



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER



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.

February 7th, 2020

HTM's focus in Jan. was to plan Sacred Heart's (SH) 11th Annual Haiti Cultural Dinner in support of the dedicated teachers at our twin parish, St. Gabriel (SG), in Lascahobas, Haiti. In Feb., the Ministry will concentrate on its Pilgrimage preparation.

11th Annual Haiti Cultural Dinner, Jan. 25, 2020

The dinner was a success. It was attended by 130 guests. Fr. Paul Muyimbwa, pastor at SH extended a warm welcome to Fr. Ady Mytial, pastor at St. Gabriel, on his 3rd visit to SH. Fr. Ady was glad to meet with the staff, the members of the HTM, and the parishioners. He thanked Nicolas Valcour, Chair of the Planning Committee, the twin parishes in attendance: Holy Family, Holy Spirit, St. Mary Basilica, St. Mary of the Presentation, St. Mark, other parishes, and members of the larger community. This year again, the Alliance Française, and the Sacred Heart Choir reserved a table! The theme was "Dedicated Teachers at St. Gabriel School, Haiti." Kathy Dowdy from Holy Family, Chair of the Diocesan Haiti Education Support Team was in attendance with her daughter Kriten, and friends. The evening featured live piano music, the Hurray Players/Dancers, and a Silent Auction with gifts revolving around "Cultures, Hobbies, Dining, and Fashion." Thanks to all donors and volunteers. This year, this event will help support 8 teachers for the year. A teacher at SG is paid \$100 when funds are available. Teachers in Haiti are struggling to feed their children!

Fr. Ady's Reflections

Fr. Ady was the guest speaker at the dinner. He shared that the school is an exemplary school in Lascahobas and the national exams results are excellent due to accredited and well-trained teachers. He suggested that we could together make some sound investment in projects at SG that will produce jobs and funds to help run the school and **decrease dependency**. His ideas are a stationery shop, a water system, and a couple of rooms to rent to visitors. This is in line with Catholic Social Teaching: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, and The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers.

21st Pilgrimage Preparation, Feb. 27-March 6, 2020

Twice a year, Fr. Ady invites the parishioners at Sacred Heart and friends in the community to join him at his rectory at St. Gabriel. Pilgrims visit the school, the campus, teachers and old and new friends. They learn Haitian Creole and the rich culture. The format for the pilgrimage is: Pre-Pilgrimage Retreat (Fri. Feb. 7), Pilgrimage (Feb. 27-March 6), Post-Pilgrimage Retreat, Vigil Prayer during pilgrimage, and Blessings by Fr. Paul and Fr. Ady prior to and after the Pilgrimage. Pilgrims are provided a Retreat Material Folder and a Pilgrims' Manual. Bulletin note submitted.



Sacred Heart Teen Servers have a heart for service.

Patricia Britz
Haiti Twinning Ministry Chair

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