



Goat Donation Becomes a Self Sustaining Project for St. Gabriel, Haiti

Goats will multiply on the farm.

December 12th, 2010

Terry Kelly, a member of the Sacred Heart Church, started a Goat Giving Program in July 2008 to benefit the children at our twin parish, Saint Gabriel, Lascahobas, Haiti. Since then, she has collected funds for 147 goats. She often donates goats in honor of a member of her family and for her friends for a birthday, an anniversary, a wedding, or a baptism. Goats have also been donated in memory of a loved one by parishioners and members of the community. A young student at Saint Patrick's created and showed a PowerPoint presentation to her family on the benefits of donating goats to the children in Haiti. Her enthusiasm inspired her family to donate six goats in her honor for Christmas. A generous grandfather donated three goats in honor of his three grand-children and a fourth for his yet to be born baby grand-child. The kindergarten and first grade religious education classes at Sacred Heart donated one goat. Also, The Williams School, Saint Patrick's School, First Presbyterian Church Pre-School and other schools have kindly donated goats. The stories of solidarity for the children in Haiti are inspiring. Fr. Bernard, pastor at Saint Gabriel thanks each person who has donated goats to his parish.

In the summer of 2009 Fr. Bernard wanted this flourishing program to become self sustaining. He suggested planning a goat breeding farm that would help feed the students and unschooled children in the parish cafeteria. The Haiti Twinning Ministry wrote a grant matching proposal to the Sustainable Development Committee of the Diocese of Richmond. The Haiti Commission awarded Fr. Bernard with a \$5,000 matching grant from the Battaglia Fund to start the farm. He organized a team of local workers to build a wire fence, the goat keeper's humble hut, and a goat shelter. The Haiti Fall Sales at Sacred Heart and the community that year provided funds to purchase the land on which the farm is located.

This summer, Fr. Bernard showed the Sacred Heart pilgrims the goat breeding park, a spacious and lush piece of land located in the hills. The goat keeper Mr. Garnier came to greet the group and brought them a few of the goats grazing on the farm. One of the goats had a kid at her side. "Goats will multiply on the farm" said Fr. Bernard "We will keep about 50 goats before giving some to families in need and sell the rest on the nearby market to use the much needed cash to purchase food for the parish cafeteria." Goats often have two to three kids a year. Seeing the success of this first sustainable goat breeding farm, Fr. Bernard plans on building a similar farm for another of his missionary schools.

What can we do? Our goal this year is to find donors for one hundred goats. A goat is purchased at \$60 in the local Lascahobas market. **100% of your donation goes directly to the program since this ministry is blessed with generous volunteers and sponsors.** Also donations are entirely tax deductible. If you feel a Call to Service and wish to donate a goat, please write your check to Sacred Heart Church and add "*Kids for Kids*" for St. Gabriel on the memo line. Thank you for your continued love and care for the children at Saint Gabriel. Together we continue praying for our Family in Haiti.

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