



## St. Gabriel and Sacred Heart Scholarship Program, Lascahobas, Haiti

Reviewed 1/15/16



In 2007, Sacred Heart Parish entered into a twinning relationship with Saint Gabriel Parish in Lascahobas, situated in the Central Plateau of Haiti, close to the Dominican Republic. Pilgrims from Sacred Heart regularly visit Father Ady Mytial, Pastor at St. Gabriel and the parishioners. They experience a growing, mutual and loving relationship, and the need for sustained mutual support. Because of these frequent pilgrimages, they are able to explain to Fr. Dan Klem, Pastor at Sacred Heart Church, the parishioners and the community, the fruits of this relationship and the combined efforts of both parishes in supporting the most vulnerable part of the parish community.

In August, 2010, Fr. Bernard Desras informed Fr. Dan Klem of his vision to build a school to provide education beyond the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Thanks to a St. Gabriel parishioner who donated a piece of land, and local workers who donated their time in exchange for a bowl of rice and beans, he started the construction of the school which has thirteen classrooms with about 425 students from 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and 7<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> grades. Each year he will add one grade. The school opened in October 2011. He asked Sacred Heart and the larger community for their support in developing a **Scholarship Program**. His vision was to eventually provide three scholarships per class per year. This year we're able to support his vision with 20 scholarships. Sacred Heart has established a Tax Exempt Trust Fund, which will eventually have sufficient principal to provide income for the children. Each year, the Scholarship Selection Committee from St. Gabriel meets and selects deserving students for an annual \$275 scholarship. Each year, the scholarship recipients write a note to Mrs. Regina LeMay, who started this fund, to thank her for her generosity. The students say they work harder at their studies because someone cares for them, and this scholarship will help their families send one other child to school.

Fr. Ady has established selection criteria and involves the school principal, Mr. Fritz André, to select the deserving students when funds allow; one being the highest performer, a second the hardest worker, and a third the one in most need. These criteria are designed to both reward and motivate students, while providing much needed financial support to their families.

**What can you do?** Become a donor and help find others to contribute to the Scholarship Program for St. Gabriel. It costs \$275 each year to send a student to St. Gabriel School. **100% of every donation goes directly to the program since this ministry is blessed with generous volunteers and sponsors.** Donations are entirely tax deductible. If you feel a **Call to Service** and wish to help one or more of these children, please write your check to Sacred Heart Church and add "St. Gabriel Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. For online giving, go to <http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/>, click on the "Giving" tab, then click "online giving". Under "designate fund amount", scroll down to Haiti: Scholarship and indicate the amount.

For more information please contact:

Patricia Britz  
Haiti Twinning Ministry Chair  
Tel: 757-625-4644  
patprovence1@yahoo.com

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