



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER
17TH YEAR IN TWINNING WITH SAINT GABRIEL PARISH
DECEMBER 2024 Edition 64th- 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.

Nou swete w yon Bon Ane ak Benediksyon pou Nouvo Ane | We wish you a Happy and Blessed New Year



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

I join my parishioners in wishing you and your family a blessed and happy New Year. May the Lord incarnate illuminate your homes and the world with continued acts of love and compassion. The students took their first term exams before Christmas and are now enjoying a well-deserved Christmas and New Year break. We also built a large hand washing sink on the playground.

We thank you for your prayers, your kind greetings, and for the gift of books for our upcoming school library. It will help with literacy for the young and research for our older students. We remain united in the Lord during this New Year.

Fr. Fitho, Pastor at St. Gabriel, Lascahobas, Haiti

23RD ANNUAL FAIR TRADE FESTIVAL 2024

FAIR TRADE PROMOTES RESPECT, DIVERSITY, AND FAIR WAGES FOR ALL WORKERS



Elation Brewing, 5104 Colley Ave. in Norfolk, Sat., Dec. 7th and Sun., Dec. 8th

As of tradition, the Haiti Twinning Ministry sale team participated in this festive event coordinated by Susan Posey and her team of volunteers. She said “This is the best party in Hampton Road. People can do their holiday shopping, enjoy live music, taste chocolate, eat good food, drink local beer, and meet friends.” We shared a table with Sowers of Justice who sold a variety of Divine chocolate. Also, nearby our friends from Holy Family Catholic Church sold [Peace Cycle](#) bags from recycling plastic bags collected in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Other vendors filled the room with various items: jewelry, scarves, jackets, hand soaps and creams, baskets, art, textiles, ornaments and many other merchandize. We sold 10 bags of Just Haiti coffee and have just ordered 60 fresh bags.

The total collected from the 2 sales of various items including costume jewelry, cat toys, and Haitian art and generous free donations was \$952 for the Teacher’s Endowment. This amount represents 9 months of a teacher’s salary.

This month we applaud our friends who made handmade items: cat toys, handbags, bath sponges, and jewelry.

Friends, thank you for having contributed to these past, present, and future sales. Together we are a true collaborative team.



COLLECTING FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF ST GABRIEL SCHOOL'S UPCOMING LIBRARY

Fr. Fitho will purchase the library books in Haiti which will help strengthen literacy at school and their economy.

ADVENT GIVING TREE
November 2nd - January 6th



A GOOD NUMBER OF BOOKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

2nd QUARTER IMPACT OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024 | GOALS MET

RELATIONSHIP	OPERATION COST (see pledge form)	SUSTAINABILITY INVESTMENT	ADMIN., FORMATION, FUND RAISERS
Pen pal notes/greeting cards: Ordinations Anniversaries, Birthdays, Christmas, Easter.	4 teachers' salary & 1 nurse/1 quarter	Micro-loans \$1,000/1 quarter Library books \$1,000	-Monthly Ministry & Admin. meetings -Social Teaching & Sustainability -Planning Annual Friends of Haiti Lunch 3/29/25
Bi-weekly WhatsApp phone calls/meetings/ Fr. Fitho	Lunch for 8 students/ 1 quarter	Goat x 1/ 1 quarter	Monthly newsletters, short lessons in H. Creole, book study: Lambi's Call Breaking the Chains Dr. T. Fame
Bi-weekly texts/ Fr. Adelin Monthly texts/2 School Heads: M. Fritz André & M. Ernst Vincent	20 scholarships (\$275 annually) + 1 scholarship (\$410/Teacher College) paid before school year	Scholarship (2010) & Teachers (2022) Endowments	Website updated https://sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/ 2 Yard Sales (8), Small Change Collection
	Medical assistance \$300/ 1 quarter		9/22/24, Parish Solidarity Presentation/Dinner/Raffle

We thank you for your continued prayers for a return to peace with justice in Haiti and for your support of the school. While their challenges are numerous, the school community continues to grow with close to 700 students this year.

CALENDAR DATES

Monthly meetings | Sacred Heart Church, Commons —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, a way to a better life.

-Jan. 14th, 2025, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

-February 11th, 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 Text: (757) 621-1860

Brendan Pigott, Assistant Chair

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