



# HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER

## 15<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH

APRIL 2023, 51<sup>ST</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](#)



*Manje kwit pa gen mèt* / **Translation:** Cooked food has no master. | **Meaning:** Food is free to be shared at mealtimes.

### FR. FITHO JEAN'S GREETINGS



*Dear Fr. Paul and friends of the Sacred Heart,*

*I greet each of you and your family and wish you a blessed and happy Season of Easter. As you know, we celebrated a beautiful patronal feast, on March 25<sup>th</sup>. It was the bishop of the Diocese of Hinche, Mgr Desinord JEAN who presided over the solemnity Mass. Thank you for each year, being in communion with us throughout the Novena. We appreciate your solidarity. Just like you, we will celebrate our 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in twinning Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. I am most grateful for our close relationship.*

*We are almost reaching the end of the school year; the 3rd term exams will start May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The teachers are working closely with their students to prepare them. In closing, I wish all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.*

*We pray for you, and we count on your prayers please.*

Fr. Fitho JEAN, Pastor at Saint Gabriel Parish, Lascahobas, Haiti

### NEWS

**THE PARISH FARM** The rainy season has started in Haiti. Farmers will get the water needed for their crops with much relief. St. Gabriel has a vegetable farm in which they grow manioc, Congo beans, sugar canes, bananas, and corn.

**THE 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER** has started with preparation for the end of year exams preparation. This Sunday, soccer competitions between various local middle and high schools will start and continue for a couple of weeks after school and the weekend. The soccer field is adjacent to St Gabriel School.

**ANNUAL DENTIST VISIT** Fr. Fitho and his parish Medical Committee are planning a dental visit at the school. A local dentist and his assistants will do a check up on the students who need dental care the most. The nurse and teachers will provide dental hygiene lessons.

**GOAT FOR A HARD-WORKING PARISHIONER.** 14 years ago, Peter, 12 years old benefited from the 1<sup>st</sup> scholarship provided by a member of the Haiti Twinning Ministry. Today, he is a hard-working parishioner at the school. He and his family will be the happy recipients of a goat. The goat will belong to the parish and all baby goats will remain with the family.

### APRIL-JUNE 2023 GOALS

Our 3 major goals April-June are to continue supporting SG School with **prayers and friendship**, **good administration**, and some **financial support**. While we support some of the operation cost of the school, we keep investing in sustainable projects for the long term.

**PRAYERS & FRIENDSHIP** | Nurture a close relationship with our family at SG. Francesca will send greeting notes to Fr. Fr. Fitho, Fr. Bernard, Fr. Ady, Fr. Jean Carlo, and Fr. Adelin. Susie will send 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** notes 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 keep our family at Saint Gabriel in our daily prayer.

**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, continues sending us pictures of students, school and campus, and current projects. Students are preparing for their end of the school year exams.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**St. Gabriel Lunch Fund** | feed 16 students, \$105 per student for 3 months, a bowl of hot rice and beans.

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

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://www.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.

## EASTER YARD SALE | FEED 1 CHILD, 1 SALE AT A TIME (\$420)

Saturday, April 15th, 2023-9:00 am-2:00 pm



The team met at Cherie's home to set up in the driveway. We were blessed to have extra help. We are grateful to all who contributed to this successful sale. The weather was most pleasant. The azalea bushes were in bloom in all the surrounding gardens.

Cherie was our gracious hostess. In addition to Cherie, the team was Francesca, William, Patricia and Allan, Brendan, Greg, and Gelan. All the people who came to the sale were glad to be there, to listen to the stories of Saint Gabriel School, and to share some of their news. Some of the passersby had come to previous sales and were looking for treasures.

A young family bought a tub of LEGO. They said, "Both our boys are too young to play with them, but they will enjoy them later, no doubt."

Jewelry and toys were popular. Passersby were interested in a little bit of everything. Here is the list of some of the items sold: 1 FDR set of books, Winslow Homer book, 1 Monitor book, 1 coloring book, 1 set of DVD, 1 Samsung watch, 14 pieces of jewelry, 2 jewelry boxes, 1 Limoge plate, 1 pair of Japanese chopsticks holders, 3 barbie dolls, 1 koala bear, 3 cute mini bears dressed for Thanksgiving, 1 crocheted baby outfit, 1 brand new box of dinosaurs, 1 box of cars, and 1 box of trucks, 2 packs of plastic soldiers, 1 cat toy, 1 dog bow tie, 2 colorful mini bowls, 1 baby food plate, 2 handbags, 7 pairs of new/colorful long socks, 1 steel brush, 1 measuring tape, 1 set of hair bands etc.

The total collected at the sale for the Lunch Fund was \$481. **We met our goal, to feed one student for the year.** Our larger goal is to feed 16 children at the cafeteria. With the school growing to 529 students, getting sufficient rice and beans for all remains a struggle.

For I was  
hungry  
and you  
gave me food...  
Matthew 25:35



**SAVE THE DATE:** Our Mother's Day Sale will be Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am-2:00 pm at Cherie's home 6058 River Road, Norfolk, VA 23505 [See flyer here attached.](#)

### **MOST NEEDED FOR FUTURE SALES**

- a neighborhood driveway
- LEGO
- volunteers to set up and pack boxes 7:50 am-9:00 am & 1:50 pm-3:00 pm

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**15<sup>TH</sup> EASTERN VICARIATE HAITI TWINNING GATHERING**, Sat. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, St. Gregory the Great, VA Beach, in person. "Continuing on the Path of Self-Sustainability. Learning about Endowments."

**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. [See flyer attached.](#)

### **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, Haiti Twinning Ministry Chair | 757-621-1860 | [patprovence1@yahoo.com](mailto:patprovence1@yahoo.com)

Brendan Pigott, Assistant Chair



Come to Lascahobas!

[LASCAHOBAS VILLE VERT](#)  
[- YouTube](#)

