



Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes

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



2024 Year of Prayer leading to 2025 Year Jubilee

**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, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 (6:30 pm - Adjourned 7:30 pm, Commons)**

**Present:** Patricia Britz, Brendan Pigott, William Wallace, Frank Murphy, Melissa Marquardt, & 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 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the church's fiscal year, Jan. 2024-Mar. 2024.

**Opening Prayer:** Attendees said The Haitian Sign of the Cross & William read We Remember the Earthquake Prayer by Ellen Renn. **Prayer Intentions:** Bishop Knestout & Bishop Jean, Fr. Paul, Fr. Fitho, the souls of our departed friends in ministry: Ellen Renn, Neil Walsh, Nicolas Valcour, Gar Housler, & Eileen Powell, economy, and social justice for Haiti. 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. The next Mass in memory of Neil is Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

**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.

**Sharing—One Christmas Tradition I Particularly Enjoy:** Attendees shared how they enjoyed his/her Christmas Tradition(s). Francesca facilitated this reflection.

**Sign Up for the February-April Light Dinner:** Frank passed the sign-up sheet.

**UPDATE: Advent Giving Tree Haiti Textbooks:** Francesca noted we are close to our goal of raising \$36 per St. Gabriel student for 82 students in Grades 8 & 9. Please consider donating \$36 for 1 of the 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 place in 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 The Epiphany on January 7, 2024. Thank you for your generosity. 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).

**HTM December Newsletter**—All attendees reviewed the newsletter and shared feedback.

**COMMUNICATION: Pen Pal New Year notes:** Francesca noted that Pen Pal notes are due by January 20, 2024, via email to her or place in Haiti Ministry Box by Blow Street. **Topics:** Epiphany, Haiti Independence Day, New Year, School Year 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter starts Jan 2; Pen Pal birthday or Fr. Fitho's; remembering Fr Fitho, parishioners, students, etc. during Jan. 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).

**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 ended Dec 22; Exams were on Dec 18 to Dec 22 and Christmas Break was Dec 24 to Jan 3, 2024. 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR starts Jan 3,



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2024. He had visiting priests and visitors during the break. He spoke about the two additional classrooms using the \$6k for the foundation/building and, when available.

**FORMATION: 2024—The Lambi's Call, Breaking the Chains** by Dr. Tom Fame, Chapters 1-3: Brendan led the discussion on the following questions:

1. **In Chapter 1**, Tom states, "If the first book was a love story, this one is about raising the children – not that the Haitian people are children, but rather that falling in love is a different experience than the love and patience required to nurture and guide someone toward maturity. It is still love, but more self-giving and less romantic." How does this transformative statement reflect your view of HTM?
2. **Chapter 2** is entitled "I thirst." Tom points out that these are some of the last words of Christ. In relation to the water project, how does this statement take on more meaning?
3. **In Chapter 3**, we learn more about the Haitian diaspora. What is something new that you learned about this large group of people separated from their homeland?

**Action:** Please read Chapters 4, 5, and 6 for the February 20, 2024 meeting. Brendan will email the reflection questions prior to the meeting. If you would like a copy of the book, please contact Patricia Britz. Cost is \$20 per book.

**NEW: GOOD NEWS FROM BOTH PARISHES:** William shared the good news: several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) & St. Gabriel Parish (SGP) & HTM membership anniversaries; **1/1/2024**—Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God & Haiti Independence Day—1804 (220<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); **1/7/2024**—Epiphany of the Lord; **1/8/2024**—The Baptism of the Lord; **1/12/2024**—Diocese of Richmond Installation of Bishop--Barry C. Knestout—6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; **1/7-12/2024**—Earthquake in Haiti/Foundations of SG School by Fr. Bernard—3/1/2010; 1/15/2024—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday; 1/18/2024—4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diocese of Richmond 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bicentennial Mass for Eastern Vicariate at SHP; and 11/1/2023--1/7/2024—SH Social Ministry Advent Giving Tree. 1/28/2024 Fr. Paul's Birthday.

**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. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87644827359?pwd=dDdKTkVST2p0cXdrQUVvV2kxUmNLZz09>

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

**SAVE THE DATES:**

- Sat. Jan. 20, 2024, | 10:00 am -2:00 pm Indoor Sale, Ghent Village Apartments Club House, Norfolk, POC Patricia Britz.
- Wed. Feb 20, Nicolas Valcour's 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Anniversary, donations to the Textbook Fund, Mass Sun. Feb 17 at 11 AM.
- Sun. March 10, 2020, Neil Walsh's 4<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary, donations to the Bldg/Outfitting Fund, Mass Mar 17 at 11 AM
- Fri. March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Haiti Solidarity Stations of the Cross, date TBC.

**NEW |** Sat. Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, | 10:00 am-2:00 pm [Diocesan Haiti Gathering St. Bede Catholic Church, Williamsburg](#). POC Patricia Britz.

**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), Scholarship Endowment.

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

**Next Meetings/Tuesdays: Feb. 20 (Mardi-Gras, Feb. 13/Ash Wed, Feb 14), March 12 |** light dinner 6:00 pm, meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, opening prayers William, closing prayers Patricia.



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JANUARY 2024 3rd Quarter Starts (Feed 1 Kid, 1 Sale at a Time)	
	New Year Notes to Mr. Fritz André, Mrs. Kerline Pierrot, Mr. Ernst Vincent, Mlle Marie-Camelle Joseph, Père Fitho
Jan. 1	1804 Haiti Independence Day, Solemnity of the Holy Virgin Mary
Tues. Jan. 2	Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm--Commons
*1/7-	Epiphany of our Lord & Neil Walsh's Memorial Mass 11:00 am
*8 Jan	The Baptism of our Lord (Monday after Epiphany)
9 Jan.	NEW: Monthly Haiti Prayer Session for Haiti, 8:00 am-9:00 am via Zoom   All twin parishes
Jan. 20	Indoor Sale, Ghent Village Apartments, Club House, Norfolk 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

FEBRUARY 2024	
Tues. Feb. 20-	Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm--Commons
Feb. 18	Fr. Ady Mytial's Birthday (1966)   Nicolas Valcour's Memorial Mass 11:00 am
2/13-	Mardi-Gras
2/20/22-	We Remember Nicolas Valcour (9/9/60-2/20/22)-Donation to Textbook Fund
2/14-	Ash Wednesday, Lent Starts (ends Palm Sunday, March 24)
2/16-TBC	Stations of the Cross #1 (Staff) 6:00 pm followed by meatless dinner
Feb. 25	Head of St. Gabriel School 7th-13th Grade, Mr. Fritz André's Birthday

**POST MEETING NOTES: Pen Pal Notes & Birthday/Greeting Cards:** Please turn in New Year notes 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), Jan. 20, 2024. Thanks to all who wrote notes in Dec. & have already done so far in Jan. **Fr. Fitho and Pen Pals appreciated the notes very much.** Thank you Susie for preparing Birthday, Christmas 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.



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

*On behalf of my parishioners, I wish you a prayerful Advent season and a blessed and Merry Christmas. May the Lord incarnate illuminate your homes and the world with continued acts of love and compassion. The students at St. Gabriel Middle and High School are taking their 2<sup>nd</sup> term exams December 11th-22nd, and the children at Fr. Block Lower School (2 schools in 1), December 11th-15<sup>th</sup>.*

*We thank you for your prayers, your kind greetings, and for the gift of textbooks the school will receive for Christmas. Let us remain united in the Lord during this Advent and Christmas season. Fr. Fitho, Pastor at St. Gabriel, Lascahobas, Haiti*

**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/>

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



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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](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)

