



2024 Year of Prayer leading to 2025 Jubilee Year

**2024-2025 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.

[Haiti Ministry Website](#)

[Office Social Ministry Richmond Diocese Website](#)

**Tuesday, December 10<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 SECOND QUARTER (OCTOBER-DECEMBER)

**Present:** Patricia Britz, William Wallace, Christine Hoppe, and Francesca Smith

Patricia welcomed and thanked the attendees. The goals of this last meeting in the calendar year, are to share fellowship, news from SH and SG, learn Haitian Creole, reflect on Dr. Tom Fame’s book, and go over the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter actions in supporting SG. She thanked Christine for reading our prayer intentions, Francesca for the soup, Allan for the bread, & William for the fruit/nut/candy treats.

**Prayer intentions:** Bishop Knestout, Bishop Jean /Hinche Diocese, Fr. Paul, Fr. Fitho/SG, the sick, elderly, souls of our beloved departed: Ellen Renn, Neil Walsh, Nicolas Valcour, Gar Housler, & Eileen Powell, students, teachers, families, & administrators here and at SG. We pray for friends who had a part in this ministry and continue supporting it: Pat W., Laura H., Silver & Frances I., Diane C., Dee M., Ed M., Frank D., Connie K., Carrie W., Carol B., Stephanie, Aunt Regina L. & others. Peace with Justice in Haiti, and in the world.

**Opening Prayer:** Attendees said Haitian Sign of the Cross & William read, “Loving God” by Fr. Bernard.

**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 for Neil at 1 of the 11 am Sun. Masses. The next Masses in memory of Neil are at 11 am Masses, Jan 5 (2025), and Mar 16 (2025), and of Nicolas Valcour, Feb 16

**Sharing:** This Advent I am Preparing for Jesus’ Coming this Way with Family & Ministry. Attendees shared their preparations: be with family, decorate, pray for SG, donate to the Advent Giving Tree for St. Gabriel School Library books, slow down to enjoy the season, serve at Christmas Eve Mass, prepare special dinner, etc.

**NEW—Dec. Good News from Both Parishes:** William shared the good news: several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish & St. Gabriel Parish & HTM membership anniversaries; **12/5/2024**—7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Richmond Diocese Announced New Bishop—Barry C. Knestout Installation—1/12/18 & 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SG Stationery Shop opened in 2020; **12/6/2024**—St. Nicholas Feast Day (Bishop); **12/9/2024**—Feast of the Immaculate Conception; **12/11/2024**—Bishop Sullivan’s Memorial—6/10/28-12/11/12 (Started Twinning with Diocese of Hinche); **12/12/2024**—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; **12/17/2024**—Pope Francis’ Birthday; **12/25/2024**—Nativity of Our Lord; and **11/2/2024-1/5/2025**—SH Social Ministry Advent Giving Tree. SG students take 1<sup>st</sup> QTR exams—Dec. 2024 Christmas break is—Dec. 23-Jan 2, 2025. 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR starts Jan 2, 2025. Pictures of St Gabriel new outdoor sink on Playground for washing hands, St Gabriel School, teachers, students, etc. were shown.

**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. Attendees reviewed common phrases.

**2024—The Lambi’s Call, Breaking the Chains** by Dr. Tom Fame, Chapters 19-21 & Epilogue: Francesca read the following questions from Brendan and reflection from attendees followed.

1. In Chapter 19, page 302, Tom discusses the idea of “do something” versus “work with people.” What are your thoughts on Tom’s commentary here?
2. At the beginning of Chapter 20, Tom discusses what led him to his work in Haiti. After reading this book and reflecting on your time with HTM, what compels you to continue in this ministry?



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

**2024-2025 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.

[Haiti Ministry Website](#)

[Office Social Ministry Richmond Diocese Website](#)

3. Please provide your closing thoughts based on Chapter 21 and the Epilogue. Does anything Tom mentions in these closing pages resonate with you?

**Action:** 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 at Sacred Heart Cabestor.

**November–December Calendar:** William reviewed the calendar. See end of minutes.

**UPDATES:**

- **Haiti Partnership Support Team:** Patricia noted there are 3 Haiti Partnership Support Teams: Haiti Health Support Team, Educational Support Team, and the Haiti Partnership Support Team in addition to the Haiti Commission USA. The Diocese Social Ministry is collecting all documentation from the Twinning Parishes to understand their covenant, mission, goals, plans, accomplishments, etc.
- **First Fiscal Quarter Impact July-Sept. 2024:** Patricia noted the fiscal goals were met.
- **Advent Giving Tree (AGT).** Francesca noted AGT started on Nov 2/3 at all three Masses. Donations for St. Gabriel Library Books (New 1<sup>st</sup> School Library) are due by Epiphany Sun., Jan 5, 2025. **One third of the AGT goal (45 of 120 books) has been donated/pledged. All donations are accepted including cash donations (please put in envelope designating the AGT St. Gabriel School Library Books).** Please see bulletins/TV in Commons/display with Virtual Link/QR Code to pledge and pay for your donation. **POC is Pam Housler, who asks for volunteers to staff the AGT Table in the Commons after all 3 Masses through Dec 29, 2024. Thank you for your generosity to the St. Gabriel School Library Books.**
- **Haiti Prayer Hour Zoom (Haiti Religious), Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 8:00 am:** Francesca noted it is on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month at 8 am. Patricia (Collaborative Team with Mary Ann Collins & Mike Kassel) is the POC. The focus for Dec 3 was Haiti Religious. Attendees shared prayers and updates.
- **Haiti Ministry** (all you wish to know about twinning from Diocese & Parish): <https://Office > Haiti Ministry - Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond> : Patricia shared the Richmond Diocese link has the latest information on Haiti and twinning. She also reviewed the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace/Haiti link. <http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministri/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/>
- **Fair Trade Sales on Nov 16, & Dec 7 & 8:** William shared the sales went very well. The funds collected will pay a teacher's salary for 9 months. The tables were indoors at Elation, a very nice adult/family place to enjoy pizza/sandwiches with wine/beer, & entertainment.

