



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, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (6:30 pm - Adjourned 7:10 pm, Commons)**

**Present:** Patricia Britz, William Wallace, Melissa Marquardt, Maria Altidor, Christopher Giofreda, Erin Ross, & 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, October 2023-December 2023.

All had a chance to introduce themselves and share what each attendees were thankful this month.

**Opening Prayer:** Attendees said The Haitian Sign of the Cross & William read a Thanksgiving Prayer by Ralph Waldo Emerson. **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, students, teachers, administration. Peace with Justice in Ukraine, Haiti, Israel, Gaza and in the world, respect and protection of the environment. 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. Thank you to all who are participating in offering a memorial Mass said for Neil at one of the 11 AM Sunday Masses.

**November Pen Pal Notes**—Francesca noted that Pen Pal notes are due by November 20, 2023 via email to her or place in Haiti Ministry Box by Blow Street. **Topics:** School Year 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter started this month; Pen Pal birthday or Fr. Fitho's; remembering Fr Fitho, parishioners, students, etc. during Nov. by praying for them. It is not too early to write Christmas cards. See Post Meeting Notes below.

**November-December Calendar & Upcoming Meetings:** William reviewed the calendar. See end of Minutes.

**NEW: Good News from Both Parishes:** William shared the good news: several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) & St. Gabriel Parish (SGP); **11/1/2023**—All Saints' Day; **11/2/2023**—All Souls' Day; **11/3/2023**—Sacred Heart Parish 129<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; **11/11/2023**—Veterans Day/Armistice Day WWI; **11/18/2023**—**1803 Commemoration of Battle of Vertiere (Haiti)**; **11/21/2023**—Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary to the Temple; **11/23/2023**—\*Advent Giving Tree. Students returned to school on Nov 7. See Fr. Fitho's note below. **Fr. Adelin (Fr. Fitho's assistant) is celebrating his 5<sup>th</sup> Anni. of Ordination, 11/17/23 Nov. is Black Catholic History Month.**

**St. Gabriel School Year 2023-2024**—Patricia noted that the entire school started on 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>

**\*Advent Giving Tree**—Francesca noted Advent Giving Tree started on Nov 1 at all three Masses. Donations for the St. Gabriel Textbooks are due by Sunday, Dec 24, 2023, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent or donations will be accepted by Epiphany,



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**Sunday, Jan 7, 2024.** Please see bulletin/TV in Commons/display with Virtual Link/QR Code to pledge and pay for your donation. Gifts for the Eastern Shore Migrant children also started by signing up on link (POC: Pam Housler). All wrapped gifts with child's name, etc. must be returned by Dec 10, 2023. See Display in Commons for more information

**November/December Sales:** Patricia thanked Ghent Antiques Store for hosting 2 sales on Nov. 4 and 18 “Feed 1 Child 1 Sale at a Time”. She reminded everyone of the upcoming sale on Nov 18 at Ghent Antiques Store on Colley Ave and the Fair-Trade Sale at Elation on Colley Ave, Norfolk on Dec 2 & 3. Thank you to all who donated, assisted, or supported!

**FORMATION: Dr. Tom Fame's Book, The Lambi's Call—A Haitian Journey (at SG in Lascahobas), Reflections on Chapters 15 & 16:** Brendan suggested the following 2 questions for discussion on the 2 final chapters.

1. In Chapter 15, Tom recounts the brief tale of how he was thrown from a donkey while traveling in Haiti. Luckily, a kind woman came to his aid. How is this episode reflective of the twinning relationship?
2. In Chapter 16, Tom concludes by reflecting on the future of his relationship with Haiti by saying, “I suspect the unexpected, and I suspect that it will be wonderful!” How does this align with your own view of the future?

**SAVE THE DATES:**

**11/18/23** Yard Sale, Ghent Antiques Store, 1414 Colley Ave, 10 to 2 PM

**12/2/23** Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 8:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley Ave.)

**12/3/23** Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 5:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley Ave.)

**12/4/23,** 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Annual J&P Advent Potluck Party, Commons

**Communication/Collaboration:** Fr. Paul, Chrissy Bush, Diana Dorsey, Ron Ivey, Bookkeeper, Fr. Fitho Jean, Fr. Jean Carlo, Fr. Adelin, Tina Wandersee, Director of Social Ministry, Richmond Diocese, Mary Ann Collins & Mike Kassel (Eastern Vicariate Haiti Twinning Reps.), Kathy Dowdy (Haiti Education Support Team Chair), Catholic Relief Services, Dr. Tom Fame

**FY 2023 – 2024 FUND RAISERS TO BENEFIT SAINT GABRIEL SCHOOL**

Monthly Newsletters, Yard Sales, Some Sales online, Advent Giving Tree, Free Will Donations, In Honor/Memory Donations, Small Change Collection. 2 Annual Gatherings (raffle), Endowment: Scholarship.

**Closing Prayers** from *God is no Stranger*—William & All

**Next Meetings/Tuesdays: Dec. 12, Jan. 2** | light dinner 6:00 pm, meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, opening prayers William, closing prayers Patricia.

NOVEMBER-Lunch Fund	
Nov. 1-Epiphany	<b>Advent Giving Tree, Textbooks for Saint Gabriel (Nov. 1-Dec. 10 Eastern Shore Workers' children)</b>
Tues. Nov. 14-	<b>Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm—Commons (Chapters 15-16)</b>
Nov. 18, 1803	Battle of Vertière Day
Sat. Nov. 4 & 18	Fall Yard Sales 10:00 am- 2:00 pm, Benefits Lunch Fund at St. Gabriel, Ghent Antiques, 1414 Colley Ave.



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Nov. 18 & 19	Parish Ministry Fair
11/19-	Neil Walsh Memorial Mass
<b>Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>-Epiphany</b>	Advent Giving Tree for SG
<b>DECEMBER- (Textbooks for St Gabriel Students)</b>	
<b>Dec. 2</b>	<b>Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 8:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley Ave.)</b>
<b>Dec. 3-</b>	<b>Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 5:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley Ave.)</b>
<b>Dec. 3</b>	Neil Walsh Memorial Mass
<b>Dec. 4</b>	Justice & Peace Annual Advent Potluck Dinner-Commons (all ministries' members, family, friends, & community partners are invited) <b>RSVP to Patricia and Frank 6:00 pm-7:30 pm</b>
<b>Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>-Epiphany</b>	Advent Giving Tree (all gifts returned for Eastern Shore by 12/10)/ <b>All St Gabriel Textbook donations by Jan 7, 2024 (Epiphany)</b>
<b>Tues. Dec. 12-</b>	<b>Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm--Commons</b>
<b>Mon. Dec. 25</b>	<b>Nativity of Our Lord</b>
<b>1/1/24</b>	<b>Haiti Independence Day, New Year's Day</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), Nov. 20, 2023. Thanks to all who wrote notes in Oct. & have already done so far in Nov.. **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 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*

## RESOURCES

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/>

October 2022 [No Passport Required | A Tour of Little Haiti | Season 1 | PBS](#)

March-September 2022 [Fratelli tutti \(3 October 2020\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#) Download in PDF Introduction: [Fratelli Tutti Explained: Catholicism \(reddit.com\)](#) 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](#)

**CST 101 Life and Dignity of the Human Person** [CST 101 | Life and Dignity of the Human Person - Bing video](#)

**CST 101 Rights and Responsibilities** [CST 101 | Rights and Responsibilities - YouTube](#) **CST 101 Solidarity** [CST 101 | Solidarity - YouTube](#) **The Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers**



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<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+dignified+life+throuhg+work+catholic+socila+teaching&docid=607998083156281503&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](#)

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

