



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER
16TH YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH
JANUARY 2024 Edition 59- 5th 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.

Learning Haitian Creole, 1 Sentence at a Time.
Se anvi bay ki bay. / It's the desire to give that gives.



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

I join my parishioners in wishing you and your families a blessed and Happy New Year. Thank you for keeping our students, their families, and teachers in prayer. In turn, we wish your children a fruitful and safe remaining of the school year. Thank you also for the funds you sent to get some textbooks for the students. With Lent approaching, may we be transformed through our prayers, fasting and almsgiving. In closing, we wish Father Paul a Happy Birthday. Father Fitho, Pastor at Saint Gabriel, Lascabobas, Haiti

HAITI'S BELOVED SOUP JOUMOU | This January, our ministry started a new tradition. Haitians around the globe eat a traditional pumpkin soup on January 1st to commemorate the liberation of the world's first free Black republic in 1804. We cooked this delicious soup recipe and enjoyed it before our monthly meeting. It was a good way to BE in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Documentary: <https://www.libertyinasoup.com/>

DIOCESAN HAITI GATHERING | **Saturday February 17th | 10:00am - 2:00pm**

The Office of Social Ministries invites you to a gathering of friends and supporters of the Diocese of Hinche, Haiti, to celebrate and learn more about our journey of the past and plans for the future.

This gathering will include keynote speakers, updates from Father Herald and Richard Joseph and activities such as a Fair-Trade Raffle, a prayer room; and community-building. Lunch will be provided.

Deadline to register: Mon., Jan. 29th at 11:59 P.M. [Haiti Gathering Information and Registration](#)



NEW YEAR INDOOR SALE | FEED 1 CHILD, 1 SALE AT A TIME

Our indoor sale, Sat., Jan. 20th, at Ghent Village Apartments Clubhouse was a success. About 22 buyers, in and out of the residence came despite the cold, to find some treasures. The clubhouse was a lovely place for this fun venue.



The total collected was \$375. It will feed 1 child for 11 months. The larger goal is to feed 11 students at SG cafeteria this 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 challenge. CARITAS (Catholic Relief Services USA) continues to deliver bags of rice and beans for students at the elementary level. Sadly, currently, the quality of this food has lessened.

We thank all of you who have contributed to all our sales.

SAVE THE DATE: Our next indoor sale will be Sat., March 9th, 2024 | 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Ghent Village Apartments Clubhouse (inside the courtyard, by the swimming pool) 100 Westover Ave., Norfolk, VA 23507. Signs will be out. Please, park in a non-numbered parking space, against the building.

Needed for future sales: costume jewelry; Easter decorations; Fair Trade and craft articles; volunteers to clean silverware; and a neighborhood driveway.



SHARING STORIES FROM ST. GABRIEL | TAKING MUSIC LESSONS

IN HAITI. It is a tradition for pen pals to visit their friends in Lascahobas, usually on Sunday, after the hottest part of the day. One afternoon in March 2017, our small group went to visit Venel Lamy. His whole family came out on the porch to greet us with large smiles. They offered us chairs on their deck facing their open yard. Lamy always enjoyed talking with his pen pal, Neil about families and community development ideas. Lamy's two daughters Michevine and Velinda joined us to play the guitar and the flute. His niece, Anite joined us and played the recorder. Everyone in his family is musically talented and sings in various choirs at church. Anite was a Kindergarten teacher at St. Gabriel Sisters' School. Her class had 65 children. *"My dream," she said "is to start a pre-school at our home. Could you help me to start it?"* I told Anite that since her gift is music, perhaps she could teach me solfege* and in exchange, I would pay her. She promptly agreed and classes started the next day. Today, Anite is an elementary teacher at our twin parish school. She also gives recorder lessons to young people in her yard. *In

solfege, each note in a scale is given its own unique syllable, which is used to sing that note when it appears. Think of do, re, mi . .

INTRODUCING THE TEACHER ENDOWMENT FUND FOR ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL | The Haiti Ministry continues its 5-year plan to help St. Gabriel School to become increasingly self-sustaining. We are in the middle of the 3rd year. This is done by funding some of the operation costs: lunch, teachers' salaries; medical needs; scholarships; some self-sustaining projects such as a stationery shop; and making the school appeal to paying parents. Also, it is planning for the long-term future for financial support for the school. Two endowments have been started by two generous families, the Scholarship Fund and the Teacher Fund. The goal is to be able to send our twin parish 20 scholarships annually (\$250 each) and at least one full teacher salary for the year (\$1,300).

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ST GABRIEL TEACHER ENDOWMENT #174

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE RICHMOND DIOCESE

WRITE ON THE MEMO LINE:

TEACHERS' SALARIES ST. GABRIEL, LASCAHOBAS, HAITI #174

SEND TO:

MS. MAGGIE KEENAN | CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
7800 CAROUSEL LN. | RICHMOND, VA 23294

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO. CALL MAGGIE KEENAN, DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING (804) 359-5661

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. -Feb. 20th, 2024, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm; -March 12th, 2024, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm.

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 patprovence1@yahoo.com Cell: (757) 621-1860
Brendan Pigott, Assistant Chair

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



Neil & baby Lamy, Venel, Michveline, Venel's wife Micheline, Velinda, Anite (see story above)

