



Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes

16<sup>th</sup> Year of Twinning with Saint Gabriel (May 10, 2023)!



2023 & 2024 Year of the Eucharist

**2023-2024 Education, Nutrition, Health Care, Projects that are Source of Revenue for the School**

**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 principals of Catholic Social Teaching to foster faith-filled relationships, self-sustainability, and an end to dependency. **Mission Statement:** End Dependency while following the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

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

**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (6:30 pm - Adjourned 7:30 pm, Justice & Peace Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)**

**Present:** Patricia Britz, William Wallace, Frank Murphy, Christopher Giofreda, & Francesca Smith

**Patricia welcomed, reviewed goals, and thanked all present.** The goals of this meeting are to continue praying for St. Gabriel and the Haitian people, and to share updates on various activities. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the church's fiscal year, Oct. 2023-Dec. 2023.

**Sharing—This Advent I am Preparing for Jesus' Coming this Way:** Attendees shared how they were focusing and acting on Jesus' teachings during Advent. **Note:** In **Best Advent Ever 2023**, Matthew Kelly reminds us to listen to Jesus' radical teachings and apply them. **Link:** <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>

**Opening Prayer:** Attendees said The Haitian Sign of the Cross & William read a Prayer for Haiti. **Prayer Intentions:** Bishop Knestout & Bishop Jean, Fr. Paul, Fr. Fitho, the sick, the elders, the souls of all departed including Ellen Renn, Neil Walsh, Nicolas Valcour, Gar Housler, & Eileen Powell, **schoolteachers**, and administrators at St. Gabriel School and around the world. The names of the St. Gabriel School Teachers were read. Also, attendees shared their intentions. **Hymn:** O Lespri Sen/O Holy Spirit—All (in keeping with Covenant/Goal 2 with SG). For **Monthly Masses for Neil Walsh**, contact Francesca. Thanks to all who are participating in offering a memorial Mass said for Neil at one of the 11 AM Sun. Masses.

**UPDATE: Advent Giving Tree Haiti Textbooks:** Francesca noted we are 20 students away from our goal of raising \$36 per St. Gabriel student for 82 students in Grades 8 & 9. Please consider donating \$36 for 1 of the 20 remaining students to have textbooks. **Donations are ongoing & can be made by writing a check with “Advent Giving Tree/SG Bldg Fund/Textbooks” on the memo line and dropped into the Schoolhouse on the table in the Commons or into the Offertory Collection or online on the Sacred Heart Parish website (type Haiti AGT SG Bldg. Fund Textbooks in comments) or hand delivered to Pam Housler or Patricia Britz. Cash donations are accepted**—identify AGT SG Textbooks and your name on your envelope. **Please return pledged donations by Advent 4 on Dec 24, 2023, or Dec 31, 2023. Last date to donate is The Epiphany on January 7, 2024. Thank you for your generosity and to all who have turned in their donations to the AGT SG Textbooks. The AGT for the migrant children of the Eastern Shore goal was met.** All gifts of toys and clothing for 58 children were turned in. Thank you for your generosity and for Pam Housler's leadership in the organizing of the AGT. POC: Pam Housler, [pamhousler@cox.net](mailto:pamhousler@cox.net).

**REFLECTION: December Fair Trade Sales: December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fair Trade Sale** at Elation Brewery. William shared the sale went very well. The funds collected will feed 1 child for 1 school year and another for 8 months. The tables were indoors, a very nice adult/family place to enjoy pizza/sandwiches with wine/beer, entertainment.

**November Newsletter**—Frank and attendees reviewed the newsletter and shared feedback. Please see attachment.

**COMMUNICATION: Pen Pal Christmas Cards:** Francesca noted that Pen Pal Christmas notes are due by December 20, 2023, via email to her or place in Haiti Ministry Box by Blow Street. **Topics:** Christmas, Haiti Independence Day, New Year, School Year 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ends Dec 22; Pen Pal birthday or Fr. Fitho's; remembering Fr Fitho, parishioners, students, etc. during Dec. by praying for them. See Post Meeting Notes below.

**Note:** Writing a note is in keeping with the theme of Matthew Kelly's book, **Holy Moments**, and Best Lent Ever Theme 2023 from Dynamic Catholic (still available on YouTube).



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**Fr. Fitho's Telephone Calls:** Patricia noted that she and Fr. Fitho try to speak once a week. Fr. Fitho shared that the 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR ends Dec 22; Exams are on Dec 18 to Dec 22 and Christmas Break is Dec 24 to Jan 3, 2024. 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR starts Jan 3, 2024.

