



Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes



“Souple join us as we continue our Spiritual Journey and share the good news.”
2017-2018--Education-Second Story Cafeteria Building-Three Classrooms

Joint Vision

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

Tuesday, January 23rd, 2018

Members present: Patricia, Neil, Mike, Silver, Susie, Brendan, and Francesca

Guests: William Wallace, and Victoria Kearney; both have completed the Haiti Twinning Ministry training!

Blessing & Simple Dinner: Susie—soup, Brendan—bread

Welcome and Thank You: Patricia **Opening Prayer:** Neil **Haiti Twinning Ministry Vision:** Mike **Introductions:** All

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

- There were several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) and St. Gabriel Parish (SGP).
- 1/1/18—Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God
- 1/7/18—The Epiphany of the Lord
- 1/12/18—Diocese of Richmond Installation of New Bishop--Barry C. Knestout.
- 1/20-27/18—Silent Auction for 9th Annual Haiti Cultural Dinner starts
- 1/25-29/18—Fr. Ady Mytial's Visit at Sacred Heart
- 1/27/18—9th Annual Haiti Cultural Dinner
- 1/30/18—Father Paul's Birthday
- 1/31/18—Bishop Barry Knestout to celebrate Mass at St. Pius X Church in Norfolk

Sept. Letters of Solicitation in & out of Parish: Patricia provided the following status as of 1/12/18 to the Letters of Solicitation: 59 Letters were sent (20 out of parish/1/3) and there were 20 replies (11 out of parish/about 1/2.) It provided some funds for: Scholarship Fund (Education), Food Fund, Teacher (Jobs) Fund, Medical Fund, Cafeteria Bldg. (Jobs) Fund, Furniture (Jobs) Fund. Last year 6 replies arrived after January 1st.

M' Pale Kreyol—I Speak Creole: Silver and All. Together we continue learning Haitian Creole.

Kim Lamberty's Article/The Art of Accompaniment: Neil noted Kim Lamberty works for the Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore, Maryland and is the Head of the Haiti Unit. Brendan noted the article provides an excellent overview of Pope Francis' vision for solidarity and Catholic Relief Service's response through Integral Human Development. He led the discussion with the following two questions:

- Pope Francis calls for solidarity with the poor and not just establishing welfare programs to alleviate their pain in the short-term. Although the twinning program with St. Gabriel's is one example of a relationship based on solidarity, how else can we live in solidarity with the poor? What do the poor of Norfolk teach us in our daily walk with Christ?
- What are your thoughts concerning the three main points of Integral Human Development (IHD) found on page 8 of the article (Relationships are primary and precede projects; focus on assets, not problems; through dialogue and planning, develop a long-term strategy that aims at improved, sustainable livelihoods)? How well do these points fall in line with our mission in HTM? Is anything missing or unclear?

Highlights from first 8 pages of The Art of Accompaniment (by Kim Lamberty, CRS, USA and Just Haiti, Inc. USA & Haiti Missiology: An International Review copyright The Authors 2014):

- Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*—Jesus evangelizing work as proclaiming the Kingdom of God—Key to salvation and involves liberation “from everything that oppresses”.
- 2007 Aparecida 5th General Conference of Bishops of Latin America and Caribbean: Mission involves witness to the transforming power of Life in Christ and involves movement of the poor toward integral liberation, humanization, reconciliation, and involvement in society.
- Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*—New apostolic exhortation, each individual Christian is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be part of society.
- CRS—Integral Human Development: Based on love and friendship, moving beyond charitable aid to ensure subsistence, not promoting welfare projects—instead address structural causes of poverty, and practice solidarity and have option for poor to be included in community.
- Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progresso*—Promotes the good of every person and the whole person; it is cultural, economic, political, social, and spiritual; and money alone does not work.



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Brendan noted that at the next meeting the discussion will be on the remaining pages of Kim Lamberty’s article and he will email the questions to the HTM members.

Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team (NEST): Neil announced that SH will host NEST from 2/14 to 2/21/2018. Volunteers are needed. Please see the SH Bulletin and the Sacred Heart Church Norfolk web site: www.sacredheartnorfolk.org and <http://signup.com/go/UPRCHEM>. If you have any questions, please contact Neil.

