



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER
15TH YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH
DECEMBER 2022, Edition 47-Three Years!



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:** End dependency while following the principals of Catholic Social Teaching.



Vwazinaj se fanmi / Translation: The neighborhood is the family. | **Meaning:** We must consider our neighbors as family.

FIRST QUARTER EXAMINATIONS DECEMBER 19TH -23RD

Fr. Jacques Bloch (1st-6th) and Saint Gabriel (7th-13th), two schools in one, and the preschool and new Kindergarten reopened for the school year 2022-2023 Monday, November 7th. The number of students has increased this year which is a blessing since more parents pay tuition according to what they can afford. This helps the school to be increasingly self-sustaining.

GREETINGS FROM FR. FITHO JEAN, PASTOR AT SAINT GABRIEL PARISH



Dear Fr. Paul, parishioners of the Sacred Heart, and community friends,

This weekend, we are entering the 4th week of the Advent season, and Christmas is very close. The parishioners at St. Gabriel and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

We started the school year late, but everything works fine now in Lascahobas. We give thanks to God for His immense love. The 1st-6th graders will finish their exams on Mon., Dec. 19th, for the first quarter, and the other students, 7th-13th Grades will start their exams on Mon. and finish them Dec. 29th.

Thank you for helping the students at Saint Gabriel to look to the future with hope through a good education. Let us join in prayer for justice and peace in Haiti as well as in the whole world.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN LOWER SCHOOL

Numbers in parentheses are from last school year.

1st Grade 34 (15)
2nd Grade 34 (26)

3rd Grade 41 (27)
4th Grade 33 (24)

5th Grade 34 (30)
6th Grade 42 (33)

Total: 218 (181)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

7th Grade 42 & 44 (58)
 8th Grade 59 (49)
 9th Grade 35 (24)

10th Grade 41 & 41 (58)
 11th Grade 60 (49)
 12th Grade 55 (38)

13th Grade 31 (23)

Total: 408 (299) Added 2 classes above the cafeteria: 7th & 10th Grades!

FAIR TRADE SALE WAS A SUCCESS FOR SAINT GABRIEL LUNCH FUND!

GOAL: FEED 1 CHILD, 1 SALE AT A TIME

On Dec. 3rd and 4th, the sale team joined the Sowers of Justice table to sale some craft and costume jewelry at the Elation Brewing on Colley Ave., Norfolk. There was some good entertainment by various singers, musicians, and dancers. There were also delicious food and beverages. This festive ambiance attracted a good flow of passersby. We shared a table with to the left, volunteers from Holy Family who sold Just(ice) Haiti coffee and Peace Cycle bags, and to the right, Jimmy Culpepper and his Fair-Trade team who sold delicious chocolate.

The team sold some pretty craft and costume jewelry. They collected \$750, which will feed 1 child for the year and another for 9 months!

We thank all of you for your support of those sales. Also, many thanks to the dedicated sale team. We welcome any volunteers who would like to help the team to pack items after those sales, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm. The next sale will be in the Saint Gregory the Great's gymnasium, VA Beach, March 18th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm.

Items needed: DMC yarn, scissors/tools, educational toys/kits, Lego, Pokémon cards, colorful coffee mugs & craft.

ADVENT GIVING TREE—As of tradition, Sacred Heart keeps the children of the world in its heart this Advent and Christmas Season. Parishioners and community friends have generously given 87 wrapped gifts of brand new clothes and toys for the children of the Eastern Shore workers. Also, monetary funds are being collected until Epiphany to provide some textbooks to the new 7th and 10th Grades at Saint Gabriel. So far, this collection has reached 2/3 of its goal. [Pledge here](#). We thank all persons who have participated in those gifts of hope and joy for the children.

As we continue our 4-year plan, 2021-2025, of slowly decreasing our direct assistance to the operational cost of the school (Teacher Fund & Lunch Fund), we keep on investing in small projects that are source of revenue for SG's increased independence. We also continue nurturing close relationships with our family there. This investment also includes making the school and campus attractive to paying parents. Direct aid is important, short term. Investment in sustainability is essential, long term. **The fund supporting sustainability projects is the Building and Outfitting Fund.** [Sacred Heart Catholic Church \(etransfer.com\)](#)

2nd QUARTER IMPACT ON BOTH OUR PARISHES OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2022

RELATIONSHIP	OPERATION COST	INVESTING SUSTAINABILITY	ADMIN., FORMATION, FUND RAISERS
Pen pal notes/greeting cards: Ordinations, Christmas, Anniversaries, Birthdays etc.	Salaries 8 teachers/ 1 quarter 1 nurse/1 quarter Pledge Form	Parish Farm provides beans, manioc, banana, pistachios. Tended by the Blanc family.	Monthly Ministry & Admin. meetings Catholic Social Teaching Sustainability Formation Plan Annual Eastern Vicariate Haiti Twinning Gathering 4/29/23
Weekly WhatsApp phone calls Fr. Fitho,	Lunch for 16 students/ 1 quarter Pledge Form	Parish Stationery Shop open.	Monthly newsletters #47, 3 years, short lessons in Haitian Creole
	Medical assistance \$300 / 1 quarter Pledge Form	Investment in transportation (building fund)	3-Sales (9), Small Change Collection
		A set of textbooks for the new 7 th & 10 th Grades \$2,000	Sept. 25 , Parish Solidarity Presentation/Refreshments/Raffle

The funds in most need of your assistance this quarter are **Medical Fund**; and **Building and Outfitting Fund**, the latest being the fund that is helping SG become increasingly independent.

SAVE THE DATES

MONTHLY MEETINGS—Tuesdays, January 3, & February 14th

We share a meal at 6:00 pm in the Commons, followed by the meeting, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. All are welcome to hear stories of long-lasting relationships, and faith in action—a way to a better life.

NEXT SALE: Saint Gregory the Great, VA Beach March 18th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm.

WE REMEMBER OUR DEDICATED FRIENDS IN THE HAITI MINISTRY



Ellen Renn, Feb. 16th, 62-Sept. 10, 2017
Neil Walsh, Aug. 25, 1946-Mar. 10, 2020
Nicolas Valcour, Sept. 9, 1960-Feb. 20, 2022
Dr. Paul Farmer, Oct. 26, 1959-Feb. 21, 2022

Patricia Britz, Haiti Twinning Ministry Chair & Brendan Pigott Assistant Chair

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