



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) MAY 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. 14TH YEAR IN TWINNING!

INTRODUCING FATHER FITHO JEAN—Bishop Desinord Jean of the Hinche Diocese, Haiti relocated six of his priests this month. After six years at St. Gabriel (SG), our twin parish, Fr. Ady Mytial reassigned to St. Yves Parish in Savanette, May 19th, just in time to preside the Mass for his new parish’s Feast Day. We wish Fr. Ady a successful mission there. Fr. Fitho Jean is the SG’s new pastor. He was born in Boucan-Carré, Haiti, **June 20th**. He was ordained priest **May 6th, 2007**. He was associate pastor at the Sacred Heart Parish in Hinche, and teacher of Catechism at St. Martin's High School (2007-2009). He was director of propaedeutic (Seminararian) at Pandiassou/ Hinche and responsible of the mission in the diocese (2009- 2012). Fr. Fitho earned his bachelor’s degree in Biblical Exegesis at the Pontifical Institute of Bible, in Rome, Italy (2012- 2016). On returning to Haiti, he was pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary in Sapaterre/ Hinche, teacher of theology and chaplain of the UDERS University/ Hinche) (2017-2020). We welcome Fr. Fitho to our twinning relationship and look forward to continuing our close partnership with our twin parish of 14 years. “I look forward to getting to know Fr. Paul, the dedicated members of the Haiti Twinning Ministry, and the parishioners at Sacred Heart Church. May the Lord bless you and all that you do for the Lord’s children.”



MOTHER’S DAY CELEBRATION—Susie Clapham, an active member of the Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM), wrote 11 Happy Mother’s Day cards to 11 mothers at Saint Gabriel, an increase of 6 from last year. Mother’s Day in Haiti is celebrated the last Sunday in May. Just like last year, we sent those pretty cards to the families through WhatsApp. The ministry wishes to remain in solidarity and bring joy to the mothers at Saint Gabriel in these challenging times.



FATHER’S DAY SALE SUPPORTING THE BUILDING AND OUTFITTING FUND



Our friend Cherie Geiger invited the HTM to hold this sale at her home in Riverpoint, Norfolk, Saturday, May 15th, 2021. There was a good flow of neighbors walking in this pretty neighborhood. They stopped by to chat and look through the collection of items. A young boy and her sister stopped by to say hello. They purchased a small decorative plate with a toucan for their mom; and a piece of jewelry with an owl for their grand-mother’s birthday. They said: “We were homeschooled this year and will be glad to return to our school in the fall. We are excited about going to Disney World tomorrow with our family.” Also, friends dropped off some donations: a few toys, and decorative items.



Here is the list of the items sold: 1 hammer, 1 portable buffer; 8 puzzles, 4 toys, 3 stuffed animals, 1 new table cloth, 2 dishes, 2 mugs for grandma and grandpa, 2 glasses him/her, 1 creamer, 1 set of Japanese mini plates, 4 inspirational magnets, 8 pieces of jewelry, 1 silver plated pickle fork, 1 scarf, 1 set of items for teacher, 6 handmade holders for Post-it, 1 pair of new socks, 6 cat toys, 1 snail and 1 ladybug crocheted, 1 money purse made out of recycled plastic, 2 pretty boxes, 1 Santa jar, 1 passport holder, and 1 children book.

The total collected was \$323, including 3 bags of Fair-Trade Just(ice) for Haiti coffee. Once again, our penny jar was popular. We are thankful to our hostess and for all of you who continue participating in those sales benefitting our twin parish. Most needed for future sales: a driveway in different neighborhoods, an additional person to help pack at 2:00 pm -mugs/glasses with a theme, decorative items for the house/garden, tools, toys/craft sets, jewelry, binoculars, men’s belts

Our Summer Sale is Saturday, June 26th, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Cherie’s home: 6058 River Rd. Norfolk, VA 23505. POC: William 757-553-8767. Bring a beach chair and stay a while.

