



Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes

17th 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](#)

Tuesday, November 12th, 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 meeting are to pray for Bishop Knestout, Bishop Jean/Hinche Diocese, Fr. Paul, Fr. Fitho/SG, the sick, elders, 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 have had a part in this ministry and continue supporting it: Silver & Frances I., Diane C., Dee M., Pat W., Ed M., Frank D., Connie K., Carrie W., Carol B., Frank D., Frank M., Stephanie, & others. Peace with Justice in Haiti, and the world. She thanked Francesca for the soup & bread, & William for the fruit/pastry.

Opening Prayer: Attendees said Haitian Sign of the Cross & William read, “A Prayer of Thanksgiving” (Ralph Waldo Emerson). Prayer Intentions: please see above.

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, Nov 10, Dec 1, and Jan 5 (2025).

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 16-18: William read the the following questions from Brendan and reflection from attendees followed.

1. Chapter 16, Tom recounts a tense meeting with the Bishop of Hinche. What is your take on this episode? Is there more than meets the eye?
2. Chapter 17, Tom and his team continue to discuss the encounter with the Bishop of Hinche. They find a way to carry out their project! What do you think of this course of action? Would you have done it that way?
3. Chapter 18, Tom talks about a volunteer coming to Haiti with “western eyes.” How did her stay go with that perspective? Was it warranted? Could anything have been done differently?

Action: Please read Chapters 19-21, and Epilogue for the Dec 10, 2024 meeting. Brendan will email the reflection questions 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 Haiti Ministry at Sacred Heart Cabestor.

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

UPDATES:

- **9/21/24 Diocesan Haiti Twinning Gathering, Charlottesville:** William complimented the gathering’s presentations, breakout sessions, Tina Waldersee’s session on Synodality, and organization. Francesca noted the following Breakout Sessions were positively received by the attendees: Sustainability, Synodality (attentive listening), Solidarity, Fonkoze, Covenant Agreements, and Healthcare Initiatives.
- **First Quarter Impact July-Sept. 2024:** Patricia noted the goal was met and the wire transfer was sent in Oct.



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- **Haiti Prayer Hour Zoom (parents), Nov. 12th @ 8:00 am:** William noted it is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month at 8 am. Patricia (Collaborative Team) is the POC. The focus for Nov 12 was St Joseph, work, & employment. Attendees shared prayers and updates.
- [Office > Haiti Ministry - Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond](#) (all you wish to know about twinning): 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/>

NEW: November GOOD NEWS from Both Parishes: William shared the good news: several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) & St. Gabriel Parish (SGP); **11/1/2024**—All Saints’ Day; **11/2/2024**—All Souls’ Day; **11/3/2024**—Sacred Heart Parish 130th Anniversary; **11/11/2024**--Veterans Day/Armistice Day WWI; **11/18/2024**—**1803 Commemoration of Battle of Vertiere (Haiti)**; **11/21/2024**—Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary to the Temple; **11/16/2024** Jean Bedel’s Ordination; **11/17/2024** Fr. Adelin (Fr Fitho’s Assistant) celebrates his 6th Anni. Of Ordination; **11/3/2024**—*Advent Giving Tree starts; **11/2/2024**—Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe; and **11/28/2024**—Thanksgiving. Students take exams for the 1st semester last week of Nov. **Nov is Black Catholic History Month. Pictures shown:** Fr Fitho, his assistants, Heads of School, and all 3 school levels.

October GOOD NEWS from Both Parishes: William shared there were several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) & St. Gabriel Parish (SGP); **10/1/2024**—3rd Anniversary SG Pre-School/Kindergarten (3-5 yrs) started, Dedication of Opening of SG School—12th Anniversary, and Nigeria’s National Day (1960); **10/4/2024**—St. Francis of Assisi’s Feast Day; **10/7/2024**—Solemnity of Our Lady of the Rosary; **10/10/2024**—4th Anniversary of Carlo Acutis (St of Internet) was beatified by Pope Francis in Assisi; **10/11/2024**—St Pope John XXIII; **10/15/2024**—St Teresa of Avila’s Feast Day; and **10/16/1978**—Karol Jozef Wojtyla (St. John Paul II) elected Pope; and **10/17/2024**—St. Ignatius of Antioch’s Feast Day. Pre-School & Kindergarten (Parish Community Center) and SG School (2 schools in 1) 2024-2025 school year on track to complete 1st semester 2024-2025 school year--(Pre-School (3 & 4) and Kindergarten (5) Parish Community Center, Fr. Jacques Bloch Lower School (1-6), and SG Middle & High School (7-13); HTM has pictures of all three school levels.

The Battle of Vertières Day on Nov 18: William noted it is holiday of their freedom in Haiti.

St. Gabriel School 2024-2025: See school calendar attached: POC is Patricia

Advent Giving Tree* (AGT): Francesca noted Advent Giving Tree started on Nov 2/3 at all three Masses. Donations for the St. Gabriel Library Books are due by Tuesday, Dec 24, 2024, 4th Sunday of Advent on Dec 22, or by Epiphany Sunday, Jan 5, 2025. Please see bulletin/TV in Commons/display with Virtual Link/QR Code to pledge and pay for your donation. Gifts for the Eastern Shore Migrant children also started by signing up on link/QR Code. All wrapped gifts with child’s name, etc. must be returned by Dec 8, 2024. See Display in Commons for more information. **POC is Pam Housler who asks for volunteers to staff the AGT Table in the Commons after all 3 Masses through Dec 22, 2024.**

Nov. 16th, & Dec. 7th & 8th Sales: Patricia noted the HTM Yard Sale is on Nov 16, Cherie’s Front Yard. The next sale is at the Fair Trade Sale at Elation Brewing on Colley Ave, on Dec 7th & 8th. See attached flyers for both sales. POC is Patricia.

