



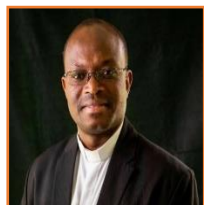
HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER  
16<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH  
AUGUST 2023 Edition 54- 4<sup>th</sup> year!



**Vision:** We, the parishioners of the Sacred Heart have been called to enter in 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.

Kay koule twonpe soley, li pa ka twonpe lapli | The roof of a leaking house can deceive the sun but not the rain.

*Dear Father Paul, Parishioners, and friends in the local community,*



*We want to share with you all the joy of Saint Gabriel Parish this summer. 100% of the students in the 9th Grade passed the National Exams! Our Summer Camp was a success. It was organized by the youth of the school for all grades. The activities were religious education, soccer, hiking, singing, dancing, swimming, and crafts. Currently, we are having the school and the clinic repainted. Also, we are busy with admission for the new school year which will start September 11<sup>th</sup>.*



*We will be in communion of prayer with you during the month of September which is the month of Haiti Solidarity for our two parishes. We carry you and your family in our hearts and count on your prayers for the continuation of our twinning relationship. May peace reign in Haiti, in the US and in the world!  
Father Fitho, Pastor at Saint Gabriel, 2 years*

Picture: 2023 Saint Gabriel Summer Camp

We hope you and your family had a good summer. In August, we evaluated the 2022-2023 goals and their impact. We are glad to announce that they were all met thanks to the members' dedication and to your continued prayers and support. We also updated these goals for the new school year. See the list below. Additionally, we built a calendar of actions: monthly ministry meetings, two presentations to the parish on the progress made by St. Gabriel (SG), and monthly yard sales in support of the Lunch Fund. Silver updated [the website](#) while Francesca and Susie wrote notes to our family in Haiti. Susan enjoyed writing thank you notes to donors. Also, we are blessed to have good transportation thanks to William. Each year, we receive donations of mailing stamps and reams of paper to have a zero-administration cost and send 100% of the donation to the school. A special thank you to all of you supporting SG.

### 2023-2024 ANNUAL GOALS

RELATIONSHIP	OPERATION COST	SUSTAINABILITY INVESTMENT	ADMIN., FORMATION, FUND RAISERS
Pen pal notes/greeting cards.	Salaries/6 teachers/8 last year (\$100 monthly each) & 1 nurse	2009 Parish Farm (beans/manioc) tended by the Blanc family.	Monthly meetings Social Teaching & Sustainability Formation Annual Regional, & State Haiti Twinning Gatherings
21 visits to SG in 16 years. Last visit was March 2020. No visit scheduled at this point.	Lunch fees for 11 students, 16 last year (\$420 annually each)	2020 Stationery & School Supply Shop	Monthly newsletters
Bi-annual visits by SG Pastor, last visit, Fr. Ady, Jan. 2020. No visit scheduled as of now.	21 scholarships (\$275 annually each + 1 at \$410/Teacher College)	2021 Improving School/Campus to attract paying parents (playground & high school textbooks) Pre-school (3 & 4 years old)	<a href="#">Website updated</a>

Weekly WhatsApp phone calls/meetings/ Fr. Fitho, Pastor at SG	Medical assistance <b>\$100/month</b>	<b>2022:</b> Build ceiling for 2 additional classrooms above cafeteria, Kindergarten -high school textbooks	8-Yard Sales, Sales online, Advent Giving Tree, Penny/Small Change Collection
Weekly texts/ Fr. Adelin Joseph, assistant pastor/school operation/pictures. Monthly WhatsApp texts/2 School Heads	<b>\$550</b> Annual dentists' visit	<b>2023:</b> High school textbooks -kindergarten	<b>Sept. 24</b> , Parish Solidarity Presentation/Dinner & <b>May 5</b> , 17 <sup>th</sup> Parish Twinning Anniversary/Presentation/Refreshments

As we continue our 4-year plan, 2021-2025, slowly decreasing our direct assistance to the operation cost of the school, we keep on investing in the sustainable development of SG. This investment includes making the school and campus attractive to paying parents in close collaboration with Fr. Fitho and his administration. **The fund supporting sustainability projects is the Building and Outfitting Fund.**

### SHARING STORIES FROM ST. GABRIEL

**Jovane, a Saint Gabriel (SG) Graduate** | After Fr. Jacques Block (1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>) and St. Gabriel (8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>), two schools in one building were built in 2013, the Pastor at our twin parish SG asked if Sacred Heart could provide annual scholarships for 20 of his students, \$275 each. Students who benefit from a scholarship give their parents a chance to send a sibling to school.

One of those students, Jovane (pseudonym), a reserved and polite student, met with us for a couple of years during our by-annual visits. One day, during our conversation, he shared that his mother had difficulty in feeding his siblings. We explained to him that all personal requests, and they were many, needed to be made to the parish Priest. Jovane did not insist and thanked us for the gift of a scholarship. He had received a scholarship three years in a row for excellent results and behavior. Fritz André, Head of School, told us that Jovane was an exemplary student.

On our next visit, the Pastor told us that Jovane had died due to malnutrition started at infancy. “We expected his father to die, not Jovane. This man had been seriously ill for long.” We agreed to gather some funds to help Jovane’s mom to feed her family, short term and to start a small business, long term. On a later visit, after Sunday Mass, a lady in her 40’s, dressed modestly, introduced herself as Jovane’s mother. Her face was serious, her eyes were watery. Her young twin daughters were by her side. We recognized them for being altar girls at Mass. We exchanged a few words and said that Jovane was a talented young man. He respected his teachers and had a love of learning. The mother had a sad smile and thanked us as she lowered her eyes and joined the crowd of parishioners walking toward the church exit.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** are a sure way to help parents send their children to school. There, they receive a daily bowl of hot rice and beans for lunch. Scholarships also help with the running of the school. We hope you will continue or start sponsoring one of the 21 students in this program. Please use the pledge form here attached or go directly online [Sacred Heart Catholic Church \(etransfer.com\)](https://www.etransfer.com), click on Haiti, add Scholarship Fund to comments, and the amount you wish to donate. So far, 10 scholarships have been donated.

Thanks for your continued prayers for Haiti and for your support of the students at SG. While their challenges are numerous, the school community is making persistent progress.

### CALENDAR DATES

**Monthly meetings**—We share a light meal at 6:00 pm in the Commons, followed by the meeting. All are welcome to hear a story of close relationships, and faith in action as a way to a better life.

-Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

-Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

-Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am-2:00 pm **“Back to School” Yard Sale**, Feeding 1 Child, 1 Sale at a Time, Cherie’s yard: 6058 River Rd. Norfolk, VA 23505. Need help with packing boxes at the end of sale 2:00 pm-3:00 pm.

-Sept. 24, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm **Annual Parish Haiti Solidarity Gathering**, dinner, presentation: Bringing Hope by Tina Wandersee, Social Ministry Director, Richmond Diocese, raffle (scholarships), live music RSVP





## WE REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS IN THE HAITI MINISTRY



Ellen Renn, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 62-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, Chair [patprovence1@yahoo.com](mailto:patprovence1@yahoo.com) Cell: (757) 621-1860  
Brendan Pigott, Assistant Chair

<http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/>

### 2023 SAINT GABRIEL SUMMER CAMP 2023



dance  
class

