



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER

16TH YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH

JUNE 2023, 53rd 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](#)



Haitian Proverb: "Chita pa bay." Translation: "Sitting doesn't yield." Meaning: "One must work to receive."

FR. FITHO JEAN'S GREETINGS



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

On behalf of my parishioners, I wish you a Happy Independence Day! May your celebration be filled with the blessings and opportunities that freedom brings. We also wish Fr. Paul a pleasant and safe family visit.

All our students except the 9th and 13th Grades have finished their end of the year examinations. Early July, the 9th and 13th will take their national exams. We ask for your prayers, please, that they may get good results to go to the next level of their education. Once all exams are finished, we will start summer camp. We will also repaint the school and get a water filtering system to treat the water from our two wells, and from the town that we receive three times a week during the rainy season.

Thank you for all your prayers, your close relationship, and the support you give our teachers and students.

We wish you and your families a blessed and happy summer vacation. Father Fitho Jean, St. Gabriel pastor



2022-2023 HAITI MINISTRY THANK YOU NOTE TO SUPPORTERS IMPACT REPORT

Friends of St. Gabriel School,

Thank you for your continued support of the students. This school year started on Nov. 7th because of serious challenges in Haiti. However, everyone worked hard to save the year and they succeeded. Together, this is what we have accomplished.

On going self-transformation for an increase in faith and service, 3 gatherings with raffles, monthly meetings, Novena for the Feast Day of both our parishes, mutual prayers for the sick and our beloved dead, Stations of the Cross in Solidarity with Haiti, writing to Fr. Fitho and our family at our twin parish, weekly meetings with Fr. Fitho via Whatsapp etc.

Also, we continue providing funds to the operation cost of the school while investing in sustainable projects such as a water filter system this year. Starting in Sept., Fr. Fitho will no longer purchase clean water but will filter his own well water. The decreased donation to the funds below is intentional as we accompany our twin parish to its independence with dignity.

8 teachers' salaries (10 last year/\$100 each monthly) & 1 nurse' salary

21 scholarships (\$275 each, annually)

Daily meals for 16 students (21 last year, \$420 each, annually)

Some medical assistance, 1 dentist visit to students in most need of care, 1 water filtering system

Textbooks for the 7th and 9th Grades

FATHER'S DAY YARD SALE | FEEDS 1 CHILD, 1 SALE AT A TIME (\$420)

On Sat., June 17, the team met at Mari's and Michael's home. Michael swept the driveway before we set up the tables, since there had been a serious storm the day before. We were thankful for the clear and warm weather. Mari asked her two sisters and a young family to help with the sale. There was ample support, and buyers. We exceeded our goal! Many thanks to all

who participated in this event to improve the lives of students at St. Gabriel School Pre-K through 13th Grades now, and in years to come.

The total collected was \$827. \$420 supported the Lunch Fund at the school cafeteria, operation cost. And \$407 was placed in the [St. Gabriel Teacher Endowment Fund #174](#) managed by the Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond, long term planning.



SAVE THE DATE | Fall Sale: Sat., Sept. 16th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm at Cherie's home, 6058 River Road, Norfolk, VA 23505.

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, and costume jewelry.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE | 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 F. Keenan, Ed. D. 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** (bottom of the list in the link below), or **St. Gabriel School Scholarship Haiti Fund #114** (near top of the list in link below) 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 on line: [Diocese of Richmond Foundation Endowment Funds](#) | [Catholic Community Foundation \(richmond\)richmond.org](http://CatholicCommunityFoundation(richmond)richmond.org)

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

Brendan Pigott, Assistant Chair

