



**HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH**  
**MARCH 2023, 50<sup>th</sup> Edition-Fifth Years!**



**Vision:** We, the parishioners of the Sacred Heart have been called to enter into a twinning relationship with our brothers and sisters at Saint Gabriel, Haiti. Together, we follow the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to foster faith-filled relationships, self-sustainability, and an end to dependency. **Mission:** End dependency while following the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. [Haiti Twinning Ministry](#)



*Tout moun se moun.* – **Everyone deserves to be treated as a human being.**

**FR. FITHO JEAN'S GREETINGS**



*Friends,*

*Blessings and peace to you and your family. We thank you for your continued prayers for Haiti; they are much needed. By the grace of God, our area is not directly impacted by the unrest in Port-au-Prince.*

*On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Fr. Bernard Desras, founder of our school, celebrated a Mass for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inauguration of the school. All our students, 673 and teachers were in attendance. All persons who helped with the building of the school were recognized; Sacred Heart was praised.*

*We thank you for joining us in praying a Novena for our parish Feast Day, Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Each day, a new priest came to preside the Mass with a theme. The church was full during these 9 days. Bishop Desinord Jean celebrated the Mass on March 25<sup>th</sup>, and 54 priests were in attendance.*

*We wish you a blessed and Happy Easter. Fr. Fitho JEAN, Pastor at Saint Gabriel Parish*  
(picture above: SG Feast Day booklet)



**JANUARY-MARCH 2023 GOALS**

Our 3 major goals January-March are to continue supporting SG School with **prayers and friendship**, **good administration**, and some **financial support**.

**PRAYERS & FRIENDSHIP** | Nurture a close relationship with our family at SG. Francesca sent greeting notes to Fr. Fr. Fitho, Fr. Bernard, Fr. Ady, Fr. Jean Carlo, and Fr. Adelin. Susie sent birthday cards to various parishioners. Those notes are much appreciated by the recipients. Writing to our family in Haiti this Easter takes 3 simple steps: pray for a person or a family at SG, write your note celebrating the current season, and send to Francesca via an e-mail, [smithf236@verizon.net](mailto:smithf236@verizon.net). Each meeting starts with special intentions for the people of SG. We also prayed a Novena for SG Feast Day, and did a Stations of the Cross in Solidarity with Haiti.

**ADMINISTRATION** | We meet with Fr. Fitho weekly via WhatsApp to share news from both our parishes and the life of the school at SG. Fr. Adelin, SG Administrator Principal, and Fr. Jean Carlo, Director of Religious Education, send us pictures of students and current projects.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

**St. Gabriel Lunch Fund** | feed 16 students, \$105 per student for 3 months. Inflation continues to rise, making food a luxury.

**St. Gabriel Staff Fund** | pay 8 teachers' salary, \$325 per teacher, per quarter, and the nurse Mrs. Pierrot.

**St. Gabriel Medical Assistance Fund** | \$850 for medical assistance at the school clinic including a dentist's visit in May.

**St. Gabriel Building & Outfitting/Sustainable Fund** | \$2,000 per quarter for a sustainable project/school transportation, & \$3,000 for 2 sets of textbooks for both the new 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades.



If you wish to support one of these funds, please write your check to Sacred Heart Church and add the name of the fund you selected on the memo line. Sacred Heart Church: 520 Graydon Ave, Norfolk VA 23507. For online giving, go to [Sacred Heart Catholic Church \(etransfer.com\)](https://etransfer.com) click please select, scroll down to the fund you wish to support, and indicate the amount. The funds in most need this month is the Building & Outfitting/Sustainable Fund, and the Medical Assistance Fund for the dentist's visit. Any contribution is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to those of you who are already participating. Together let's continue praying for our family at home and in Haiti.

**SALES ARE BACK! "FEED 1 CHILD, 1 SALE AT A TIME"**  
**CRAFT SHOW & FLEE MARKET**

**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023-9:00 am-2:00 pm- St. Gregory the Great's School Gym, VA Beach**



We met our goal, to feed 1 child for the year at this sale, \$420. Here is the list of some of the items sold : 18 pieces of jewelry, 1 Star War Barbie doll, 1 Chess set, 1 box of toy trucks, 1 winter shawl/brand new, 3 handmade cat toys, 1 Easter deer, 1 hand-made Afghan, Reed & Barton silver duck bank, 1 box of mermaid stationery, 1 set of bookmarks, 2 books (WWII & Hello Hampton Road), a small box of LEGO, 2 hand-made pillows, 7 "Traveling with Jesus" paper suitcases/gardening sets. A lady stopped by to look at the jewelry. She asked if we had a piece with a cardinal on it. Francesca suggested a broach, which this lady purchased with a big smile. "When my husband passed away a few years ago, a cardinal sat at my feet in the garden and looked up at me. I felt comforted by that bird right then." **Next sale, Sat., April 15<sup>th</sup>.** Cherie's home,

6058 River Rd. Norfolk, VA 23505. [See flyer.](#)

**SAVE THE DATES**

**MONTHLY MEETING** | Tues., April 11. We share a meal, 6:00 pm in the Commons, meeting follows, 6:30 pm-7:30. All are welcome to listen to stories of long-lasting relationships, solidarity, & faith in action/a way to a better life.

**15<sup>TH</sup> EASTERN VICARIATE HAITI TWINNING GATHERING**, Sat. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, St. Gregory the Great, VA Beach, in person. [See flyer here attached.](#)

**16<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN TWINNING SACRED HEART & ST. GABRIEL** | Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm all are welcome to this Open House to celebrate 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in twinning with refreshments, presentation, pictures, live music, and a raffle in support of scholarships.

**WE REMEMBER OUR DEDICATED FRIENDS IN THE HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY**



**Ellen Renn**, Feb. 16, 1962-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, OFS Haiti Twinning Ministry Chair | 757-621-1860 | [patprovidence1@yahoo.com](mailto:patprovidence1@yahoo.com) & Brendan Pigott Assistant Chair



Middle and High students eat in the cafeteria.



Lower School students eat in their classrooms.

