



Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes



17<sup>th</sup> Year of Twinning with Saint Gabriel (May 10, 2024)!

2024 Year of Prayer leading to 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 principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

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

**Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (6:30 pm - Adjourned 7:30 pm, Commons)**

2024 Year of Prayer in Preparation of 2025 Year of the Jubilee (Pope Francis)

FISCAL YEAR LAST QUARTER (APRIL-JUNE)



**Present:** Patricia Britz, William Wallace, Melissa Marquardt, 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; to continue discussing Dr. Tom Fame’s book/our summer reflection on St. Gabriel; and the impact of HTM. She thanked Allan for the delicious chili, Francesca for the cherries, Melissa for the rosemary bread & William for the delicious apple pie. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the church’s fiscal year, Apr. 2024-Jun. 2024.

**Opening Prayer:** Attendees said The Haitian Sign of the Cross & William read, “A Prayer of Gratitude to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.” Prayer Intentions: Anna noted: Bishop Knestout & Bishop Jean/Haiti, Fr. Paul & Fr. Fitho/Haiti, souls of departed friends Ellen Renn/Neil Walsh/Nicolas Valcour/Gar Housler/ Eileen Powell; peace with 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 at the 11:00 AM Mass: June 16, July 7, and August 25.

**FORMATION—2024:** M’ Pale Kréyol/I speak Creole: The Sign of the Cross, Mange Sa a/Eat this Food, O Lespri Sen/O Holy Spirit, Papa Nou/Our Father—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.

**2024—The Lambi’s Call, Breaking the Chains** by Dr. Tom Fame, Chapters 13-15: Patricia led the discussion based on what the members/attendees have read so far and the ways the members/attendees intend to remain in solidarity with Haiti as HTM begins its summer retreat. Although there will be no meetings in July and August, Brenda reminded everyone this is time to refresh and reflect on their experiences with HTM to return rested and renewed for the upcoming year, 2024-2025. Members shared their thoughts on personal reflections, e.g., strengthening personal prayers for SG (SG never forgets to pray for SH), increase their understanding of the possible hurdles parents face to keeping child in school (transportation, lunch fees, etc.), etc.

**Action:** Please read Chapters 16 to 18 for the Sept 3, 2024, meeting. Brendan will email questions on those chapters 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 twinning ministry in Cabestor, Haiti.

**COMMUNICATION:** Monthly or Pen Pal Notes: Francesca noted that Monthly or Pen Pal notes are due by June 20/July 20/Aug 20, 2024, via email to her or placed in Haiti Ministry Box by Blow Street. Topics: End of the School Year 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter; Father’s Day (6/16 in US and 6/30 in Haiti), SH Feast Day (6/7), Pen Pal birthday or Fr. Fitho’s; remembering Fr Fitho, Fr. Adelin, Fr Jean-Carlo, parishioners, students, etc. during June/July/August by praying for them.

**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 speak once a week. Fr. Fitho shared that the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter ended and that the students are currently taking end-of-year exams.

**REFLECTION & UPDATE: Ministry Impact 2023-2024:** Francesca reviewed/members commented on the Sacred Heart & St. Gabriel Twin Parishes 2023-2024 Annual Report Per Fund and activities. —Goals Met—Self Transformation, Pen Pal Letters, Weekly WhatsApp Meetings/Fr. Fitho, 2 parish dinners with raffles, 3 Novenas/1 Stations of the Cross/regular prayers,



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8 Yard Sales & some online sales, invest in endowments for scholarships & teacher salaries, formation, & Small Change Jar. Also, to invest in sustainable projects while decreasing operation cost (OC): School Staff Fund—6 teachers (8 last year); Lunch Fund—11 students (16 last year); Medical Fund--\$100 monthly, medication purchased on local economy, nurse; Building & Outfitting Fund/Sustainable Projects (Investment)--high school textbooks & small loans to parents; Scholarship Fund (Investment)—20 students at St. Gabriel & 1 student at the Normal School (Teacher College).

**Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:** Francesca noted SGP joined SHP in the Novena to the SH of Jesus from May 26 to June 6, 2024, and celebrated the SH Feast Day to the Most SH of Jesus on June 7, 2024. Thank you to Susie Clapham, Susan Daniel/Prayer Chain, and Chrissy Bush for reminder emails, bulletins/TV notes, and Mass Announcements.

