



Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes



16th 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-andpeace/haiti-ministry/>

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 (6:30 pm - Adjourned 7:30 pm, Commons)

[Catholic Virginian Haiti Article \(click\)](#)

Present: Patricia Britz, William Wallace, Melissa Marquardt, Sherry Laine, Anna Savage, and Francesca Smith

Patricia welcomed and thanked attendees. The goals of this meeting are to continue praying for St. Gabriel and the Haitian people, to share updates on various activities, and continue discussion Dr. Tom Fame’s book. This is the 4th quarter of the church’s fiscal year, Jan. 2024-Mar. 2024. She thanked William for the delicious chili and bread/condiments & Francesca for blackberries and halos.

Opening Prayer: Attendees said The Haitian Sign of the Cross & William read A Prayer for Conversion. **Prayer Intentions:** William noted the following: Bishop Knestout & Bishop Jean/Haiti, Fr. Paul & Fr. Fitho/Haiti, souls of departed friends Ellen Renn/Neil Walsh/Nicolas Valcour/Gar Housler/ Eileen Powell; economy, & social justice in Haiti & the world.

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 Masses in memory of Neil are April 21st at 11:00 AM and June 16 at 11:00 AM Mass.

FORMATION--2024: M’ Pale Kréyol/I speak Creole: Papa Nou/Our Father, Mange Sa—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 and sang Mange Sa a before dinner.

2024—The Lambi’s Call, Breaking the Chains by Dr. Tom Fame, Chapters 10-12: Patricia led the discussion on the following questions provided by Brendan:

1. In Chapter 10, we learn about the “Sol”. What do you think of this unique banking arrangement?
2. In Chapter 11, Tom explains how he finally brought inflatable boats to Haiti. The boats are ultimately put to good use at the end of the chapter. What are your thoughts on how these items are used in Haiti compared to our lives here in America?
3. The first several pages of Chapter 12 provide a lot of data concerning health among the local population Tom works within Haiti. What are your feelings on this data and the plans Tom had with the community to improve health conditions?

Action: Please read Chapters 13, 14, and 15 for the June 11, 2024 meeting. Brendan will email the reflection questions prior to the meeting. If you would like a copy of the book (\$20), please contact Patricia Britz. We get our books directly from Dr. Fame to support his Haiti Ministry.

COMMUNICATION: Monthly or Pen Pal Notes: Francesca noted that Monthly or Pen Pal notes are due by April 20, 2024, via email to her or place in Haiti Ministry Box by Blow Street. **Topics:** Easter Season, School Year 4th Quarter starting; Pen Pal birthday or Fr. Fitho’s; remembering Fr Fitho, parishioners, students, etc. during April 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).



Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes



16th 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-andpeace/haiti-ministry/>

Fr. Fitho's Telephone Calls: Patricia noted that she and Fr. Fitho speak once a week. Fr. Fitho shared that the 3rd quarter ended before Easter and the 4th quarter started on April 2. The school started a well with a pump to provide water to the school and the cafeteria.

NEWS:

Good News from Both Parishes—April: William shared there were several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) & St. Gabriel Parish (SGP): **4/4/2024**—7th Anniversary of the nomination of Bishop JEAN Desinord as bishop for the Diocese of Hinche, Haiti--**4/9/2020**—Bishop JEAN visited the Hampton Roads Area & met SH HTM members in Portsmouth VA at Holy Family Parish; **4/7/2024**—2nd Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy & 3rd Anniversary of Water System at SG Rectory up and running; 4/12/2024—Fr. Bernard's Birthday. Thanks Susie for writing the April birthday cards. They are much appreciated.

Good News from Both Parishes—May: William shared there were several birthdays at S3rd & SGP: **5/1-31/2024**—May is Mary's Month; **5/1/2024**—St. Joseph the Worker; **5/6/2024**—Fr. Fitho Jean's 17th Anniversary of Ordination; **5/6/2024**—Water System & Bread Shop completed on 5/7/2020; **5/12/2024**—Mother's Day in USA (Haiti & France (29th)); **5/10/2024**—Bishop Dilorenzo agreed to twinning with SGP (May 10th 2007)—17th Anniversary of our Twinning Relationship with Celebration 5/5/24; 5/12/2023—Haiti Culture & Heritage Day & Flag Day; 5/22/2024—Fr. Fitho becomes Pastor at SG—3rd Anniversary.

SG School Year 2023-2024—Patricia shared that Cartas is developing units at various parishes. It will help with granting small loans to parishioners who wish to start a small business with the goal of better providing for their families. More information to come.

