



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER  
16<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH  
NOVEMBER 2023 Edition 57- 5<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.

**NEW: Learning Haitian Creole, 1 sentence at a time.**  
**What is your name? - Kijan ou rele?**



**GREETINGS FROM FR. FITHO** | *Dear Fr. Paul, friends of the Sacred Heart, and the community,*

*I am speaking for my parishioners in wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving for November 23<sup>rd</sup>. I also want to inform you that the students of Saint Gabriel Middle and Highschool, and Father Block Lower School (2 schools in 1) have completed the first term. The students in grades 1 to 6 will have their report cards on November 14 and those in grades 7 to 13 will receive theirs on November 28. We say thank you to the Lord because everything is going well so far, and we thank you for your spiritual and financial support. Let us remain united in the Lord during the upcoming Advent season. Father Fitho, Pastor at Saint Gabriel, Lascahobas, Haiti*



**HISTORY: BATAILLE DE VERTIÈRES**—November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1803, 220 years ago!

Students studied an important moment in history. The Battle of Vertières was the last major battle of the over 12-year Haitian Revolution. It was fought on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1803, between the indigenous Haitian army and Napoleon's French expeditionary forces, who were committed to regaining control of the island. In this clash, south of Le Cap Haitians led by Jean-Jacques Dessalines and Alexandre Pétion ultimately defeated the French troops under General Rochambeau. Vertières is situated south of Cap-Haïtien, North, Haiti.

**NOVEMBER YARD SALE | FEEDS 1 CHILD, 1 SALE AT A TIME** | Thanks to our generous host Dan, our sale adventure continues this fall with two events outside Ghent Antique Store on Colley Avenue, Norfolk, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.



We benefitted from the fact that Colley Avenue, Norfolk's "Champs Elysées", has many boutiques, restaurants, and cafés. It attracts many passers-by and customers. Members of the sale team were Francesca, at the jewelry table, and William and Patricia at the decorative items, and toy table. Our sale inventory keeps being renewed thanks to generous donors.

The total collected for the Lunch Fund was \$307. It will feed 1 child for 10 months. Our larger goal is to feed 11 children at the cafeteria this school year. Our 8 sales throughout the year help with 8 students. With the school growing to 754 students, getting sufficient rice and beans for all remains a daily struggle.

**Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to this sale.**

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our next Yard Sale is Sat., Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am-2:00 pm outside Ghent Antique Store. Please, see the flyer here attached.

**SHARING STORIES FROM ST. GABRIEL** | Market Day in Lascahobas is on Saturdays. On that day, farmers walk down the mountains to bring their produce, some by mules, some by donkeys, some by horses, and most by foot. In town, that day, additional merchants join the crowd. They bought their goods in bulk in Port-au-Prince, Hinche, or Mirebalais and



sell them at retail prices. Also, one cannot fail to notice the hard-working Haitians who made charcoal in the heat of the day and arranged it in large jute bags placed on the back of a donkey. Much of the population relies on charcoal and wood fuel as their main source of energy.

Many merchants arrange their goods in stalls and bring a chair or two from home. Country people sit or squat on the ground covered with a tarp. There are all types of merchants. Those rarely noticed are the children, winding in and out of alley ways, carrying a basin on their heads, loaded with soda cans, small pouches of water, toiletry etc. We often bought articles from them. One of them told us that he was saving to one

day go to school.

The focus of the community that day is the open street market. Everyone arrives in town to either sell, purchase, or both. Many parishioners from St. Gabriel are among those merchants. Jacqueline is one of them. On market day, we find her busy at her stall on the main street. She arranges pants, pretty dresses and colorful blouses on hangers, and socks and underwear in large baskets. Jacqueline and her husband Bernadin are the proud parents of 3 children. Two have graduated from school and one is still in school. She also serves on the Parish Council and is a member of La Chorale Flambeau, and La Grande Chorale. Jacqueline is a dear friend, and Susie's pen pal.

### FISCAL YEAR FIRST QUARTER IMPACT JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023

RELATIONSHIP	OPERATION COST (see pledge form)	SUSTAINABILITY INVESTMENT	ADMIN., FORMATION, FUND RAISERS
Pen pal notes/greeting cards: Ordinations, Anniversaries, Birthdays etc.	Salaries 6 teachers/ 1 quarter 1 nurse/1 quarter	Parish Farm provides beans, manioc, banana, pistachios. Tended by the Blanc family.	Monthly Ministry & Admin. meetings Social Teaching & Sustainability Formation Planning Annual Eastern Vicariate Haiti Twinning Lunch 4/20/24
Weekly WhatsApp phone calls/meetings/ Fr. Fitho,	Lunch for 11 students/ 1 quarter	Parish Stationery Shop	Monthly newsletters #57, 5 years, short lessons in H. Creole, Book study: The Lambi's Call by Dr. Tom Fame
Bi-weekly texts/ Fr. Adelin, /school operation/pictures. Monthly texts/2 School Heads	11 scholarships (\$275 annually) + 1 scholarship (\$410/Teacher College)	New Kindergarten class opened.	Website updated <a href="https://sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministrie/s/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/">https://sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministrie/s/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/</a>
	Medical assistance \$300/ 1 quarter	1 Sustainable project TBD	3-Yard Sales (9), Small Change Collection
		Scholarship Endowment	Sept. 24, Parish Solidarity Presentation/Dinner/Raffle

If you wish to support sustainable projects at St. Gabriel, please use the pledge form here attached or go directly online [Sacred Heart Catholic Church \(etransfer.com\)](https://sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministrie/s/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/), click on Haiti, add Building & Outfitting Sustainable Fund to the comments, and the amount you wish to donate.

Thanks for your continued prayers for Haiti and for your support of the students. While their challenges are numerous, the school community is making 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 stories of close relationships, and faith in action, to a better life.

-Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

-Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

**Monthly Sales**—Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> Sales “Feed 1 Child, 1 Sale at a Time” Ghent Antique, 1414 Colley Ave. Norfolk, VA.

### WE REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS IN THE HAITI MINISTRY



**Ellen Renn**, Feb. 16, 62-Sept. 10, 2017  
**Neil Walsh**, Aug. 25, 1946-Mar.10, 2020  
**Nicolas Valcour**, Sept. 9, 1960-Feb. 20, 2022  
**Dr. P. Farmer**, Oct. 26, 1959-Feb. 21, 2022

Patricia Britz, Chair [patprovidence1@yahoo.com](mailto:patprovidence1@yahoo.com) Cell: (757) 621-1860  
Brendan Pigott, Assistant Chair

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

### 2023-2024 PICTURES BY FR. ADELIN

