



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

21 December, 2017

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 see the need for sustained mutual support. Because of these frequent pilgrimages, they are able to explain to Fr. Paul Muyimbwa, Pastor at Sacred Heart Church, the parishioners and the community, the fruits of this relationship and the combined efforts of both parishes in improving the students' education at St. Gabriel School.

Fr. Bernard Desras (previous Pastor at St. Gabriel) and the community realized the need to have an education system beyond the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. The school opened in October 2012. 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 twelve classrooms with about 500 students from the 1<sup>st</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Grades. Since 2012, Mr. Fritz Andre, the Head of School, added a couple of grades to the school, ending with the addition of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade this year. This completed the full grade structure.

Furthermore, Fr. Ady asked Sacred Heart and the larger community for their support in developing a **Scholarship Program**, which Fr. Bernard started. This year we are able to support the students with 20 scholarships. Each year, the Scholarship Selection Committee at St. Gabriel meets and selects deserving students for an annual \$275 scholarship. The scholarship selection criteria has three components; 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.

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 helps their families to send an additional child to school.

**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 the Sacred Heart website at: <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:

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