



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) NEWSLETTER



Vision: We, the parishioners of the Sacred Heart have been called to enter in a twinning relationship with our brothers and sisters at Saint Gabriel, Haiti. Together, we follow the principals of Catholic Social Teaching to foster faith-filled relationships, self-sustainability and an end to dependency.

Mission Statement: End Dependency while following the principals of Catholic Social Teaching.

March 17, 2020

Neil Walsh's progressive illness with pulmonary fibrosis lead to the end of his life on earth Tuesday, March 10th, 2020. We are all sadden by this tremendous loss. Neil worked diligently in support of Social Justice organizations near and far. His enthusiasm for the Common Good was an inspiration. He was friends of many, including the stragglers and the underprivileged. He is deeply missed by all who knew him.

Neil P. Walsh, 73, Captain, USN (Ret), left this world on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 50+ years, Pat, their son Scott (with his wife Sasha and their sons Leo and Charlie), his daughter Santoshi (née Stephanie) (with her husband Rishi), brothers Rick and Kevin, sister Patricia and a host of family and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother Bruce and his sister Eileen. He was the Director of Social Ministry at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Norfolk. A graduate of the US Naval Academy, he served 30 years in the [US Navy](#) and commanded two submarines. He was a member of many local and international boards and commissions serving the poor and marginalized. A Christian Wake service will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Sunday, March 15 at 5 PM followed by visitation with the family. A Funeral Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated in the Church on Monday, March 16 at 11 AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Virginia Supportive Housing or Sacred Heart Church (please note "Haiti Twinning Ministry" on the memo). Online condolences may be sent to the family at hdoliver.com. Please sign guestbook at obituaries.pilotonline.com

Published in The Virginian Pilot on Mar. 13, 2020

Laura Stephens, Chair, Fonkoze USA, Inc. wrote this note.

On behalf of the Board of Fonkoze USA, I extend our sincere condolences on the death of our great friend, Neil Walsh to his family and friends. Neil epitomized our commitment to standing shoulder to shoulder with the Haitian people. He served on our board for four years and supported us both personally and through Sacred Heart for more than a decade.

His tireless work for social justice and his love of Haiti have been an inspiration to many of us who had the pleasure of working with him. Thank you for letting us know so we can share the sad news with the entire Fonkoze family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the members of the Haiti Twinning Ministry during this difficult time. May God grant you peace as you grieve for a very special man.

21st Pilgrimage, Friday, February 28th-Friday, March 6th, 2020

Twice a year, Fr. Ady Mytial invites the parishioners at Sacred Heart and friends in the community, near and far to join him at his rectory at St. Gabriel, Lascahobas, Haiti. Laura, William and I visited Fr. Ady, Fr. Prévois

Mystère, his assistant, and Deacon Céradiou Doville. Fr. Ady picked us up at the Santo Domingo airport in the Dominican Republic. We visited each grade in the two-schools-in-one (Fr. Jacques Bloch 1st-9th and St. Gabriel 10th-13th), the campus, teachers, and old and new friends. The teachers and students welcomed us with songs and kind words. The students wanted to learn more about our twinning relationship and asked questions. They inquired about Neil Walsh's health and prayed for his recovery. During our visit, we continued learning Haitian Creole and the rich culture. We attended daily Mass, an evening of Devotion to the Virgin Mary. We also set a time in the early afternoon to do daily Gospel readings, prayers and continue learning about The Common Good in Catholic Social Teaching: *every person should have sufficient access to the goods and resources of society so that they can completely and easily live fulfilling lives...* The Haitian people are wonderful hosts. When we visited pen pals, they stopped their activities to visit with us. Currently, Fr. Ady is planning some revenue generating projects such as a second water system, three bedrooms for paying guests, and a stationery shop. In time, these projects will assist him in decreasing his dependency from outside donors.

Saint Gabriel Feast Day

On Monday, March 16, our twin parish Saint Gabriel started a Novena with prayers, pilgrimage, and celebrations. The whole town is celebrating the Annunciation. As part of our shared covenant and in solidarity with Saint Gabriel, the Haiti Twining Ministry is observing a Novena in honor of Saint Gabriel, the Archangel. Fr. Ady and his parishioners reciprocate by offering a Novena to the Feast Day of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in June. In the future, we will consider attending Saint Gabriel's Feast Day.

Patricia Britz & Brendan Pigott
Haiti Twining Ministry Chair & Assistant Chair

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

