Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Haiti Twinning Ministry Minutes
2019-2020 School Education with Playground & Drinkable Water System

“Souple join us as we continue our Spiritual Journey and share the good news.”

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.

Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019

Present: Patricia Britz, Neil Walsh, Mike Stark, Silver Ibenye, Susie Clapham, William Wallace, & Francesca Smith

Blessing/ Simple Dinner: Patricia—soup, Susie—bread, Ashley—cake

Welcome/Thanks/Goals: Patricia thanked all present and welcomed everyone. Why we come: long lasting relationship at SH & SG, continue learning & support leadership at SG, & support SG with funds we agreed upon together. Opening Prayer: Prayer of St Francis of Assisi in Prayers of God—William

Prayer Intentions: from SH Golf Tournament Program Memorials, and attendees—All.

Good News from Both Parishes: Susie shared the good news: several birthdays at Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) & St. Gabriel Parish (SGP); 10/1/2019—Opening of SG School—7th Anniversary and Nigeria’s National Day (1960); 10/4/2019—St. Francis of Assisi’s Feast Day; SHP Annual Picnic 10/6/1919, /7/2019—Our Lady of the Rosary; 10/15/2019—St Teresa of Avila’s Feast Day; SH and SG pictures from Haiti Solidarity Week events and SG pilgrimage in last March.

Dr. Kim Lamberty (CRS) Article “Preferential Option for the Poor Reconsidered” Study: Neil led the discussion on the second half of the article, pages 42 to 46 (see attachments for Dr. Lamberty’s article & CRS Approach to Achieving Integral Human Development), with the following questions:

1. Dr. Lamberty states on page 42, “An interpretation of the preferential option for the poor that does not aim to address the systems and structures that cause poverty, and finally eliminate it, is not a true option for the poor.” What do you think of this statement? What are we doing in HTM to address the systems that hold our brothers and sisters back in Haiti?
2. On page 42, Pope Francis is quoted as discussing the “sacred ground of the other.” Where do you see the sacredness of our friends in Haiti? How do you respond?

Members gave presentations: SG Funds: Lunch Fund/ Francesca, Staff Fund/ Patricia, Medical Assistance Fund/ Susie, and Scholarship Fund/ Neil. Articles are on the SH website. SH 2019 thank you letter distributed. Action for Nov. Meeting: Neil will give a short presentation on Building and Outfitting Fund/Supporting SGP with jobs. Article is on the SH website.

10th Annual Play Fore the Parishes: A Swing and a Prayer Golf Tournament Fri., Oct. 4th, 2019. Sewells Point Golf Course, Registration/Lunch at Noon, Shotgun Start at 1:00 P.M.: Neil thanked members who participated. He noted the Planning Committee, chaired by Allan, has been meeting and provided the following: Purpose: The 2019 Golf Tournament benefits SH Church’s Social Ministries, Local Community Outreach Programs, and St. Gabriel School, Haiti. How You Can Help: Come and play golf.

Continue praying for a successful and fun event. For more information contact Neil and check the SH bulletins and website.

Solidarity with St. Gabriel: Sept. was Haiti Solidarity Month in the Diocese of Richmond. Brendan reviewed the definition of solidarity at the Sept. meeting. There are 7 Themes (Principles) of Catholic Social Teaching from the Catholic Bishops and Solidarity is Number 6. Solidarity is more than compassion. It is the realization that we are one human family whatever our national, racial ethnic, economic, and ideological. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace for all. Pope Paul VI taught that “If you want peace, work for justice.” SH has done the following to celebrate Haiti Solidarity Month:

Haiti Solidarity Week for HTM (Sept 22-29) & Weekend for Parish (Sept 28-29): Patricia noted what SH did to celebrate Haiti Solidarity Week with focus on the poor, listening, and jobs:

- 9/22/2019—AM Presentation to SH Religious Education: K-3 & 4-8 Grades, Brendan and Amy.
- 9/22/2019—Pilgrims’ Return Presentation with Potluck Supper at SH, 5 pm-7 pm. School Life (Patricia ), Hospitality & Relationship (Susie), Spirituality & Transformation (William), The Why of Projects (Neil.)
- 9/28/2019—Annual Regional Haiti Gathering, Eastern Vicariate, St Gregory the Great, VA Beach, 8:30-1:30.

12th Annual Haiti Eastern Vicariate Haiti Twinning Gathering, St. Gregory’s Virginia Beach (HTM Sale)—Sat., Sept 28th, 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Theme was “Tending the Roots of Twinning and Education That Leads to Jobs.” Guest speaker was Dr. Kim Lamberty, CRS. Dr. Lamberty spoke on Another Way to Care and CRS’ partnership with Just Haiti Coffee Grower to show proactive
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research/actions that can assist the poor out of poverty. 7 signed up: Neil, Patricia, and William were part of the Planning Team; Sr. Nancy, Silver assisted with technology; Francesca & Cherie assisted with the sale; and William & Francesca assisted with Silent Auction. All were welcome. This was a gathering for all twin parishes to get together and network. Mark your calendar for the next Gathering in Sep or Oct 2020—TBD.


Save the Dates:

- Walking with William—Sat, Oct 26th, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM (Fall Hours). RSVP to William.
- SH’s 125th Anniversary Celebration, Nov. 3, 2019 at 11 AM Mass with Bishop Knestout. See SH bulletins, website, special table & sign in Commons. Register for dinner on line. Contact Shawn Smith for inquiries.
- Blessed Mother (Mary) Class in Dec. POC is Amy Woods. See SH bulletins and website.

Collections: Rosaries—Josefa, Laptops & Backpacks—Patricia, Can Can Collection—William, Pennies—Alison

Announcements: Pen Pal Notes: turn in your notes for Fr. Ady & pen pals by Sun., Oct. 27th to Francesca or HTM mailbox in Commons. Closing Prayer from God is No Stranger: Haitian Creole and English—Silver & All.

Next HTM Meetings, All are welcome!

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed, Nov 13th</td>
<td>Simple Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM (Soup--Francesca, Bread-Silver, Cake-Ashley, William/O. Prayer, Silver C. Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Dec 11th</td>
<td>Simple Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Jan. 15th</td>
<td>Simple Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 12/25/2019</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
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9/9/2019 St. Gabriel K-12th Grades 1st Day of School

*The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is excited to announce the 2019 Haiti Summit. This event will feature Bishop Desinord Jean and commission members from the Diocese of Hinche. Come gather for this special opportunity to learn from our partners in Haiti on how we as a Diocese can best support sustainable and holistic initiatives. Workshop topics include education, healthcare, and project planning and development, with the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among parishes throughout the state.