



Shared Vision

God has called both Sacred Heart and Saint Gabriel parishes to a unique relationship based on spirituality, solidarity, and 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.

SACRED HEART, NORFOLK—HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

As we are getting to the end of the year, here are a few reflections from four HTM members on their accomplishments both in their personal lives, and in ministry with our twin parish, Saint Gabriel (SG) in Haiti.

- *This year, my most important accomplishment is to have become a more authentic person and to have developed more authentic relationships. Regarding HTM, the greatest accomplishment we have made together is continuing to develop deep and meaningful relationships while providing support for SG that maintain the dignity and respect of the members of our twin parish. —Stephanie*
- *For me, personally, becoming a dad! For HTM, getting more involved with formation on Catholic Social Teaching (the Dignity of Workers), and the planning of the Annual Parish Haiti Cultural Dinner. —Brendan*
- *Without a doubt, my most spiritual experience this year, was my wonderful visit to Haiti. I wish I could go every year. There's just something about St. Gabriel's, Fr. Ady, and our friends that bring so much peace and joy to my heart as well as a closeness to Christ which I feel nowhere else. —Susie*
- *My most important personal accomplishment is an increased awareness of my gratitude for what I have, especially my husband and daughter, other family members, friends, and doors that Jesus opened for me. For HTM, it is an increased understanding that positive change can happen for SG Parish & School through attentive listening (developing relationship), prayers (together), and financial assistance in coordination with SGP (support their dreams to become self-supporting/sustaining become reality) ...Francesca*

Fr. Ady Mytial, pastor at St. Gabriel's, thanks everyone who participated in the Advent Giving Tree this month. The funds collected will cover the cost of *40 chairs and 1 teacher's desk for a classroom. Local craftsmen will make the furniture. The material will be purchased locally; which supports the Haitian economy. This program strengthens human dignity by providing jobs; it is ongoing. If you wish to support it, please write your check to Sacred Heart Church and add St Gabriel's Outfitting Fund on the memo line. For online giving go to <http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/> click on the "Giving" tab, then click " Online Giving." Under "Designate Fund Amount," scroll down to "Haiti: Furniture" and indicate the amount. **100% of your donation benefits St. Gabriel and is tax deductible.** Together we continue praying for our Family in Haiti.

Furniture for the new meeting room also used as 3 classrooms

Still available:

- 1 teacher's desk \$150 each
- 2 long tables \$150 each
- 2 large closets \$340 each





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So far, this fiscal year (July 2019-June 2020) Sacred Heart Parish has sent St. Gabriel Parish funds to help with

- Part of the School Principal' salary
- 4 teachers' salary for the school year
- Part of the School Nurse' salary
- 8 students' lunch fees for the school year
- Some medical assistance
- *Part of 1 classroom

Also, pen pals at Sacred Heart have sent bi-monthly notes to families in Haiti for birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas. Nicolas Valcour, Chair of the Dinner Planning Committee, and The Haiti Twinning Ministry are currently planning the 11th Annual Parish Haiti Cultural Dinner in support of the Teachers Fund.

Save the Date

11th Annual Parish Haiti Cultural Dinner

Sacred Heart Church, Norfolk—Sat. Jan. 25th, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

You, your family, and your friends are invited to a delicious dinner on Sat., Jan. 25th, 2020, 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Norfolk, VA. Attendance is by reservation only and tickets are to be purchased by Jan. 20th. Ticket sales will end when the event reaches capacity. Reserve your spot now! The theme of the evening is "Dedicated Teachers at St. Gabriel School, Haiti." Guest speaker will be Father Ady Mytial, pastor at our twin parish, St. Gabriel, Haiti. The evening will feature an update on Saint Gabriel's, Demas Boudreaux at the piano, dancing performance, and a Silent Auction. Please contact Neil Walsh for tickets at neil@sacredheartnorfolk.org or 757-625-6763 ext. 19. Tickets cost \$25 per person, \$55 per family or \$160 for a table of 8. If you cannot attend the dinner and wish to give a donation, please send it to Sacred Heart Church and write St. Gabriel Teacher Fund on the memo line. Teachers are paid \$100 monthly at St. Gabriel!

Our next HTM monthly meeting is Wed., Jan. 15th, 2020—Guests are welcome. Simple dinner at 6:30 pm followed by meeting 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. RSVP to Patricia

