



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER

15TH YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH

FEBRUARY 2023, Edition 49-Four 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](#)



Yon dwèt pa manje kalalou. | We cannot eat okra with one finger. | Community is key in solving problems.



We wish you a Happy Carnival!

GREETINGS FROM FR. FITHO JEAN, PASTOR AT OUR TWIN PARISH ST GABRIEL



Dear Fr. Paul, parishioners, and community friends,

Blessings and peace to you and your family. We thank you for your continued prayers for Haiti; they are much needed at this time. Be assured of ours in this time of Lent.

Thanks to your generous gift at Christmas, we purchased sets of textbooks for the new 7th and 10th Grades: English, Spanish, Sciences, Math, Chemistry, Social Studies etc. We are thankful.

The month of February has been a rather happy one for our students. They celebrated Saint Valentin by learning about his life and exchanging kind notes with their peers. They also celebrated Carnival. The highschoolers and their teachers organized soccer games on the playground, and songs and dances competitions. The parish youth went to Hinche, our state capital, to join other youth from different towns for a learning and fun celebration organized by the diocese. Also, on March 1st, Fr. Bernard Desras, founder of our school, celebrated a Mass for the 10th 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. As you remember, the foundations of the school started March 1st, 2010. We wish you a blessed and fruitful Lent season. Fr. Fitho JEAN



WE REMEMBER NEIL WALSH | This early month of March, we remember our friend, Director of the Justice and Peace at Sacred Heart (2002-2020), a church he loved dearly. He entered life eternal March 10th, 2020. His clear vision for a way to a better life for all those who struggle, and for our environment continues through the many ministries he created, and the committees, and boards he chaired. He treated everyone like a family member. Those who knew him, dearly miss him, and treasure his teaching. We continue praying for Neil, his wife Pat, and their children Santoshi and Scott.

OUR 3 GOALS FOR JANUARY-MARCH 2023

Our three goals this quarter are to continue supporting Saint Gabriel School with **friendship**, **administration**, and some **financial support**.

FRIENDSHIP | Nurture a close relationship with our family at SG. Francesca sent greeting notes to Fr. Bernard, Fr. Ady, Fr. Jean Carlo, and Fr. Adelin. Susie sent birthday cards to Fr. Ady, pastor at SG 2015-2021, now serving at St. Yves Parish, and Fritz André, Principal at the High School since 2013. Those notes are much appreciated by the recipients. Writing to our family in Haiti takes 3 simple steps: think and pray about 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.

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, sent us pictures of students and projects which we are happy to share with you in this newsletter.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT |

Lunch Fund | feed 16 students, \$105 per student for 3 months

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

Medical Assistance Fund | \$850 for medical assistance at the school clinic including a dentist's visit in April

Building & Outfitting/Sustainable Fund | \$2,000 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://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"

- Sat., March 18th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm/Craft Sale, St. Gregory the Great, VA Beach, VA [See flyer here attached.](#)
- Sat., April 15th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm / Yard Sale, at Cherie's home, 6058 River Rd. Norfolk, VA 23505

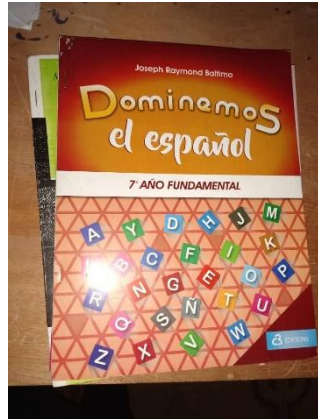
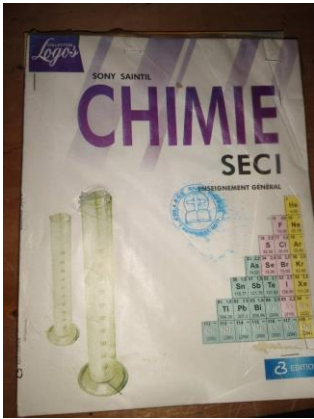
Most popular objects: pretty items to decorate the house & garden, crafts, Lego, tools, & costume jewelry

SAVE THE DATES: MONTHLY MEETINGS | March 14, April 11. We share a meal at 6:00 pm in the Commons, followed by meeting, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. All are welcome to hear stories of long-lasting relationships, solidarity, and faith in action/a way to a better life. **15TH EASTERN VICARIATE HAITI TWINNING GATHERING**, Sat. April 29th, 2023, at Saint Gregory the Great, Norfolk, in person. [See flyer here attached.](#)

WE REMEMBER OUR DEDICATED FRIENDS IN THE HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY



Ellen Renn, Feb. 16th, 1962-Sept. 10, 2017
Neil Walsh, Aug. 25, 1946-Mar.10, 2020 Join us at Sacred Heart, Norfolk for Mass that day at noon.
Nicolas Valcour, Sept. 9, 1960-Feb. 20, 2022



Teachers do not have cars in Haiti, they mostly walk or have a motorcycle.



Pictures by Fr. Adelin, & Father Jean Carlo (to the right) at St Gabriel Feb. 2023