9th Parish Haiti Cultural Dinner, Sat. Jan. 27, 2018: Nicolas is the Chair of the Planning Committee. Neil, Silver and Patricia shared the planning is going well and provided the following:

- **Hospitality, Program for Fr. Ady & Dinner Entertainment:** Neil noted Fr. Ady will arrive late on 1/25. If you are interested in helping with hospitality (taking him out to eat, touring, shopping etc.), please contact Neil. Also, there will be a small pizza dinner on Fri. at SH, 6 PM to 7 PM and a potluck at the Kelly’s home on Sunday at 1 PM. If you would like to assist with the small dinner, please contact Patricia. On Sat. Fr. Ady will co- celebrate at the 5:30 PM Mass with Father Paul and the Sun. Masses. Neil noted there will be dancers from the Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, and Chris Palestrant will play piano background music for the dinner.
- **Set Up & Decoration:** Silver noted that he and Frances have a team of volunteers to help with set up and decorations. Set up starts 1/26/18, 3:00 pm-6:00 pm and will finish on 1/27/18, 9 am to 11 am and 2 pm to 4:55pm.
- **Ticket Sale/Teens/Clean Up:** Patricia noted the ticket sales went well. We have 9 tickets to sell. There are 152 guests, including 9 volunteers not sitting. Tickets are \$25 per person and \$55 per family. Please contact Neil concerning tickets. Laura, Susie and Francesca to assist with the 11 teens. Brendan is the official photographer and Eileen will take some pictures also. Allan and Nicolas will man the cocktail hut, Tim the wine bar, and Victoria & William the soft drink table. Patricia reviewed clean up duties after meeting.
- **Silent Auction Baskets:** Francesca thanked all who donated to the baskets. Patricia’s vision was 12 baskets and it grew nicely to 31 baskets. Susan Bechelli and Susan Daniel arranged the baskets and prepared the clear wrapping/bow. Based on the bidding so far, Patricia updated the goal to close to two teacher salaries for one year. Please contact Francesca and Patricia concerning questions. Our Auctioneer this year is Chris Palenstrant. Brendan, Laura, Frank, and Francesca will do the checkout.

18th Pilgrimage (Winter) to St. Gabriel (March 1-10, 2018): Patricia noted that there will be three pilgrims: Neil, Susie, and herself. In the past, 14 pilgrims have traveled to Haiti. She requested donations of Neosporin, aspirin, Tylenol, etc. to give to SG families.

- Patricia shared the preparation process for the pilgrimage: two retreats—one in Feb. before leaving and one in March post return. Also, there will be a Vigil prior to the pilgrimage. While at SG, the following will be done daily: Mass, Part of the Liturgy of the Hours, scripture readings, reflections, and visits to the school, Pen Pals, responsables, and Father Ady.
- Neil noted they will speak with Fr. Ady, the principals at St. Gabriel Parish and School to listen to their progress and what their future next steps are.
- Pilgrimages to SG have been twice a year and started ten years ago. The primary focus is to continue building good relationships and partnership, prayers, and helping each other to meet our parish’s vision.

Advent Giving Tree (Dignity of Life/Jobs) (Classroom Furniture for Grade 13): Patricia reported:

- Fr. Ady asked SH if parishioners could help furnish one of the 3 new classrooms for Grade 13 above the cafeteria—funds raised covered one classroom and with a some extra for the second classroom.
- 62 families participated (3 out of parish).
- One half of donors gave \$50 or more.
- Met goal to provide jobs to Haitian craftsmen to make furniture.
- **If you wish to donate, please ensure the memo line on the check states, “St. Gabriel Furniture Fund.”**

Announcement: Neil provided copies of the article, “Haitians have made America great,” by David Von Drehle, who writes a twice weekly column to The Post. Please read for Feb meeting.

Action Items: Fr. Ady will visit the 9th Parish Haiti Cultural Dinner on Sat. Jan. 27, 2018. Patricia will be collecting for the 6th Camps.

Closing Prayer:

Next HTM Meetings

- Wed, Feb 7th,** Simple Dinner 6:30PM, Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM (Soup-Patricia, Bread-Josefa, Prayers-Brendan)
- Wed, Mar 14th,** Simple Dinner 6:30PM, Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM
- Wed, April 18th,** Simple Dinner 6:30PM, Meeting 6:30-8:30 PM
Mass at 5:30pm (check bulletin), Adoration 6:00, Dinner 6:30



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