



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY NEWS LETTER March 2019



A group of 4 Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) members (Neil, William, Susie and Patricia) took part in the 20th Sacred Heart pilgrimage to its twin parish, St. Gabriel (SGP), Haiti. Fr. Ady Mytial, Pastor at SG invited them to his rectory in Lascahobas. The HTM has 3 major goals which they focused on during their visit. **Growing in Relationship, Growing in Faith, Faith in Action** through Equal Partnership in support of an improved students' academic and religious education, nutrition and healthcare, and the local economy. In all actions, we look for opportunities to make the Haitian people self-sustainable through jobs (teaching, building, cooking etc.)

GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP—Pilgrims visited parishioners and their families to share news, joy and concerns. HTM has a pen pal program which gives the opportunity to about 18 parishioners at SH and SG to write to each other about their families and their parish activities. They exchange holy cards and family pictures and pray for each other.

GROWING IN FAITH—Pilgrims had the opportunity to attend daily Mass, Adoration, pray the Rosary and attend choir practices. They reflected on the daily readings and homilies during meal times. They also reflected on when they saw Jesus during the day and how they tried to be Jesus to someone. They read and reflected on some Catholic Social Teaching articles.

Fr. Cassagnol invited them at his Hinche Diocese's Retreat Center for priests and religious (twin Diocese with Diocese of Richmond.) they toured the center: a beautiful chapel, lecture rooms, a refectory, bedrooms and beautiful gardens with vegetable plots. Pilgrims were invited by Sister Marie-Noël to the Sisters of Mary's Convent for a short visit with introduction and some prayers in the chapel. The convent runs a school K-8th Grades.

FAITH IN ACTIONS—Pilgrims toured the school campus: the school, the cafeteria, the clinic and the work on the playground. Mr. Fritz André, Head of School, introduced the pilgrims to each Grade, K-12th. The pilgrims introduced themselves. The younger students welcomed and thanked the visitors with cheerful songs and big smiles. The older students selected a spokesperson to talk on behalf of their classes. Some spoke in Creole, some in French, and some in English. Their confidence and maturity were impressive.

We had various opportunities to meet graduates. They told us that SG prepares them well to be responsible, have good values, and apply for further education in nearby towns and in the capital. Their primary focus is to eventually apply for jobs, become independent and help their families.