Thank you to SH Prayer Chain for participating in the Novena.

Post Meeting Note: SG Feast Day & Novena to SG with twin parish March 14 – 22, 2024: Fr. Fitho & André wrote how much it meant to them that SH prayed the Novena with them/celebrated their Feast Day and thanked SH.

**April 20<sup>th</sup> Friends of Haiti Twinning Lunch,** St. Gregory the Great: Francesca and Anna noted the event was well attended by Eastern Vicariate Twins/St. Gregory and beautifully hosted by St. Gregory. The next Friends of Haiti Gathering is on March 29, 2025, at St. Gregory the Great in Virginia Beach, POC Patricia, RSVP.

**May 4<sup>th</sup> Toy Sale-** Fred Huette Center/Ghent, “Feed 1 Child, 1 Sale at a Time”: William & Anna noted it went well and reached goal to raise funds for St. Gabriel. It was a fun day.

**May 11<sup>th</sup> Jewelry Sale-Ghent Antiques,** Colley Ave., Francesca & Anna noted it went well and reached goal to raise funds for St. Gabriel. It was a sunny, hot day. The host provided refreshments.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>: 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Twinning** (in lieu of meeting): Members shared it was an enjoyable (with dinner/wine/cake & Kiera’s music), informative (Kathy Dowdy’s update on Education), relaxing time for all to converse), and a fun event (attendees complimented the different raffle baskets and Brendan as MC kept the event flowing). Plus, it raised funds for the St Gabriel Teacher Salaries Endowment. Thank you to all who came and participated.

**May Newsletter Discussion:** Attendees shared their thoughts on topics from the newsletter. Francesca read Fr. Fitho’s note. William noted one of SG graduated students was made deacon in preparation for him to continue attending the seminary to become a priest. See attachment. Attendees were touched by the note from Mr. F. André, Middle and High School Principal.

**NEW: GOOD NEWS from Both Parishes--**June: William shared the good news: several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) and St. Gabriel Parish (SGP); 6/11/2024—Bishop Knestout’s Birthday (1962); 6/2/2024—Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi); 6/7/2024—The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (SHP’s Feast Day)/Novena—with SGP (5/29-6/6/2024), led by Susie, 6/16/2024—Fr. Bernard’s 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Ordination; 6/19/2024—7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fr. Kauffmann’s Memorial & Juneteenth; 6/26/2024—Fr. Ady’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination; 6/19/2024 & 6/30/2024—Father’s Day in USA and Haiti respectively/Susie prepared cards which will be sent via WhatsApp to Fr. Fitho; and 6/24/2024—Nativity of St. John the Baptist; 6/8/2024—Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and 6/30/2024—Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Patron of Haiti). Thanks, Susie, for writing the June birthday cards. They are much appreciated. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Pilgrimage to SGP is TBD.

**SG School Year 2023-2024:** Patricia reviewed exam chart: End of School Year Exams: All Grades-June 10 to 21, 2024; 9<sup>th</sup> Grade-June 10 to 13, 2024; and 13<sup>th</sup> Grade-June 24 to 28, 2024. National Exams: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade July 22 to 25, 2024; and 13<sup>th</sup> Grade-July 29 to August 1, 2024. See display in Commons on Haiti Bureau. She also noted the teachers and students were given an end of school year retreat to the beach and pool with stops at Haitian historical sites and statues.



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**Annual Parish Haiti Solidarity Gathering/Dinner Preparation**, Sun, Sept. 22, 2024: Patricia noted in honor of Sept. Haiti Solidarity Month, there will be a Parish Haiti Solidarity Gathering with a free dinner Sept. 24, from 4 to 530 pm in the Commons: **Speaker**—Tina Wandersee—Director of Social Ministry, Richmond Diocese. Attendees can bring fruit & dessert items, e.g., pumpkin bread, muffins, etc. **Entertainment**—musician Kiera on accordion/piano—TBC; **Raffle**—William to manage the raffle with 4 to 5 prizes; and **Decorations**—HTM members to donate small pumpkins, apples, autumn or magnolia leaves, pinecones, etc. Also, Brendan will lead a Novena to St. Joseph the Worker.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

Sun. June 30<sup>th</sup> | Father’s Day Haiti

Sat. July 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am-2:00 pm Indoor Sale Christmas in July, Frederic Huette Center, Ghent. Help needed/setup-cleanup.

