intentions. **Hymn:** O Lespri Sen/O Holy Spirit—Silver and All (in keeping with Covenant/Goal 2 with SG). Members shared their summer activities with family & ministry. Monthly Masses for Neil Walsh, contact Francesca. **Phone call/Greetings with Fr. Fitho during the meeting.**

July-August Calendar & Upcoming Meetings: William reviewed the calendar & upcoming meetings. See below. Silver showed pictures of SGP, school, and students.

Good News from both Parishes: Susie shared the Good News: there were several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) and St. Gabriel Parish (SGP); **7/2/2021—**Bishop Jean Desnord's 5th Anniversary at Diocese of Hinche (Haiti)/2016; **7/4/2021**—Independence Day for USA, **7/11/2021**—201st Anniversary Richmond Diocese Founding (1820); **7/14/2021—** Bastille Day 1789 Independence Day for France; **7/15/2021**—21st Anniversary of Fr. Paul's Ordination; **7/16/2021**—Our Lady of Mt Carmel; **7/19/2021**—Remembrance of Fr. Kauffmann's 44th Anniversary of Ordination, **7/22/2021—**18th Anniversary of Voix/Voice Terrestres Choir at SG, **7/29/2021**—28th Anniversary of Flambeau de l'Espoir/Torch of Hope Choir at SG; **7/31/2021**--St. Ignatius of Loyola (one of Neil's favorite saints).

Introduction to Fr. Johnny (Assistant to Fr. Fitho): William read Fr. Johnny's biography (at end of minutes).

Source of Income Project: Pre-School—Patricia noted the overarching goal of our twinning is to walk with SGP down their path to becoming self-supporting and self-sustaining in keeping with Catholic Social Teaching and Dr. Lupton's oath explained in his books, Toxic Charity and Charity Detox. SH HTM invests in projects that help SGP to their goal. SGP has achieved their chosen projects which generate sources of revenue to them, e.g., Water and Bread Shop and Stationery and School Supplies Store. They have and continue to do the 90 percent of the work and we have helped with about 10 percent. Opening the Pre-School will help SG parents and children by providing childcare so the parents can work and early childhood preparation so the children can enter 1st Grade. The children will also be fed.

September Haiti Solidarity Month—Francesca noted SH HTM will join with the Diocese of Richmond in celebrating Haiti Solidarity Month in September as follows: 3 Masses on the 25 & 26 Sept. will include announcements from the altar, Prayer of the Faithful, and singing of O Lespri San/O Holy Spirit by the congregation; we will pray a Novena to St. Joseph the Worker (Brendan) together with SGP; there will be announcements in the bulletins, SH constant contact emails, and on TV in Commons; and Fall Sale on 18 & 19 Sept. in the Commons. Patricia noted HTM Open House is on Sunday 26 September, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm showing sustainability piece on SGP accomplishments and current projects. She noted this replaces the Pilgrims' Return for now until COVID-19 Pandemic is contained and travel restrictions to Haiti are lifted.

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FORMATION

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) / Investing in Projects that are Source of Revenue for Saint Gabriel—Rick Steves' Documentary, "Hunger & Hope: (Water, Health & Nutrition, Education & Technology) Lessons from Ethiopia & Guatemala": Brendan asked members to view the next 15 minutes of Rick Steves' documentary "Hunger and Hope: Lessons from Ethiopia and Guatemala" **(**https://youtu.be/pzSUqYaW8i4). He asked members to think about the following two questions: why is farming such an important skill to learn/is it more than just a personal food supply and why is healthcare so important to promote/is it more than personal wellness?
After watching the next 15 minutes on Water, Health, & Nutrition, Education & Technology Lessons from Ethiopia & Guatemala, Patricia asked, what are the strengths in both countries we saw in the video? Answers: Water Pump Stations owned & maintained by the community provided many positive effects for that community in both countries; smart agriculture in both countries (line planting, seed spacing, effective use of fertilizer, and smart agricultural policies) helped improve health/nutrition standards for the families & communities which help them to climb out of poverty and increased children staying in school; empowering the women with knowledge to breast feed until 6 months, washing of hands with soap, and eating nutritious food/supplements; and technology has been tremendous benefit to struggling countries and rural communities (e.g., solar energy, etc.). For the next meeting, please watch the remainder of Rick Steves' documentary.

Website Tour Justice and Peace—Silver gave a tour of the updated Justice and Peace and HTM on the SH website.

END OF YEAR REPORTS:

Financial/Funds/Activities—Patricia:2020-2021 Annual Funds Report—School Staff: 10 teachers, 1 nurse, ½ principal, Lunch: 23 students, Medical: $100 per month, and Bldg & Outfitting: 1 set of high school text books, water system (source of revenue), Stationery Store-School Supplies (source of revenue) and Activities Completed during Pandemic Year: Sep-Jun Sales, 11th Golf Tournament Virtual, Cultural Dinner Virtual, We Remember Neil Walsh, Collected sale items/laptops/pennies, Sent Pen Pal letters via WhatsApp & cards, Celebrated 14th Year of Twinning, Novena for SG & Trilogy for SH and Said Goodbye to Fr. Ady & Welcome to Fr. Fitho. **Admin.**—Francesca: Pen Pals Notes & Cards went very well during the year thanks to WhatsApp & Susie's card preparations, **Formation**—Brendan kept it going throughout the year, **Thank you notes**—Susan Daniel—thank you for all your help, **Penny Collection**—Alison—thank you for taking care of the collection, **Scrap book & Greeting cards**—Susie—thank you for all of your help, **Sales**—William noted they went well. Thank you for all of your good work.

