



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER

16TH YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH

JULY 2023, 54TH Edition-Fourth Year!



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](#)



The power of Haitian heritage and the strength of the Haitian people is tremendous. Haiti holds a unique and rich role in the history of African Americans. Cheryl Mills

FR. FITHO JEAN'S GREETINGS 7/22/23



Dear Father Paul, friends of the Sacred Heart, and the greater community,

I am glad to report that the school year has officially ended. All classes took their final exams. Also, the 9th (24 students) and 13th (23) Grades took their national exams. Teachers, administrators, and students worked hard to catch up from a late start of the school year. Today, I met with the middle and high school teachers for an annual evaluation. On Monday, we will start a one-week summer, to keep students engaged in social and physical activities. To keep them safe and give them a daily lunch. Also, we will have the school repainted. Additionally, we will install a water filtering system at the rectory, which will help us to save some funds by not purchasing gas, and charcoal but filtering our wells' water ourselves.



May you and your family have a safe and blessed summer. Please, keep us in your prayers in this difficult time as we keep you in ours. Father Fitho Jean, St. Gabriel Pastor

TRAVELING TO HAITI Our last trip to our twin parish, St. Gabriel, Lascachobas, dates to early March 2020. The participants were Laura, William, and Patricia. Fr. Ady Mytial, Pastor at St. Gabriel at the time was our gracious host. He came to pick us up in the Dominican Republic, since Port-au-Prince was and still is not a safe place to be. Sadly, that same month, Neil Walsh, Director of Social Ministry at Sacred Heart Church for 18 years, 2002-2020 returned to his Maker, leaving a big legacy for social justice and the option for the poor and vulnerable. May his soul rest in peace and eternal light shine upon him. **The US Department of State has placed Haiti at Level 4: Do not travel to Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, civil unrest, and others.**



SHARING STORIES FROM ST. GABRIEL | Starting this month, we will share stories that we experienced during our bi-annual visits, 21, to our twin parish.

St. Gabriel Parish is situated in Lascachobas, near the Dominican Republic, in a lush and quiet valley surrounded by beautiful mountains. Wednesdays and Saturdays are market days on Stenio Vincent Street. Those are big days for the locals. One can find fresh fruit and vegetables, oil, sugarcane syrup, large amounts of rice, beans, clothes, shoes, school supplies and many other items. Additionally, one can purchase goats, mules, horses, pigs, and chickens. Many locals walk to the market from their homes in town, and more climb down the mountains on foot, on horses or mules bringing their produce to the market, including bags of charcoal. Some merchants set tables along the main street. Many more sit on a groundcover with their merchandise around them. It is a vibrant place filled with people buying, selling, and catching up with one another. We often stop and talk with a merchant or two that we recognize. Our favorite food to get there is some fried dough with some herring paste in the center. We exchange a few words and large smiles with the family that fry them in a large cauldron.



One day, when market day was ending, we noticed a frail and older lady, gleaning some small beans (pois Congo) in the cracks of the sidewalk. She was picking up those beans, one at a time and placed them in a small plastic bag. Our hearts sank as we looked at her from the opposite side. We crossed the and joined her in picking up some beans. She remained silent, her eyes on the ground, busy with her chores. Were those beans for herself, for her family at home?

As that moment, we remembered Neil Walsh saying: “I do not go to Haiti to change Haiti, I go to Haiti to be changed.” That evening, we reflected on this bible verse: Leviticus 23:22 “When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not

reap to the very corners of your field nor gather the gleaning of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the LORD your God.” Gleaning in Haiti is a way to survive.

Many Haitians experience food insecurity. This year July 2023-June 2024, with your help, we hope to feed 11 students at St. Gabriel School. To donate online [Click](#), select Haiti and specify Lunch Fund.



SAVE THE DATE | Back to School Sale: Sat., Sept. 16th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm at Cherie’s home, 6058 River Road, Norfolk, VA 23505. Feed 1 Child, 1 Sale at a Time.

Most needed for future sales: neighborhood driveways, volunteers to set up and pack boxes 7:50 am-9:00 am and 1:50 pm-3:00 pm, mini grills, binoculars, Lego, backpacks, small music instruments, tools, and costume jewelry.

FUTURE PLANNING | On April 29th, at the Eastern Vicariate Haiti Twinning Ministry Gathering at St. Gregory the Great, in VA Beach, **Maggie Keenan**, Ed. D, Director of Planned Giving, Catholic Community Foundation made an excellent presentation on her work at the diocese. Maggie is responsible for all aspects of the Foundation’s planned giving program and manages the administration of charitable gift annuities and bequests. Maggie developed a legacy giving program for parishes, schools, and oversees the Lumen Christi Legacy Society. She also works with parishes, schools and individuals interested in establishing an endowment fund with the Foundation.

Endowment Funds | Endowment funds established through the Catholic Community Foundation are excellent vehicles for donors wishing to provide long-term support for parishes, schools, and diocesan ministries. They especially ensure that the corpus of the donation is preserved, while 4% of a 3-year rolling average as of Dec. 31st is available for use each year for the beneficiary providing a perpetual stream of income. **Current Endowments** | There are 2 endowments for St. Gabriel School: the first, for scholarships (St. Gabriel Scholarship, Haiti Fund #114), the second, for teachers (Teacher’s Salaries at St. Gabriel, Lascahobas, Haiti Fund #174).

To donate to those funds, please contact Maggie at (804) 622-5221 or mkeenan@richmonddiocese.org . You can also make checks out to Catholic Community Foundation, Diocese of Richmond and write either **Teacher’s Salaries at St. Gabriel, Haiti Fund #174** (see link below under Named-Donor Endowment Funds), or **St. Gabriel School Scholarship Haiti Fund #114** (see link under Parish & School Endowment Funds) and send to Ms. Maggie Keenan, Catholic Community Foundation, Diocese of Richmond 7800 Carousel Lane Richmond, VA 23294. For a list of endowments and to give online: [Diocese of Richmond Foundation Endowment Funds | Catholic Community Foundation \(richmondccf.org\)](https://richmondccf.org/endowment-funds)

WE REMEMBER OUR DEDICATED FRIENDS IN HAITI 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
Brendan Pigott, Assistant Chair



PASTORALE DES JEUNES
Vous présente la 3e édition

Camps D'été 2023
du 24 au 28 juillet

THEME:
Enfants d'aujourd'hui, citoyens de demain

Activités

- Artisanat créatif
- Activité spirituelle
- Divertissement
- Challenge Sport
- Excursions passionnantes

admission 1250gourdes

Joignez-vous à nous pour une expérience inoubliable!

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École Congréganiste de Saint Gabriel

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