Sat., July 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Ghent Antiques, Colley Ave. Toys, glassware, etc. Help needed/setup-cleanup.

September 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, Haiti Solidarity Weekend. Haiti Solidarity Novena Sept 12 to Sept 20, 2024.

Sun., September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Haiti Solidarity Dinner 4:00 pm-5:30 pm, Commons. POC Patricia, RSVP.

**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 Dinner) & Sept. (Haiti Solidarity Dinner); Scholarship & Teachers Endowments.

Next Meeting/Tues. Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>: light dinner 6:00 pm, meeting 6:30 pm-7:30, opening prayer William, closing prayer Patricia/all.

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

**POST MEETING NOTES:** Pen Pal Notes & Birthday/Greeting Cards: Please turn in notes for Fr. Fitho, Fr. Adelin, Fr. Jean-Carlo, Fr. Ady, Fr. Bernard, & Pen Pals to Francesca via email, [smithf236@verizon.net](mailto:smithf236@verizon.net), Jun. 20, Jul 20, Aug 20, 2024. Thanks to all who wrote notes in May & have already done so far in June. Fr. Fitho and Pen Pals appreciated the notes very much. Thank you, Susie, for preparing Birthday and Father’s Day cards this month. 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, We greet you from the bottom of our hearts. The beautiful 17th alliance between both our parishes continues with much gratitude on our part. We give thanks to the Lord for His blessings all these years. As you prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 7th, please know that we will be united with you in prayer throughout the Novena, May 29th - June 6th. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus, source of all graces, fill both our parishes with joy, love, and peace for an ever increasing and authentic testimony of Christian life. We stay together in prayer. Father Fitho JEAN, 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-yqqvqd/>

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



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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=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)

<b>JUNE   Father's Day, Exams, SH Novena, 2023-2024 HTM Impact</b>	
6/16/2002	Fr. Bernard's 22nd Ordi. Anniversary
6/11-	<b>Haiti Twinning Ministry:</b> Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm—Commons
*6/16-	US Father's Day (6/30 Haiti)   Memorial Mass Neil Walsh
6/19-	Juneteeth Day (End of Slavery in US)
6/7	Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (19 Days after Pentecost, on a Friday)
30-Jun	Haiti Father's Day
6/26/1999-	Fr. Ady Mytial's 25th Ordination Anniversary
6/27-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Feast Day
<b>July 2024   Lunch Fund/Sales</b>	
7/2-	Memorial Mass Neil Walsh
7/4-	<b>Independence Day USA</b>
July 6th, 2024	<b>Frederic Huette Center   Christmas in July Indoor Sale   9:00 am -2:00 pm</b>
7/15/2000-	24th Fr. Paul's Ordination Anniversary
<b>August 2024</b>	
<b>ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>	
8/1/2016-	Fr. Paul's 8th Anniversary at SH
8/14/21-	Memorial Anniversary Haiti Earthquake 2021, West part of Haiti
8/15-	<b>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
8/20-	Memorial Mass Neil Walsh
<b>September 2024</b>	
<b>HTM HAITI SOLIDARITY MONTH, THE DIGNITY &amp; THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS, SEASON OF CREATION</b>	
9/1-	Memorial Mass Ellen Renn, 11:00 am
*9/2-	<b>Labor Day</b>
9/2-TBC	School Resumes @ Fr. Jacques Block & Saint Gabriel
9/3-	<i>Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) Meetings Resume, 6:00 pm light dinner, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm-Commons</i>
9/3-	<i>Haiti Prayer Hour Zoom</i>
9/10-	<b><i>We remember Ellen Renn (2/16/62-9/10/17)</i></b>
9/9-	<b>Justice &amp; Peace Meetings Resume, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm-Commons Goals</b>
9/12-20	Parish Haiti Solidarity Novena to Saint Joseph the Worker, (Brendan), Prior to Solidarity Weekend
9/20-	Dessalines Feast Day   No School, Haiti
9/21-22-	Parish Haiti Solidarity Weekend (Prayer of the Faithful, Haiti Hymn/Cantor, Choir, Calendar of Activities in Bulletin, Announcement)



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Sun. 9/22-	<i>4:00 pm-5:30 pm HTM Update to Parish. Solidarity, dinner, live music, raffle, Speaker: Tina Wandersee, Director of Social Ministry Richmond Diocese -Commons   Parish Haiti Solidarity Dinner</i>
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