



**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes



*“Souple join us as we continue our Spiritual Journey and share the good news.”*  
**2016-2017 School Lunch Program**

**JOINT VISION**

God has called both Sacred Heart and Saint Gabriel parishes to a unique relationship based on spirituality, solidarity, and equal and mutual partnership. We accompany one another with respect, and deep listening, towards a fuller love, compassion, and healing. By getting to know one another, we become one in Jesus Christ.

**Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Members Present:** Patricia, Neil, Pat, Rebecca, Silver, Mike, Brendan, Tim, Susie, Susan V., and Francesca  
**Guests:** Fr. Paul Muyimbwa, Connie Kean, Raynald David, Tony Mentasana, Paul and Barbara Clancy

**Blessing & Simple Dinner:** Brendan—soup, Neil—bread, Brittney Scarf—birthday cake for Pat Walsh

**Welcome, Thank You, and Goals** (Continuing Relationships): Patricia **Introductions:** All **Opening Prayer:** Silver  
**Prayer Intentions** from SH Bulletin Parish Service Members/Pastoral Care and Personal: All

**M’Pale Kreyol:** Mesi Bondye (After Supper Thanksgiving Prayer)—Neil and All

**Pilgrims’ Stories and Pictures—16<sup>th</sup> Pilgrimage to St. Gabriel on March 2-10, 2017:** Patricia and Neil shared many pictures and experiences.

Patricia noted they arrived at the beginning of Lent, participated in the Feast of St. Gabriel Novena, were received with wonderful hospitality, and Father Ady was deeply grateful for the gifts of rosaries and Our Lady of Fatima prayer cards and large picture. Her spiritual experience included: Daily Mass at 6 AM, Stations of the Cross for two hours, Vigil by SH members, the visit starting and ending with blessings from Father Paul and Father Ady, participation in choir rehearsals, and PM reflection. Her friendship experience included: visits with most Pen Pals and delivery of letters, spoke Creole and learned some, met new Mayor, met new Bishop, met with Father Facius who works on the Rectory Garden and Vineyard, and met with the Deacon who is waiting to go to do final years in Port au Prince or Europe.

Neil spoke on Equal Partnerships and the true measure of success of any global solidarity partnership is not how many wells were dug or clinics held but whether the capacity of the local community to lead its own development is strengthened. The goal of any partnership should lead to sustainable developments, according to needs of the local Church, and should be designed to reduce the need for outside help. Distribution of article Conference Episcopal d’Haiti/Partners in Mission. Before SH committed to any projects, we always asked: how is Haitian leadership being respected and promoted from the beginning of any initiative; are skills being developed that would allow Haitians to manage this project and similar projects in the future; and is local decision-making and leadership being supported? Neil also noted the Haitians have talent and abilities to do many things—they just lack financial resources and he shared the list of projects they have accomplished: school (will have grades 1<sup>st</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> next year), school clinic, cistern storage building on campus (20K gallons), and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the cafeteria building. **Fr. Ady invited the pilgrims to the inauguration of the cafeteria.**

**Good News:** Silver shared the good news from both parishes:

- There were several birthdays in March at SHP and SGP.
- 3/1/2017—Feast of the Dedication of St. Gabriel School—4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Feast of the Dedication of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School--3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary.
- 3/25/2017—St. Gabriel Feast Day (Novena).
- 3/30/2017—10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SH Letter of Commitment to Bishop Dilorenzo.

**SHINE (March 31 - April 1):** Neil talked about the Social Ministry Summit hosted by the Diocese of Richmond at the Cultural Arts Center at Glenn Allen. They will have 12 workshops throughout the days. The Bishop of Hinche, Haiti Most Reverend Desinord Jean, will lead the Haiti Ministry workshop. Contact Neil or sign up online at [regonline.com](http://regonline.com) if you wish to attend. Thus far, Susan V. and Patricia have signed up.

**Stations of the Cross in Solidarity with Haiti:** Francesca reminded everyone the Stations of the Cross will be held at Sacred Heart on Friday April 7, 2017 at 6:00 pm. She passed the signup sheet for volunteers to read at one of the stations. Thank you to Michael, Susie, Rebecca, Connie, and Silver for volunteering to read. If you would like to read at one of the stations, please contact Francesca. A simple dinner will follow the stations. Patricia and Connie will bring the soup & the bread respectively for about 20.



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**10th Parish HTM Twinning Anniversary on Sun., May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 5 to 7 PM:** Patricia reminded everyone of the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Twinning. It will be dedicated to Bishop Sullivan who started the Haiti Ministry Program in our Diocese. The Planning Committee for this event is: Neil, Silver, Laura, Patricia, and Susan V. The Hospitality Committee is: Neil, Laura, Francesca, Susie and Tim. Brendan has created a SH and SG 10 year in twinning Timeline. There will be some hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. The speakers will be: Kathleen Kenney, Teresa Stanley (Bishop Sullivan), Kathy Dowdy (Education) and Neil (St. Gabriel.)

**Announcements:**

- 2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal, pledge envelopes are due this weekend, March 18 & 19, 2017. There will be a second collection at all three masses for the pledge envelopes. Neil explained the importance of donating to this annual appeal. The pledge envelopes are at church in the pews and Commons. They were also mailed to all SH parishioners.
- Operation Rice Bowl receives donations through Lent and about two to three weeks after Easter Sunday to help the poor in 6 countries. Neil asked everyone to please consider donating. Information is available in the SH Commons or contact Neil.

**Closing Prayers from God is No Stranger:** Silver in English and Neil in Creole.

**Next Meetings**

Wed. April 12, Wed. May 10, Wed. June 7

Mass 5:30 pm (check bulletin), Simple Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm-8:00 pm—Guests are welcome!