**FORMATION: 2024—The Lambi's Call, Breaking the Chains** by Dr. Tom Fame: Patricia took names of those who needed a copy of the book: Melissa, Brendan, and Frank. They are \$20 each. Please read the Foreword and Chapters 1 through 3 prior to the Jan 2, 2024, meeting. Brendan has kindly volunteered to provide reflection questions.

**M' Pale Kréyol/I speak Creole:** Papa Nou/Our Father—Patricia & All—In keeping with Covenant/Goal 2 with SG, in preparation for Fr. Fitho's future visits & SHP pilgrimages, we continue learning the basics of the Haitian Creole language. Members reviewed The Sign of the Cross, sang Mange Sa a, and a few basic greetings.

**NEWS: Dec. Good News from Both Parishes:** William shared the good news: several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish & St. Gabriel Parish & HTM membership anniversaries; **12/5/2023**—6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Richmond Diocese Announced New Bishop—Barry C. Knestout Installation—1/12/18 & **3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary SG Stationery Shop opened in 2020**; **12/6/2023**—St. Nicholas Feast Day (Bishop); **12/8/2023**—Feast of the Immaculate Conception; **12/11/2023**—Bishop Sullivan's Memorial—6/10/28-12/11/12 (Started Twinning with Diocese of Hinche); **12/12/2023**—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; **12/17/2023**—Pope Francis' Birthday; **12/25/2023**—Nativity of Our Lord; and **11/1/2023-1/7/2024**—SH Social Ministry Advent Giving Tree. SG students take exams—Dec. 19-23, 2023 and on Christmas break—Dec. 24-Jan 3, 2024. 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR starts Jan 2, 2024.

**St. Gabriel School Year 2023-2024**—Patricia noted that the school started 9/11/2023 with Mass; entire school completed the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter with exams and started the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter on Nov 7; enrollment was the highest, due to a strong school, pre/K-13<sup>th</sup> Grade/754 students; very good administrators; close to excellent scores at the National Exams; accredited teachers/teacher professional development; security; cafeteria for all including staff; clinic and nurse for first aid; and a very good reputation. **Note:** Pre School celebrated 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary on Oct 1 and Kindergarten celebrated 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary. If interested to support the new pre-school, you can donate to the Haiti SG Building & Outfitting Fund which supports the Source of Income Projects for the school. <http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/21-22-pledge-form-updated.pdf>

**NEW—Monthly Haiti Prayer Session via Zoom for all twin parishes in our region,** Tues. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am-9:00 am: POC: Patricia Britz

**Donations to St. Gabriel:** Patricia noted the attached Pledge Form for making donations.

**DECEMBER-JANUARY CALENDAR:** Please see end of minutes.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

- Sat. Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, | 10:00 am -2:00 pm Indoor Sale, Ghent Village Apartments, Norfolk, POC Patricia Britz.
- **NEW** Tues. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, Monthly Prayer Session via Zoom for members of Haiti ministries, 8:00-9:00 am, POC: Patricia.
- Sat. Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, | 10:00 am-2:00 pm, [Diocesan Haiti Gathering St. Bede Catholic Church, Williamsburg](#), POC: Patricia.

**FY 2023 – 2024 FUND RAISERS TO BENEFIT ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL:** Monthly Newsletters, Sales, Advent Giving Tree, Free Will Donations, In Honor/Memory Donations, Small Change Collection, May (Twinning Anniversary) & Sept. (Solidarity) Annual Gatherings (raffle), Endowment: Scholarship.

**Closing Prayers** from *God is no Stranger*—William in English/Patricia in Haitian Creole/All.



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**Next Meetings/Tuesdays: Jan. 2, Feb. 20 (Mardi-Gras, Feb. 13/Ash Wed, Feb 14) |** light dinner 6:00 pm, meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, opening prayers William, closing prayers Patricia.

