



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-andpeace/haiti-ministry/>

**Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (6:30 pm - Adjourned 7:30 pm, Commons)**

**Present:** Patricia Britz, William Wallace, Frank Murphy, Melissa Marquardt, & Francesca Smith

**Patricia welcomed, reviewed goals, and thanked attendees.** 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 A Prayer for Peace. **Prayer Intentions:** Frank noted the following: Bishop Knestout & Bishop Jean, Fr. Paul & Fr. Fitho, souls of departed friends Ellen Renn/Neil Walsh/Nicolas Valcour/Gar Housler/ Eileen Powell, economy & social justice for Haiti. End of violence/Haiti & the world. 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 Mar. 17<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, and sang Mange Sa a.

**Memorials:** Francesca noted Nicolas Valcour's 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Anniversary was on Feb 20/Memorial Mass was on 2/18 at 11 AM| and Neil Walsh's 4<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary will be on March 10/Memorial Mass is on 3/17 at 11 AM. She suggested an In Memory Of donation to the Teacher Endowment Collection and passed sheets with info. concerning how to write the check, mailing address, and POC at the Diocese of Richmond. Please see the Jan. 2024 Newsletter which includes the info.

**Hospitality:** Frank passed out the Sign up for March, April & June simple dinner and the Sign up for the 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Twinning on May 5. POC: Patricia.

**Update & Reflection:**

**HTM January Newsletter Discussion:** Attendees reviewed the newsletter and shared feedback.

**Jan. Indoor Sale:** "Feed 1 Student, 1 Sale at a Time": William noted the sale at Ghent Village Apartments went well. It raised funds to feed 1 student for 10 months.

**COMMUNICATION: Monthly or Pen Pal Notes:** Francesca noted that Monthly or Pen Pal notes are due by February 29, 2024 via email to her or place in Haiti Ministry Box by Blow Street. **Topics:** Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday, Lenten Season, School Year 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter started Jan 2; Pen Pal birthday or Fr. Fitho's; remembering Fr Fitho, parishioners, students, etc. during Feb. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR started Jan 3, 2024. All schools in the Hinche Diocese were closed for the week of Mardi Gras/Ash Wednesday for student/community safety, etc. He had visiting priests and visitors during the break.



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**FORMATION: 2024—The Lambi’s Call, Breaking the Chains** by Dr. Tom Fame, Chapters 4-6: Frank led the discussion on the following questions:

1. In Chapter 4, page 50, the story of a government letter advising visitors not to mingle with the local people is described. What is your perspective on this story?
2. In Chapter 5, page 75, Tom recounts the excitement amongst parishioners when they learned he might be getting them a bell for their church. What does this tell you about the Haitian spirit?
3. In Chapter 6, pages 82-83, Tom recounts some history surrounding the Haitian flag. What’s one new fact about Haitian history that you didn’t know before based on the information provided in the text?

**Action:** Please read Chapters 7, 8, and 9 for the March 12, 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.

**LENT:**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> SG Feast Day** Novena to SG with twin parish **March 14<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>** Haiti Solidarity Stations of the Cross, meatless dinner afterward

**NEWS: GOOD NEWS FROM BOTH PARISHES:** William shared the good news: several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) & St. Gabriel Parish (SGP) & HTM membership anniversaries; **Feb is Black History Month; 2/2/2024**—The Presentation of the Lord; **2/7/2024**—Mr. Venel Lamy’s 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death—spiritual/musical/community developer leader at SG & friend; **2/11/2024**—Our Lady of Lourdes; **2/14/2024**—Valentine’s Day & Ash Wed.; **2/19/2024**—President’s Day in USA; **2/20/2024--Nicolas Valcour’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Anniversary** and his memorial Mass on 2/18 at 11 AM at SH. **1/25/2024**—2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the donation of the hand embroidered napkins by SG to SH; **2/28-3/9/2019**—the 20<sup>th</sup> Pilgrimage to SG; **2/28-3/6/2020** 21<sup>st</sup> Pilgrimage to St. Gabriel; and Patricia noted, due to gang violence possible spread, the Bishop asked all the schools in Diocese of Hinche to close last week to observe the situation. Schools reopened on 2/19.