SAVE THE DATES:

Parish Haiti Solidarity Annual Sale—the sale is on Sept. 18th & 19th, 2021. POC: Patricia Britz.
12th Golf Tournament in Memory of Neil Walsh, Play Fore the Parishes--Tournament is on October 29, 2021. POC: Tom Bosse & Tony Agati.
13th Parish Haiti Cultural Dinner—Dinner is on January 22nd, 2022. POC: Nicolas Valcour.

UPDATES:

Communication/Collaboration: Fr. Paul, Amy Woods, Tom Bosse, Fr. Fitho, Fr. Johnny, Mary Ann Collins (Eastern Vicariate Haiti Twinning Rep.), Fr. Kesner Joseph (St. Michael Archangel, Glen Allen), Rachael Laustrup (Director OSM Richmond Diocese), Mary Hess (OSM Special Events), Babs Zuhowsky (Maison Fortuné Orphanage Foundation Director), Veronica Gross, Kathy Dowdy (Haiti Education Support Team Chair), Holly Fuller and Chris West Catholic Relief Services

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Fund Raisers for FY 2021-2022 to Benefit St Gabriel School: Monthly Newsletters, Parish Sept Sale, Yard Sales, Good Will Donations, In Honor/Memory Donations, Penny Collection, Advent Giving Tree, Haiti Cultural Dinner, others?

Post Meeting Notes:
Pen Pal Notes & Birthday/Greeting Cards: Please turn in notes for Fr. Fitho, Fr. Ady, Fr. Bernard, & pen pals to Francesca via email, smithf236@verizon.net, by July 20, 2021. She will consolidate the notes & forward to Patricia who will email them via WhatsApp to Fr. Fitho. Thanks to all who did in May & have already done so for July. **Fr. Fitho and pen pals appreciated the notes very much**. Thank you Susie for continuing to prepare greetings cards.

Fair Trade Coffee, Just (ice) for Haiti continues out of parish. Contact Patricia if you would like to buy some bags of ground coffee, medium or dark, $12/bag. Fair Trade: A Just World Starts with You | Benjamin Conard | TEDxSUNYGeneseo - Bing video). Many thanks for continuing purchasing this coffee in support of the Haitian farmers.

Closing Prayer from God is No Stranger: Haitian Creole & English—Silver & All.

Next Meetings: August 10th, September 7th, October 12th Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-8:00 pm Open prayer William, Closing prayer Silver All are welcome.

JULY AND AUGUST CALENDAR

JULY	
7/13-Tues.	**Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-8:00 pm--Commons**
7/15--Thur.	Fr. Paul's 21st Anniversary of Ordination
AUGUST	
8/1-	Fr. Paul's 5th Year Anniversary at SH
8/10-Tues.	**Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-8:00 pm--Commons**

Resources:
Rick Steves' Hunger & Hope: Lessons from Ethiopia & Guatemala, https://youtu.be/pzSUqYaW8i4

Agroforestry in Coffee Farming for a Sustainable Enterprise | CRS FARM Project - Bing video

Fonkoze Investing in Projects/Financial Sustainability—Fonkoze video link as an example of human development/micro loans (Shoulder to Shoulder with Fonkoze: Ti Kredi - YouTube

Benjamin Conard's video on Fair Trade (Fair Trade: A Just World Starts with You | Benjamin Conard | TEDxSUNYGeneseo - Bing video).

The 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching (CST):

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https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-socialteaching. Some examples of organizations that help improve communities in struggling countries: CRS, USDA, and "Fratelli tutti" Encyclical by Pope Francis.

The Roots of Division Documentary (Haiti & The Dominican Republic)
https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+roots+of+division&ru=%2fvideos%2fsearch%3fq%3dthe%2broots%2bof%2bdivision%26FORM%3dHDRSC3&view=detail&mid=DFB8E8F70645B0F384FEDFB8E8F70645B0F384FE&&FORM=VDRVRV

History of Hispaniola: Haiti & The DR —YouTube link to watch the documentary (https://youtu.be/uklSf8CJ5GQ)

Dr. Kim Lamberty (CRS) Article, "Preferential Option for the Poor Reconsidered" Study.

Books: Dr. Lupton: Toxic Charity and Charity Detox (at local libraries)
Steven Werlin: To Fool The Rain: Haiti's Poor and Their Pathway to a Better Life

Film Documentary: Poverty, Inc. (DVD at Virginia Beach Library)

WELCOME FR. FITHO JEAN-New pastor at ST. Gabriel Parish May 21st, 2021

I am Father Fitho Jean. I was born in Boucan-Carré, Haiti **June 20th.** My parents Marcel and Philiona Jean are both deceased. I also lost a brother in the 2010 earthquake. I have a sister, Choumide who lives in Mirebalais with her family, and a young brother, Roleymson who lives in our hometown.

I was ordained priest **May 6th, 2007**. I was associate pastor at the Sacred Heart Parish in Hinche and teacher of catechism at Saint Martin's High School (2007-2009). I was director of propaedeutic (Seminarian) at Pandiassou/ Hinche and responsible of the mission in the diocese (2009- 2012). I was in Italy for a bachelor's degree in biblical Exegesis at PIB (Pontifical Institute of Bible/ Biblicum at Rome) (2012- 2016). When I returned to Haiti, I was the pastor of our Lady of the Rosary Parish at Sapaterre/ Hinche, teacher of theology and chaplain of the university (UDERS/ Hinche) (2017-2020). I will transfer to Saint Gabriel Parish May 21st, 2021. I look forward to getting to know Fr. Paul, the dedicated members of the Haiti Twinning Ministry, and the parishioners at Sacred Heart Church. May the Lord bless you and all that you do for the Lord's children.