



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes

17th Year of Twinning with Saint Gabriel (May 10, 2023)!



2024 Year of Prayer for 2025 Jubilee Year

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 principals of Catholic Social Teaching. <http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-andpeace/haiti-ministry/>

SACRED HEART PARISH CELEBRATES 17TH YEAR IN TWINNING WITH ST GABRIEL PARISH

May 10th, 2007-May 10th, 2024

Sunday, May 5th, 2024, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, SH Commons Theme:

“Education in Haiti, This School Year” 2023-2024

The members of the Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) hosted a celebration for the 17th Anniversary of Twinning between Sacred Heart and St. Gabriel Parishes, in the SH Commons. This was in lieu of the May meeting. 42 guests attended this fun and informative event.

INTRODUCTION: Brendan Pigott welcomed everyone attending the celebration including the Guest Speaker, Kathy Dowdy (Haiti Education Support Team Chair), Tina Wandersee (Director of Office of Social Ministry, Richmond Diocese), and Dr. Pamela McKinney (Haiti Education Support Team Board Member). He thanked Dan Doyle, Tim Clapham, Fritz Massey & John for the dinner, Kiera for the music, Pat Walsh for the fresh flowers, all those who brought refreshments and gift baskets for the Raffle and helped to prepare/set up for the celebration/dinner. *On behalf of the HTM members, we thank you for attending and participating in this milestone celebration and for your continued support. The actual date is May 10, 2007. We are glad to share our faith journey with the presentation from Kathy Dowdy and with additional remarks from Tina Wandersee, Dr. Pamela McKinney, and Patricia Britz, Chair of the Sacred Heart Parish Haiti Twinning Ministry, about the Teachers’ Salary Endowment for our twin parish, SG. This unites both parishes with solidarity and love.* Various parishes were represented: The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Holy Family, Holy Spirit, First Presbyterian, and others.



ACTIVITIES:

- Meet and greet with music by Kiera. Mange Sa, blessing before delicious refreshments, wine, a celebrative cake/singing O Lespri Sen, flowers, raffle gift baskets, and the colorful banner in the Commons made by the SH Youth were enjoyed by all. It was a festive social time among all attendees.
- William Wallace led the raffle. We thank all participants who bought tickets and made free-will donations to raise funds for the Teacher Salary Endowment for SG!

INTRODUCTION—PRAYER READER AND SPEAKER:

All said The Sign of the Cross in Haitian Creole and sang “Mange Sa”, blessing before dinner. Brendan, MC announced the *3 goals of this gathering: to enjoy fellowship with old & new friends; to share the latest updates on education in Haiti, and to raise funds for a teacher salary. Teachers at SG are paid \$100.00 monthly, when funds are available.*

PRESENTATION— “Education in Haiti, This School Year”: Brendan started the presentation with Dr McKinney who introduced Kathy Dowdy, the Guest Speaker and in her comments she noted that all of the schools under the Diocese of Hinche continue to excel in their studies and exams. Tina Wandersee added some additional remarks and noted Bishop JEAN in Hinche said SH HTM was a wonderful working example of twinning. Patricia Britz presented background information on the St Gabriel Teacher Salary Endowment. Patricia thanked the bishops and priests who have been engaged in the twinning mission, currently Bishop KNESTOUT (Richmond Diocese), and Bishop JEAN (Hinche Diocese), Fr. Paul Muyimbwa (SH



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Parish) and Fr. Fitho JEAN (SG Parish), Director of Social Ministry for the diocese, Tina Wandersee, and Sacred Heart staff, Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) members/families, parishioners, and friends in the greater community.

A big round of applause to Kiera, Dan Doyle, Tim Clapham, Fritz Massey, John, and Allan Britz, who delighted us with lively music, the delicious dinner, and cake.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? | Pray for Haiti. Learn about its history, write to a parishioner at SG, and view our website http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/, donate to the teacher salary fund Sacred Heart Catholic Church (etransfer.com)

CLOSING REMARKS & THANK YOU | Brendan announced final call for free-will donations and raffle tickets, had attendees pull the winning numbers for the raffle prizes, and thanked everyone for attending this fun gathering, to please check our website for pictures and articles, announced that the celebration had concluded, and the Commons would remain open for attendees to converse.

SAVE THE DATE:

May 11th: Sale- Lunch Fund Ghent Antiques Store Parking Lot, 10 am to 2 pm. "Feed 1 Child 1 Sale at a Time." School Lunch for the Year.

Table with 2 columns: Date, Event. Title: MAY- Holy Mary's Month. Rows include: 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; 5/7- Haiti Hour Prayer | via Zoom, 8:00 am-9:00 am (1st 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); 5/6- Fr. Serdieu & Fr. Fitho JEAN Ordination; 5/22/21- Fr. Fitho's 3rd Anniv. @ SG

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; 5/13/2024—Our Lady of Fatima; 5/12/2024—7th Sunday of Easter—Ascension; 5/19/2024—8th Sunday of Easter—Pentecost; 5/26/2024—Most Holy Trinity, and 5/27/2024—Memorial Day (USA).



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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), Scholarship & Teachers Endowments.

Next Meeting/Tues. June 11th: | light dinner 6:00 pm, meeting 6:30 pm-7:30, opening prayer William, closing prayer 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, May 20, 2024. Thanks to all who did in April & have already done so far in May. **Fr. Fitho and Pen Pals appreciated the notes very much.** Thank you Susie and Sherry for continuing to prepare 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.



APRIL 2024 GREETINGS FROM FR. FITHO JEAN

Dear Father Paul, Parishioners at Sacred Heart, and Friends,

We are keeping you and your families in prayer this Easter season as our Lord has risen from the tomb. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus opened heaven to all of us. Because of Easter, we know that no matter what suffering we endure, God is always with us, and with you. The students at Saint Gabriel are nearing the end of the school year. It has been a challenging one because of the country's situation. We ask you please to continue praying for the families at your twin parish.

We thank you for your ongoing greeting cards, your prayers, and your support.

Together, we will celebrate our 17th year in twinning this May. Those years have been a blessing for both our parishes.

Fr. Fitho JEAN, Pastor at Saint Gabriel Parish, Lascahobas, Haiti

Communication/Collaboration: Fr. Paul, Tina Wandersee (Director of Office of Social Ministry, Richmond Diocese), Fr. Fitho JEAN, Fr. Adelin JOSEPH, Fr. Jean-Carlo PIERRE, Mr. Fritz ANDRE (SG High School Principal), Ernst VINCENT (SG Elementary School Head) Mary Ann Collins & Mike Kassel (Eastern Vicariate Haiti Twinning Collaborative Team), Kathy Dowdy (Haiti Education Support Team Chair), Catholic Relief Services, Dr. Tom Fame (Salem, VA)





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RESOURCES:

2023-2024 Dr. Tom Fame The Lambi's Call, Breaking the chains

December 2022- Dr. Tom 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](#)

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 Vulnerable

CST 101 Life and Dignity of the Human Person - Bing video

CST 101 Rights and Responsibilities -

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>

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)



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