



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER

16TH YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH

MAY 2023, 52nd Edition-Fourth 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](#)



Haitian Creole Yon dwèt pa manje kalalou. | **English** We cannot eat okra with one finger. | **Meaning** Together we are stronger.

FR. FITHO JEAN'S GREETINGS

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



We greet you from the bottom of our hearts. The beautiful 16th alliance between the Parishes of the Sacred Heart and of Saint Gabriel continues with much hope. We give thanks to the Lord for His blessings.

As you prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 16th, please know that we will be united with you in prayer throughout the Novena.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus, source of all graces, fill both our parishes with joy, love, and peace for an ever increasing and authentic testimony of Christian life. Father Fitho, 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 4th QUARTER has started with preparation for the end of year exams. This week, the students, 1st-6th Grades had a field trip to the swimming pool in Mirebalais.

GOATS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED. Last month, we reported that 14 years ago, when Peter was 12 years old, he received the 1st scholarship provided by a member of the Haiti Twinning Ministry. Today, he is a hard-working custodian at the parish. To thank him for his service, Fr. Fitho purchased a goat that Peter will look after. Peter will keep the baby goats to start a small business to take care of his family. Since this model has worked well, Fr. Fitho wishes to replicate it for a family in need.

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 sends greeting notes to Fr. Fitho, Fr. Bernard, Fr. Ady, Fr. Jean Carlo, and Fr. Adelin. Susie sends birthday cards to various parishioners, and Mother's Day cards. Those notes are much appreciated by the recipients. Writing to our family in Haiti this quarter 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. Each meeting starts with special intentions for the people of SG. We keep our family at St. 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, continue sending us pictures of students, school and campus, and current projects.

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 water filter system.

If you wish to support 1 of these funds, please write your checks to SH 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, & indicate the amount. The funds in most need this month are the Building & Outfitting/Sustainable and Lunch Funds. 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 & in Haiti.

SPRING YARD SALE | FEED 1 CHILD, 1 SALE AT A TIME | Sat., May 27th, 2023-9:00 am-2:00 pm



The team met at Cherie's home to set up the sale in the driveway and on the lawn. We were blessed to have extra help, especially with setting up and breaking down. **We are most grateful to all who contributed to this successful sale.** Last week, because of the rain, we had to postpone the sale from May 13th to 20th.

A couple of friends dropped by to make some donations of toys and to purchase some gifts for family members. Neighbors came for a chat and to browse for treasures.



Also, our new friend Mary brought many toys from her attic including 2 metal tracks and some LEGO which sold quickly. Jewelry and toys were most popular. Passersby were interested in a little bit of everything. **Here is the list of some of the items sold:** 12 pieces of jewelry, 2 summer hats, 1 box of 5 cutes vases, 1 traveling bag, 2 metal trucks, 2 sets of LEGO, 1 penguin, 1 brand new box of playdough, 3 Barbies, 3 puzzles, 1 box of 4 cocktail glasses, 1 new baby carrier, 2 handmade receiving blankets, and 1 baby jacket with hood, a set of marble eggs, 2 candlesticks, 1 cat toy/snake, 2 stands for decorative plates, some tools, 1 measuring tape etc.

The total collected including some goodwill donations was \$420 for the Lunch Fund. **We met our goal, to feed 1 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 daily struggle.

SAVE THE DATE: Our June Yard Sale will be June 17th, at Mari's and Michael's house. See the flyer here attached.

MOST NEEDED FOR FUTURE SALES

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

15TH EASTERN VICARIATE HAITI TWINNING GATHERING | Sat. Apr. 29th, 2023, St. Gregory the Great, VA Beach. "Continuing on the Path of Self-Sustainability. Learning about Endowments." Our twins have gone through the process of developing close and long-lasting relationships both here and in Haiti, growing in faith, answering the call to service by engaging in direct aid, operation cost, investing in self-sustaining projects that are often a source of revenue for our Haiti twin. At present, we are extending our vision to long term, including learning about endowments.



Maggie Keenan, Ed. D, Director of Planned Giving, Catholic Community Foundation | 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 and 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 is a permanent investment. *"I learned a lot about Haiti and parishes ministries which support Haiti. I hold hope that your continued efforts toward sustainability will ensure improved quality of life for the people of Haiti."* There are 2 endowments for St. Gabriel School: the 1st for Scholarships (St. Gabriel Scholarship, Haiti Fund #114) and the 2nd for Teachers (Teacher's Salaries at St. Gabriel, Lascahobas, Haiti Fund #174). [Endowment and Donor Advised Funds | Catholic Community Foundation \(richmondccf.org\)](https://richmondccf.org/Endowment-and-Donor-Advised-Funds)

To donate to those 2 funds, please contact Maggie F. Keenan, ED. D. at (804) 622-5221 or mkeen@richmonddiocese.org . We will share more information on those endowments in the June Newsletter.

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.

16TH ANNIVERSARY IN TWINNING SACRED HEART & ST. GABRIEL | Sunday, May 7th, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm



All were welcome to this Open House to celebrate our 16th Anniversary in twinning with refreshments, presentation "2022-2023 School Year", pictures, music, and a raffle that collected enough funds for 2 scholarships and some funds for the Teacher Endowment. We had fun celebrating with a lovely cake.

St. Gabriel Pre-School has 2 levels, Level 1/Ladybug for the 3-year-old, and Level 2/Elephant for the 4- year-old with a total of 47 children, 2 teachers and 2 assistants.

Fr. Jacques-Bloch School 1st-6th Grades has a total of 183 students (142 last year, + 29%), 8 teachers.

St. Gabriel Middle and High School 7th-13th Grades have 299 students (269 last year, + 11%), 46 teachers.

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 | patprovidence1@yahoo.com

Brendan Pigott, Assistant Chair