<b>DECEMBER (Textbooks for St Gabriel Students) 2nd Quarter Ends</b>	
<b>Dec. 2</b>	<b>Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 8:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley)</b>
<b>Dec. 3-</b>	<b>Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 5:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley) / Neil Walsh's Memorial Mass</b>
<b>12/4-</b>	<b>Justice &amp; Peace Annual Advent Dinner 6:00 pm-7:30 pm</b>
<b>Dec.</b>	J&P Advent Giving Tree, until Epiphany for St. Gabriel's Children (all gifts returned for Eastern Shore 12/10)
<b>Tues. Dec. 12-</b>	<b>Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm--J&amp;P Room, 3rd floor</b>
<b>Mon., Dec. 25</b>	<b>Nativity of Our Lord</b>
<b>JANUARY 3rd Quarter Starts (Feed 1 Kid, 1 Sale at a Time)</b>	
	New Year Notes to Mr. Fritz André, Mrs. Kerline Pierrot, Mr. Ernst Vincent, Mlle Camelle Joseph, Père Fitho
<b>Jan. 1</b>	1804 Haiti Independence Day, Solemnity of the Holy Virgin Mary
<b>Tues. Jan. 2</b>	<b>Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm--Commons</b>
<b>*1/7-</b>	<b>Epiphany of our Lord / Neil Walsh's Memorial Mass 11:00 am</b>
<b>*8 Jan</b>	<b>The Baptism of our Lord (Monday after Epiphany)</b>
<b>9 Jan.</b>	<b>NEW: Monthly Haiti Prayer Session for Haiti, 8:00 am-9:00 am via Zoom</b>
<b>Jan. 20</b>	<b>Indoor Sale, Ghent Village Apartments, Norfolk 10:00 am-2:00 pm.</b>

**POST MEETING NOTES: Pen Pal Notes & Birthday/Greeting Cards:** Please turn in Christmas cards for Fr. Fitho, Fr. Adelin, Fr. Jean-Marco, Fr. Ady, Fr. Bernard, & Pen Pals to Francesca via email, [smithf236@verizon.net](mailto:smithf236@verizon.net), Dec. 20, 2023. Thanks to all who wrote notes in Nov. & have already done so far in Dec. **Fr. Fitho and Pen Pals appreciated the notes very much.** Thank you Susie for preparing Birthday and other greeting cards. **Fair Trade Coffee**, Just (-ice) for Haiti continues out of parish. POC: Patricia. **Fair Trade: A Just World Starts with You | Benjamin Conard | TEDxSUNYGeneseo** . Many thanks for continuing purchasing this coffee in support of the Haitian farmers.



*Dear Father Paul, friends of the Sacred Heart, and the greater 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 High School, 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*



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**RESOURCES**

**January 2024, Dr. Tom Fame, The Lambi's Call, Breaking the Chains**

December 2022-September 2023 Dr. Tome Fame The Lambi's Call, A Haitian Journey

November 2022 [No Passport Required | Haitian Food on South Beach | Season 1 | PBS](https://www.pbs.org/video/haitian-food-southbeach-yqqydg/) <https://www.pbs.org/video/haitian-food-southbeach-yqqydg/>

October 2022 [No Passport Required | A Tour of Little Haiti | Season 1 | PBS](https://www.pbs.org/video/haitian-food-southbeach-yqqydg/)

March-September 2022 [Fratelli tutti \(3 October 2020\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](https://www.pbs.org/video/haitian-food-southbeach-yqqydg/) Download in PDF Introduction: [Fratelli Tutti Explained: Catholicism \(reddit.com\)](https://www.pbs.org/video/haitian-food-southbeach-yqqydg/) 13 minutes

Rick Steves **Hunger & Hope:** Lessons from Ethiopia & Guatemala, <https://youtu.be/pzSUqYaW8i4>

**CST 101 Option for the Poor and the Vulnerable** [CST 101: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable - YouTube](https://youtu.be/pzSUqYaW8i4)

**CST 101 Life and Dignity of the Human Person** [CST 101 | Life and Dignity of the Human Person - Bing video](https://youtu.be/pzSUqYaW8i4)

**CST 101 Rights and Responsibilities** [CST 101 | Rights and Responsibilities - YouTube](https://youtu.be/pzSUqYaW8i4) **CST 101 Solidarity** [CST 101 | Solidarity - YouTube](https://youtu.be/pzSUqYaW8i4) **The Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers**

[https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+dignified+life+throuhg+work+catholic+socila+teaching&docid=6079980\\_83156281503&mid=C19D01E3A7A0202D78EAC19D01E3A7A0202D78EA&view=detail&FORM=VIRE](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+dignified+life+throuhg+work+catholic+socila+teaching&docid=6079980_83156281503&mid=C19D01E3A7A0202D78EAC19D01E3A7A0202D78EA&view=detail&FORM=VIRE)

**CRS: Agroforestry in Coffee Farming for a Sustainable Enterprise** | CRS FARM Project - Bing video

**Fonkoze Investing in Projects/Financial Sustainability**—Fonkoze video an example of human development/micro loans

(Shoulder to Shoulder with Fonkoze: Ti Kredi - YouTube [FONKOZE: Who We Are - YouTube](https://youtu.be/pzSUqYaW8i4)

**Fair Trade** (Fair Trade: A Just World Starts with You | Benjamin Conard | TEDxSUNYGeneseo video)