**SG School Year 2023-2024 & Sustainable Project:**

Patricia shared that Fr. Fitho is meeting with his PPC to discuss the need of 2 additional classrooms.

**MONTHLY HAITI PRAYER SESSION via Zoom for all twin parishes in our region**, Tues. March 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am-9:00 am.

All are welcome. POC: Patricia Britz.

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

**FEBRUARY & MARCH CALENDAR:** Please see end of minutes.

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>** | Nicolas Valcour’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Anniversary, donations to Teacher Endowment, Mass Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am

**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024** | 10:00 am -2:00 pm Indoor Sale, Fred. Huette Center, Ghent, Norfolk

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020** | Neil Walsh’s 4<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary, donations to Teacher Endowment, Mass March 17<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** | St. Gabriel Feast of the Annunciation of our Lord | Novena Prior

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>** | Stations of the Cross in Solidarity with Haiti

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

William, Francesca, and Patricia gave feedback: Synod, Bureau of Education, Hinche Diocese Strategic Plan, & Richmond Diocese Strategic Plan updates, Twinning Relationships sharing with beautiful pictures, Fair Trade Sales, lunch, prayer, and



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lively discussions. It was a beautiful sunny day. Fr. Herald JEAN was the guest speaker on health and Kathy DOWDY on Education.

**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

<b>Next Meetings/Tuesdays: March 12 and April 16  light dinner 6:00 pm, meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, opening prayers William, closing prayers Patricia.</b>	

<b>February-2024 Third Quarter We remember Nicolas</b>	
<b>Tues. Feb. 20-</b>	<b>Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm--Commons</b>
<b>Feb. 18</b>	Fr. Ady Mytial's Birthday (1966)   Nicolas Valcour's Memorial Mass 11:00 am
<b>2/13-</b>	Mardi-Gras
<b>2/20/22-</b>	We Remember Nicolas Valcour (9/9/60-2/20/22)
<b>2/14-24-</b>	Ash Wednesday & Valentine's Day, Lent Starts (ends Palm Sunday, March 24th)
<b>2/16-2024-</b>	Stations of the Cross #1 (Staff) 6:00 pm followed by meatless dinner
<b>2/17/2024</b>	Diocesan Haiti Gathering Saint Bede/Williamsburg, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
<b>Feb. 25</b>	Head of St. Gabriel School 7th-13th Grade, Mr. Fritz André's Birthday
<b>March-2024 Third Quarter</b>	
<b>We remember Neil &amp; Gar Housler   11th Anniversary Inauguration St. Gabriel School   St Gabriel Parish's Feast Day</b>	
<b>3/1-</b>	11th Anni. of the Inauguration of SG School "We were there!" 2013 (240 kids graduated so far)
2/16, 2/23, 3/1, 8, 15, 22 TBD	Fri. 7 Stations of the Cross, 6:00 pm #1 Staff, #2 Christian Formation, #3 Choir, #4 PPC, #5 J&P, #6 <b>Haiti Solidarity/meatless dinner afterward</b>
<b>3/5- (2017)</b>	7th Anni. of the Inauguration of SG Cafeteria 1st Floor "We were there!"
<b>Tues. March 12-</b>	<b>Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm--Commons</b>
<b>3/10/20-</b>	We Remember Neil Walsh, Mass 11:00 am 3/17/24 on Saint Patrick's Day
<b>3/9/2024</b>	Indoor Sale, Fred Huette Center, Norfolk 10:00 am-2:00 pm.
<b>March 14-22</b>	Haiti Ministry Feast of the Annunciation Novena, Litany to St. Gabriel Archangel   Both Twin Parishes
<b>Fri. March 23 (SG)</b>	St. Gabriel Feast of the Annunciation of our Lord (due to Holy Week)

**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), Feb. 29, 2024.



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Thanks to all who wrote notes in Jan. & have already done so far in Feb. **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, 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, 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-yqqydq/>

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+through+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)