**NEW**

- St. Gabriel School Life 2024-2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (see school calendar): Patricia reviewed the school calendar. See attachment.
- December Birthday cards: [Thank you Susie](#) for preparing Birthday and other greeting cards.



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

2024 Year of Prayer leading to 2025 Jubilee Year

**2024-2025 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.

[Haiti Ministry Website](#)

[Office Social Ministry Richmond Diocese Website](#)

- Christmas Pen Pal Notes: Please turn in Christmas cards/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), by Dec. 20, 2024. Thanks to all who wrote notes in Nov. & have already done so far in Dec. **Fr. Fitho and Pen Pals appreciated the notes very much.** 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) and Pope Francis’ 2024 Year of Prayer in Preparation of the 2025 Jubilee Year.

**FY 2024-2025 FUND RAISERS TO BENEFIT ST GABRIEL SCHOOL**

Newsletters, Yard Sales, Advent Giving Tree, Donations, In Honor/Memory Donations, Small Change Collection, May & Sept. Gatherings (raffle/Teachers Endowments.)

**SAVE THE DATE:** Next Haiti Sale in Feb 2025—TBD.

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

Jan. 14 (Tuesday), light dinner (Patricia/soup, fruit/William, Francesca/bread) 6:00 pm, meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Feb. 11 (Tuesday), light dinner (William/Chili/soup, fruit/Patricia, Francesca/bread) 6:00 pm, meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

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

DECEMBER 2024 (Books for New Library, St Gabriel Students)	
Dec. 1-	Neil Walsh’s Memorial Mass 11:00 am
Dec. 7-	Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 8:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley)
Dec. 8-	Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 5:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley)   Neil Walsh's Memorial Mass 11:00 am
12/2-	Justice & Peace Annual Advent Potluck Dinner 6:00 pm-7:30 pm
Dec.	J&P Advent Giving Tree, until Epiphany for St. Gabriel's Children (all gifts returned for Eastern Shore 12/8)
Tues. Dec. 10-	Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm-Commons
Sun. Dec. 25	Nativity of Our Lord
JANUARY 2025	
Jan. 1	1804 Haiti Independence Day, Solemnity of the Holy Virgin Mary
Sun. 1/5	Epiphany of our Lord   Neil Walsh's Memorial Mass 11:00 am
Mon. Jan. 6	J&P Meeting Book Study: A Theology of Migration Guest Speaker: Tina Wandersee OSM Director
Tues. Jan 14	Haiti Twinning Ministry: Light Dinner (Victory Soup) 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm—Commons
12 Jan.	The Baptism of our Lord
27-31 Jan.	SG School Exams 2nd quarter

**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), Dec 20. Thanks to all who wrote notes in Nov & have already done so far in Dec. Fr. Fitho and Pen Pals appreciated the notes very much. Thank you, Susie, for preparing Birthday 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.



2024 Year of Prayer leading to 2025 Jubilee Year

**2024-2025 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.

[Haiti Ministry Website](#)

[Office Social Ministry Richmond Diocese Website](#)



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

*Dear Fr. Paul, friends of the Sacred Heart, and the community,*

*I join my parishioners in wishing you and your families a blessed Thanksgiving. The students at St. Gabriel High School and Middle School, and at Fr. Block Lower School (2 schools in 1) will be completing the 1<sup>st</sup> term after taking exams the last week of this month. We thank the Lord for our 17<sup>th</sup> year in twinning relationship. We also thank you for collecting funds for our school library. It will help with an improved education.*

*We keep you in prayer and ask you, please to keep us in yours. May we remain united in the Lord during the upcoming Advent season.*

*Fr. Fitho, Pastor at St. 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=6079980\\_83156281\\_503&mid=C19D01E3A7A0202D78EAC19D01E3A7A0202D78EA&view=detail&FORM=VIRE](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+dignified+life+throuhg+work+catholic+socila+teaching&docid=6079980_83156281_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)

Links to Jubilee Year:

<https://www.ewtnvatican.com/articles/pope-francis-proclaims-2025-jubilee-papal-bull-hope-does-not-disappoint-2609>

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2022-01/jubilee-year-2025-motto-archbishop-fisichella-new-evangelization.html>

