Dear Friends of Saint Gabriel,

Fr. Ady sent this note: “I thank Fr. Paul, the Haiti Twinning Ministry, parishioners and friends for your loving support of the students at Saint Gabriel School with your prayers and actions. We wish you a good school year and a blessed 125th Anniversary. We are in unity in mutual prayer.”

SEPTEMBER SOLIDARITY MONTH

- Sacred Heart (SH) celebrated its Solidarity with the Saint Gabriel (SG). At the monthly meeting, Sept. 4th. Brendan Pigott, member of the Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) explained what solidarity between our two parishes means. He said Solidarity is more than compassion; it has an active part to it: prayer and action in answer to our baptismal call. He led a Novena for the members, Sept. 21-29 to our Lady of Perpetual Help, Patron Saint of Haiti. SG and Haiti were mentioned in the Prayer of the Faithful and parishioners sang the Haitian hymn “O Lespri Sen/ O Holy Spirit” at Mass. Brendan also made a presentation on solidarity with SG to the students in religious education, K-3rd and 4th-8th Grades.
- HTM held its Parish Annual Haiti Sale in support of the Lunch Fund, Sept. 14th and 15th. We thank everyone who made this event a success: the volunteers, bakers, craft and costume jewelry donors, and the generous buyers. The proceeds will feed almost three students for the year.
- Annual Haiti Twinning Regional Gathering at St. Gregory the Great, VA Beach, Sat., Sept. 28th. Guest speaker Dr. Kim Lamberty currently serves on the Global Team for Changing the Way We Care, an initiative of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to support family-based care for vulnerable children. Kim made an excellent presentation on Just Haiti, coffee growers. Investing in the work of Haitians is one of the sure ways to get out of poverty. HTM has been studying the Dignity of Work through the teaching of Catholic Social Teaching and CRS. We are implementing this knowledge in supporting job opportunities at SG. See Kim’s article here attached.

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL

Father Ady, and Mr. Fritz André, Head of School are pleased with the start of the school year. The school K-12th Grades opened Mon., Sept. 9th. Gabriel Basil graduated as top of his class at SG in July 2019. He ranked first of his class in the final national exams and first in the region. Gabriel received a scholarship from Mrs. LeMay Scholarship Fund for four consecutive years. Mr. Richard Joseph, Director of Education in the Central Plateau will see that Gabriel continues his education. Gabriel wishes to study Computer Science. Also, the school drinkable water system is up and running. On the side of the school, the students can drink, on the street side, customers can purchase water for their families.

For more information: http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/