



Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes

16th 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, October 24th, 2023 (6:30 pm - Adjourned 7:10 pm, Commons)

Present: Brendan Pigott, William Wallace, & Francesca Smith

Brendan 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 1st quarter of the church's fiscal year, July 2023-September 2023.

Opening Prayer: Attendees said The Haitian Sign of the Cross & William read a Student Prayer. **Prayer Intentions:** Bishop Knestout & Bishop Jean, Fr. Paul, Fr. Fitho, the sick, the elders, the souls of the departed (Ellen Renn, Neil Walsh, Nicolas Valcour, Gar Housler, Eileen Powell), students, teachers, administration. Peace with Justice in Ukraine, Haiti and in the world, adaptation to climate change. 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 (streamed).

October Pen Pal Notes—Francesca noted that Pen Pal notes are due by October 27, 2023 via email to her or place in Haiti Box by Blow Street. **Topics:** School Year starting; Pen Pal birthday or Fr. Fitho; remembering Fr Fitho, parishioners, students, etc. during October by praying for them, etc.

October-December Calendar & Upcoming Meetings: Brendan reviewed the calendar. See end of Minutes.

NEW: Good News from Both Parishes: William shared there were several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) & St. Gabriel Parish (SGP); **10/1/2023**—2nd Anniversary SG Pre-School (3&4 yrs) started, Dedication of Opening of SG School—11th Anniversary, and Nigeria's National Day (1960); **10/4/2023**—St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day; **10/7/2023**—Solemnity of Our Lady of the Rosary; **10/10/2023**—3rd Anniversary of Carlo Acutis (St of Internet) was beatified by Pope Francis in Assisi; **10/11/2023**—St Pope John XXIII; **10/15/2023**—St Teresa of Avila's Feast Day; and **10/16/1978**—Karol Jozef Wojtyla (St. John Paul II) elected Pope; and **10/17/2023**—St. Ignatius of Antioch's Feast Day. **10/11/2023**—Pre-School & Kindergarten (Parish Community Center) and SG School (2 schools in 1) 2023-2024 school year will complete 1 quarter of 2023-2024 school year on Oct 31--(Pre-School (3 & 4) and Kindergarten (5) Parish Community Center, Fr. Jacques Bloch Lower School (1-6), and SG Middle & High School (7-13)); Pictures of all three school levels were shown.

Saint Gabriel School Year 2023-2024—Francesca noted St Gabriel 1st Quarter good news: entire school started on 9/11/2023 with Mass; enrollment was the highest due to a strong pre/K-13th 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 2nd Anniversary on Oct 1 and Kindergarten celebrated 1st 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 starts on Nov 1 at all three Masses. Donations for the St. Gabriel Textbooks are due by Sunday, Dec 24, 2023, 4th Sunday of Advent or donations will be accepted by Epiphany, Sunday, Jan 7, 2024. Please see bulletin/TV in Commons/display with Virtual Link to pledge and pay for your donation. Gifts for the Eastern Shore Migrant children also starts 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



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FORMATION: Dr. Tom Fame's Book, The Lambi's Call—A Haitian Journey (at SG in Lascahobas), Reflections on Chapters 13 & 14: Brendan led discussion on those two chapters with the following questions:

1. At the start of Chapter 13, there is a brief mention of "giving fatigue." The issue is further mentioned later on in the chapter. What are your thoughts on "giving fatigue" and do you have any suggestions on how to overcome it?
2. In chapter 14, Tom receives a letter from a man named Venel Lamay (page 175 at the bottom through page 177 at the top). What are your first impressions of this letter and what Venel did for Tom?

Action: Please read Chapters 15 & 16 from The Lambi's Call to prepare for book discussion at the Nov 14 meeting.

REFLECTION: September Haiti Solidarity Month Reflection: Brendan noted SH HTM joined with the Diocese of Richmond in celebrating Haiti Solidarity Month. Sept. was Solidarity Month at both SH and SG. "The Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Solidarity (#6) is about recognizing others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good." (Caritas.org) SH HTM & Parish accomplished the following:

- Wrote/Prayed for pen pals, students, teachers & Fr. Fitho, Fr. Jean-Carlo, & Fr. Adelin—Thank you to all who wrote.
- 9/5 HTM Meeting held, Solidarity Formation Video & Reflection—well attended & positive response from members/supporters
- 9/9-17 Parish Novena to St. Joseph the Worker (Brendan) (9 days be Solidarity Week), Constant Contact, Bulletin, Prayer Chain (Thank You Susan D), Buffet—Positive response and feedback. POC: Brendan
- 9/16 Back To School Yard Sale, Feed 1 Child, 1 Sale at a Time @Cherie's yard/Flyer—completed/goal met. POC Patricia.
- 9/24 HTM Hosted Haiti Solidarity Gathering/Tina Wandersee's (Director of Social Ministry, Richmond Diocese) Presentation "Sharing Hope"/Free Dinner, Live Music, Raffle (Scholarships)/4 Prizes, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm—well attended and positive feedback. Raised funds for 3 scholarships. POC Brendan.
- 9/23-24 Parish Solidarity Weekend (bulletin/CC flyer, calendar of activities, Haitian hymn, prayer of the faithful, altar announcement at all 3 Masses, table in Commons)—well advertised with positive feedback.

SAVE THE DATES:

11/4/23 Yard Sale, Ghent Antique Store, 1414 Colley Ave & **11/18/23** Yard Sale, Ghent Antiques Store, 1414 Colley Ave.
Tues, Nov. 14, HTM meeting, Lambi's Call by Dr. Tom Fame, Chapters 15 & 16.

Communication/Collaboration: Fr. Paul, Chrissy Bush, Diana Dorsey, Ron Ivey, 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, May & Sept. Gatherings (raffle), Endowment: Scholarship.

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

Next Meetings/Tuesdays: Nov. 14, Dec. 12 | light dinner 6:00 pm, meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, opening prayers William, closing prayers Patricia.



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OCTOBER-SCHOLARSHIPS	
Tues. Oct. 24-	HTM: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm—Commons (Chapters 13-14)
Sun. Oct. 29-	Neil Walsh Memorial Mass
NOVEMBER-LUNCH FUND	
Tues. Nov. 14-	HTM: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm—Commons (Chapters 15-16)
Sat. Nov. 4 & 18	Fall Yard Sale 10:00 am- 2:00 pm, Benefits Lunch Fund at St. Gabriel, Ghent Antique Store, 1414 Colley Ave.
Nov. 18 & 19	Parish Ministry Fair
11/19-	Neil Walsh Memorial Mass
Nov. 1st- Epiphany	J&P Advent Giving Tree
DECEMBER- (Textbooks for St Gabriel Students)	
Dec. 2	Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 8:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley Ave.)
Dec. 3-	Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 5:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley Ave.)
Dec. 3-	Neil Walsh Memorial Mass
Nov. 1st- Epiphany	J&P Advent Giving Tree (all gifts returned for Eastern Shore by 12/10)
Tues. Dec. 12-	Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm--Commons
Sun. Dec. 25	Nativity of Our Lord

POST MEETING NOTES: Pen Pal Notes & Birthday/Greeting Cards: Please turn in notes for Fr. Fitho, Fr. Adelin, Fr. Jean-Marco, Fr. Ady, Fr. Bernard, & Pen Pals to Francesca via email, smithf236@verizon.net, October 27, 2023. Thanks to all who did in September & have already done so far in October. **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,

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 11th. 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 | Father Fitho JEAN, Pastor at St. Gabriel Parish, Lascahobas, Haiti

RESOURCES

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



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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**

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](#)

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