Christmas Pen Pal Notes: Francesca noted that Christmas Pen Pal notes or cards are due by November 20, 2024 via email to her or place in Haiti Box by Blow Street. **Topics:** School Year 1st semester ending in Nov; Pen Pal birthday or Fr. Fitho; remembering Fr Fitho, parishioners, students, etc. during Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year’s Day, by praying for them, etc. Writing a note is in keeping with the theme of Matthew Kelly’s book, Holy Moments, and Best Lent Ever Theme



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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, Free Will Donations, In Honor/Memory Donations, Small Change Collection, May & Sept. Gatherings (raffle/Scholarship & Teacher Endowments.)

NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday: Dec. 10, light dinner (Francesca/soup & bread, Anna/fruit) 6:00 pm, meeting 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

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

SAVE THE DATES

11/16/24 Fall Yard Sale | Cherie's front yard

12/2/24 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Annual J&P Advent Potluck Party, Commons

12/7/24 Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 8:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley Ave.)

12/8/24 Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 5:00 pm (Elation Brewing/Colley Ave.)

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

NOVEMBER, 2024

FOOD SECURITY, BLACK CATHOLICS

11/1-	All Saints Day No School, Haiti
11/2-	Advent Giving Tree Table Set Up (children Eastern Shore & St. Gabriel/Haiti) Collection Eastern Shore 11/2-12)
11/2-	All Souls' Day No School, Haiti
11/2-	Justice & Peace Meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm, Commons
11/12-	<i>Haiti Prayer Hour Zoom Parents, for all 37 twin parishes</i>
11/11	Veterans Day
11/12-	<i>Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) 6:00 pm light dinner, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Commons</i>
11/10-	Memorial Mass Neil Walsh, 11:00 am Mass
11/18/1803	Battle of Vertières No School in Haiti
11/25-29	Saint Gabriel 1 st Term Exams
Nov. 30-Dec.22	Advent
11/27 & 28-	Thanksgiving Eve & Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER, 2024

CHARITY, PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR & VULNERABLE, AGT

Nov. 30-Dec.22	Advent
12/2-In Lieu of Meeting	Justice & Peace Advent Gathering/Dinner, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm, (all members of J&P ministries, family & friends & community partners are welcome)
12/3-	<i>Haiti Prayer Hour Zoom for all 37 twin parishes</i>
12/7&8-	Fair-Trade Festival 11:00 am - 8:00 pm & 11:00 am - 5:00 pm (HTM Joins Tidewater Sowers of Justice) Elation Brewing/Colley Ave.
12/1	Memorial Mass Neil Walsh
12/7&8	Advent Giving Tree (Last day for Eastern Shore) Sign-Up AGT (St. Gabriel's Children)
12/2-In Lieu of Meeting	Justice & Peace Advent Gathering/Potluck Dinner, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm, (all members of J&P ministries, family & friends & community partners)
12/10-	<i>Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) 6:00 pm light dinner, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Commons</i>



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12/8-	Return All Gifts for Eastern Shore Children
12/10-	Pick up Eastern Shore Gifts for Children
12/14&15	Sign-Up AGT (St. Gabriel's Children) Donations accepted until Epiphany
12/21&22	Sign-Up AGT (St. Gabriel's Children) Donations accepted until Epiphany
12/22-	Take down table After Mass
12/25-Wed.	Nativity of Our Lord

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, Nov 20, 2024 & Dec 18. Thanks to all who wrote notes in Oct & have already done so far in Nov. 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.

September Haiti Solidarity Month Schedule: Francesca noted SH HTM joined with the Diocese of Richmond in celebrating Haiti Solidarity Month. Sept. is Solidarity Month at both SH and SG. “The Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Solidarity (#6) is about recognizing others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good.” (Caritas.org). We are all part of the body (See Solidarity above). SH HTM & Parish completed the following:

- Write/Pray for pen pals, students, teachers, Fr. Fitho, Fr. Jean-Carlo, Fr. Adelin: Francesca/All. See Pen Pal Note below. Completed.
- 9/3 HTM Meeting, Solidarity formation video and reflection: Francesca—completed.
- 9/12-20 Parish Novena to St. Joseph the Worker, 9 days before Solidarity Weekend/Prayer Chain: Brendan/Susan Daniel/All, completed.
- 9/21 Diocesan Haiti Twinning Gathering, Charlottesville: POC Patricia. Completed. Enjoyed by attendees.
- 9/22 HTM Hosts Parish Gathering/Presentation/Theme-Accompany Our Brothers & Sisters-Tina Wandersee, Director of Social Ministry/Diocese of Richmond /Free Dinner/Raffle (Teachers), 4:00 pm-5:30 pm | Set up 2:30 pm. Completed. Delicious dinner (Dan Doyle), conversation, raffle, presentation (Tina Wandersee), music (Kiera), and fall decorations. Enjoyed by attendees.
- 9/21-22 Parish Solidarity Weekend (bulletin/CC flyer, calendar of activities, Haitian hymn, prayer of the faithful, altar announcement before Masses). Completed.



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 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*



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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=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)

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>

