



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) MARCH 2021 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:** End dependency while following the principals of Catholic Social Teaching. 13th YEAR IN TWINNING!

March was filled with opportunities to engage Sacred Heart (SH) parish and the larger community in activities to support our family both at home and at St. Gabriel (SG). On March 9, in lieu of our monthly meeting, the ministry held A Celebration of Neil Walsh’s Life. The event was well attended by Neil’s and Pat’s family members, US Navy friends, and close friends. March 16-24, Susie led the members in a **Novena** in honor of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by Saint Gabriel the Archangel. March 26, Francesca, and Brendan led the SH parishioners in the **Stations of the Cross** in solidarity with Haiti. We also sent **notes** to pen pals wishing them a blessed Feast Day. Finally, the ministry held its **Easter Yard Sale** in support of the Children Medical Fund at SG. Thank you for your continued support of our mission for the children at Saint Gabriel. With your accompaniment, they are making progress.

GREETINGS FROM FATHER ADY MYTIAL

Dear Father Paul and friends, Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers during this special month for our parish. All went well with our nine days of reflection, prayer, and celebration of Saint Gabriel Feast Day. The Masses were very well attended. Our community was glad to be celebrating. It provided us all the break we all needed from daily stress due to the political situation in Port-au-Prince and large cities. Please continue praying for our nation for a stable government that supports the Haitian people. The exams for the 2nd quarter went well. The results should match the hard work from the dedicated teachers and from the students. We continue holding you and your family in prayer for an end to Covid-19. We wish you a blessed Easter. Père Ady Mytial, Pastor at Saint Gabriel Parish

EASTER YARD SALE AT MARY ANN’S HOME—CHILDREN MEDICAL FUND Saturday, March 20th, 2021



By a sunny and breezy Saturday morning, the Haiti Twinning members set up the Easter Sale in Mary Ann and Ed Collins’s driveway in Chesapeake. *Mary Ann welcomed us warmly and served us some freshly brewed Fair Trade coffee, and hot tea. Her pretty magnolia bush in full bloom made us hope for warmer temperatures in the coming spring.



There was a good and steady flow of persons interested in looking for their favorite items. They were glad to be out and talking about their families, and the current situation. We sold a good number of items from toys to tools.

We are most grateful for the various free-will donations received, and pennies for the penny jar. The total collected for the Children Medical Support Fund was \$288. Additionally, we sold 5 bags of Fairtrade coffee. Your tangible donations, your prayers, and words of support are appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE Our Mother’s Day Sale is Sat., April 17th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm at William’s home: 833 Norman Ave. Norfolk, VA 23518
POC: William 757-553-8767. Bring a beach chair and stay a while.

Most needed for future sales: a driveway in different neighborhoods, a large plastic box to organize items, decorative items for Mother’s Day, and toys



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

<https://secure.etransfer.com/eft/flexblockcode/donation1.cfm?d2org=SHCC&d2tool=donate>

Twinning is based on 3 strong pillars: Faith, Friendship/Solidarity, and Faith in Action. Even though SG School has been and still needs emergency funds for food, teacher salary, medical assistance, and scholarships; for the last 3 years, the ministry has invested in projects that are source of fund and jobs for the Haiti twin. The ministry wishes to encourage its twin in having a stronger leadership, and increased independence. SG is responsible for identifying those projects, their descriptions, timelines, and cost evaluations. Local workers execute 100% of the job. Additionally, the Haitian twin is accountable for 10% of the cost and provides food and water to the workers. Here is the goal for financial assistance this year.



Lunch Fund: 40 students (SG has 450 students, K-12th Grades)-\$240 per child.

Staff Fund: 10 teachers, 1 nurse, ½ head of school (SG has about 35 members of staff)-\$100 per teacher

Scholarship Fund: 20 scholarships at SG, 2 scholarships at the Papaye Normal School-\$275 per student.

Medical Assistance Fund: \$100 monthly.

Building and Outfitting Fund “Invest in projects that are source of jobs and revenue”: So far, Fr. Ady built a small bread and water shop, and a small stationery and school supply shop. He is in the process of installing a water system in the parish community building to make it operational with running water for showers, washing dishes, and toilets. This will allow Fr. Ady to let a large room for receptions, and 3 bedrooms to potential paying guests. Additionally, during Advent, collections have helped SG to have classroom furniture made by local craftsmen.

ANNUAL EASTERN VICARIATE HAITI GATHERING

Investing in Projects that are Source of Income for our Twin Parishes.

Saturday, May 22, 2021, Via Zoom 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

*Mary Ann Collins, Haiti Twinning Coordinator/ Eastern Vicariate wrote the following report.

On Monday, March 22, Patricia Britz (Sacred Heart Church), Sue Bucher (Saint Gregory the Great Church), and myself (Saint Mark’s Church) drove to St Michael the Archangel parish in Glen Allen to meet with Fr Kesner Joseph who has graciously agreed to be the guest speaker for our Regional Haiti Gathering on May 22. We had a delightful visit with Fr Joseph and reviewed some of our planning documents with him. We gave him some background on our previous gatherings. We told him how excited we **were to finally have a Haitian priest in our diocese!!**



We gave Fr Joseph a tentative agenda based on the agendas from our previous gatherings. We will keep everyone engaged and will produce meaningful content to fit the 3 short hours. Breaks can be taken as needed by attendees. We will make a flyer and advertise this informative and inspiring event via Zoom soon. All are welcome. Please RSVP to the Chairs of your parish ministries. POC: Mary Ann Collins maryann_collins@verizon.net Pictures: #1 Fr. Joseph, #2 Mary Ann, Patricia, Fr. Joseph, and Sue



Patricia & Brendan, Haiti Twinning Ministry Chair & Assistant Chair C: 757-621-1860

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