14th ANNIVERSARY OF TWINNING RELATIONSHIP

SACRED HEART AND SAINT GABRIEL, Tuesday, May 11th, 2021, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm-Via Zoom

As of tradition, the members hosted a celebration for its Anniversary of Twinning with SG Parish. It was a success!

Members/Supportive Members present: Patricia Britz, Brendan Pigott, Pat Walsh, Laura Harpring, Alison Boolba, Silver Ibenye, William Wallace, Frank Murphy, & Francesca Smith. Fr. Paul was in Uganda visiting family.

Guests present: Fr. Kesner Joseph, Fr. Fitho Jean, Elisabeth Batue, Kathy Dowdy

Brendan welcomed Pat, Fr. Kesner, Fr. Fitho, partners, members/supportive members, and guests. Fr. Kesner congratulated SH and SG on their 14th Anniversary of Twinning, thanked us for inviting him, and for the warm reception. Fr. Fitho thanked the members for dedicating the month of May to getting to know each other and for the invitation to continue twinning. Fr. Fitho met Neil Walsh and a few of the pilgrims on various occasions in Haiti. He was glad to meet Pat on Zoom.

ACTIVITIES:

- Silver Ibenye showed pictures from the start (school, clinic, latrines, cafeteria, auditorium/3 classrooms, furniture, school supply shop, water shop).
- Laura Harpring and Pat Walsh gave their personal testimonies.
- Francesca led the 14 Multi-Choice Questions for 14 years of Twinning, and the 14 Quotes for 14 years of Twinning—answers provided by the attendees.
- William Wallace, and Patricia (Sustainability) gave their personal testimonies.
- William opened and closed the celebration with prayers.

Patricia based her report on the theme: Investing in Projects that are a Source of Fund for SG.

Phase 1-...After 21 pilgrimages to SG, I find our family there to be caring, hospitable, family and community oriented, hardworking, and joyful. Our SG family accepts and respects the poor, loves the church, pilgrimages, and feast days. They love to sing, dance, make music, and smile. When a visitor comes to their home, all members of the household meet the guests and show interest and respect. After 14 years of friendship, we know the names of many parishioners, and those of their families. We have seen babies born and children growing up. We have shared our daily lives both at home and at church though pen pal letters and visits.

Phase 2-Nurturing strong relationships was the base to what was to come, answering the need of SG to build a high school. The Haitian people did all the hard work while SH provided some of the funds. With the school, came a full campus with a clinic, cafeteria/kitchen, additional classrooms, and latrines. Fr. Ady often said that SG was the best school in Lascahobas. Making the school attractive to parents, will draw parents who want a good education for their children.

Phase 3-Once the school and the campus were finished/self-sustaining, we continued paying some of the OC of the school with Lunch, Teachers, Medical Assistance. Also 20 scholarships, an endowment that Neil Walsh and his aunt Mrs. LeMay funded. OC is ongoing and is part of the function of the school.

Phase 4-Twinning is based on strong faith-filled relationships and **mutual empowerment in leadership** in treating one another with Christian love and dignity. Neil often talked about the young boy he met in Hinche who told him: “Do not perpetuate a system of dependence for our people.” **We believe that income generation, not charity, is the solution to independence from donors.**

Phase 5-3 years ago, during a pilgrimage, we started a conversation with Fr. Ady about **investing in projects that would be a source of employment and revenue for the parish.** He embraced the opportunity. This led to the building of a water and fresh bread shop, a stationary shop, and a water system for the parish community building which can operate a conference hall, and 3 bedrooms. This revenue will replace some of the funding that SH send quarterly. As donations decreases, SG will be able to increase its independence from donation with those projects and continuing making SG the best school in Lascahobas. Parents will continue to enroll their children in that school and pay for a good education.

VISION: Is to continue investing in projects that will help SG to decrease its dependency while nurturing a strong mutual relationship. For donations to the building and outfitting fund (sustainability) please visit:

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

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

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