PLANNING: Patricia noted:

1. Friends of Haiti Twinning Lunch, St. Gregory The Great, 4/20/23, 11-2:00 pm. RSVP- Patricia. See attached Flyer.
2. 17th Anniversary in Twinning (in lieu of meeting)-May 5th: we discussed what is needed and who is doing what? RSVP-Patricia Britz. See attached Flyer.

The June 11 HTM meeting will be planning for the September Haiti Solidarity Week Presentation on Sunday, Sept 22, 2024.

UPDATE & REFLECTION: Francesca noted:

March Newsletter Discussion: Attendees reviewed the newsletter & were touched by the notes from Fr. Fitho, and Mr. Fritz André, Middle and High School Principle.

March 23: SG Feast Day Novena to SG with twin parish **March 14 – 22:** Fr. Fitho & André wrote how much it meant to them that SH prayed the Novena with them and thanked SH. Thank you to SH Prayer Chain for participating in the Novena.

March 22: Haiti Solidarity Stations of the Cross, meatless dinner afterward: Fr. Fitho and Mr. André wrote how much it meant to them that SH did the Stations of the Cross for Haiti and thanked SH. Afterwards, the meatless dinner was enjoyed and was a moment of rest and reflection. Thank you to all who read, provided music, prepared the handouts, provided food for the meal afterwards, and all attendees. The Holy Trinity was truly with us.

APRIL & MAY CALENDAR: William reviewed the April and May Calendar. See below.

SAVE THE DATES:

April 20th: Eastern Vicariate 16th Friends of Haiti Twinning Lunch @ St. Gregory the Great | 11:00 am-2:00 pm RSVP.

May 5th: 17th Anniversary Twinning with SG Celebration- Teachers | 4:00 pm-5:30 pm Raffle RSVP.



Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes



16th 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-andpeace/haiti-ministry/>

May 4th: Sale- Fred Huette Center/Ghent, 10:00 am-3:00 pm “Feed 1 Child, 1 Sale at a Time”.

May 11th: Sale- Lunch Fund Ghent Antiques Store Parking Lot, 10 am to 2 pm.

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 (Raffles), Scholarship & Teachers Endowments.

Closing Prayers from *God is no Stranger*—Anna/All

Next Meeting/Tues. June 11th: | light dinner 6:00 pm, meeting: 6:30 pm-7:30, opening prayers William, closing prayers Patricia/all.

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, Apr. 20, 2024. Thanks to all who wrote notes in Mar. & have already done so far in Apr. **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.



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

I join my parishioners in wishing you a blessed and happy Easter. This month has been a busy one for both the school and the church. On March 1st, we celebrated the 11th year of the inauguration of the school with Mass attended by all students and teachers. We are glad you joined us for a Novena in preparation of Saint Gabriel Feast Day, March 23rd this year. Parishioners filled the church at each Mass. We agreed to keep all festivities within the church compound and not have activities in the town to keep everyone safe. We also thank you for having done a Stations of the Cross in solidarity with Haiti. The students took their 3rd quarter exams before their Easter break. Please continue praying for our safety. Father Fitho, Pastor at Saint Gabriel, Lascahobas, Haiti

RESOURCES

[Despite turmoil in Haiti, diocesan ministry perseveres](#) Catholic Virginian Article

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

Nov. 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=607998083156281>



Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes



16th 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-andpeace/haiti-ministry/>

[503&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](#))

APRIL FY 4th QUARTER STARTS	
4/2-	Haiti Hour Prayer via Zoom, 8:00 am-9:00 am (1 st Tuesday each month)
Tues. April 16-	Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm--Commons
4/20-	Eastern Vicariate 16th Friends of Haiti Twinning Lunch @ St. Gregory the Great 11:00 am-2:00 pm RSVP
4/22-	Earth Day
MAY- Mary's Month	
5/1-	Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
5/4-	Craft & Plant Sale Fred Huette Center 10:00 am -3:00 pm, HTM table
Sun. 5/5-	17th Anniversary in Twinning with St. Gabriel, Free Dinner, Raffle for Teachers, 4:00-5:30 pm RSVP
5/7-	Haiti Hour Prayer via Zoom, 8:00 am-9:00 am (1 st Tuesday each month)
5/11-	Ghent Antiques Store Parking Lot Sale HTM Table, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
*5/12-	USA Mother's Day (5/26 Haiti)
5/18/1803-	Haiti Flag Day
5/9-Thur.	Ascension of Jesus (May12th)
5/20-	Fr. Serdieu & Fr. Fitho JEAN Ordination
5/22/21-	Fr. Fitho's 3rd Anniv. @ SG

A

