

Haiti Mission presentation for Weekend of October 26-27, 2024

“ Jesus sat down, called the twelve and said to them, “ Whoever wants to be first Must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me”. “

Good Evening / Morning

- **On behalf of the members of the Parish Twinning Committee we acknowledge that with our ongoing financial support, each day over 900 children are welcomed to Catholic classrooms and the promise of a better future.**
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- **Thank you to Fr. Adam for your continued support of this mission in Beau Sejour Haiti and our focus to secure access to a catholic education for the children of St. Gabriel church.**
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- **Our last report to the parish was presented on the weekend of January 6/7,2024 during which we shared the joyful news of the official opening and blessing of the new St. Gabriel church building. Inspired by the Holy Spirit Fr. Jude Efireille fulfilled the decade long dream of rebuilding the church of St. Gabriel.**
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- **We also reported on the renewal of another 4 year commitment of \$12,000.00 US Funds / Annum to assist with the payment of teacher salaries and the continued access to a Catholic education for the 900 Haitian youth to at least the end of the school year in June 2027.**
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- **In his latest report to us regarding the 2023-24 academic year Fr. Jude expressed the following ... “ Dear members of the St. Margaret Mary Parish committee, dear donors, brothers and sisters in Christ, I greet you religiously in Jesus our Savior and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the service rendered to students, parents and in general to the inhabitants of Beau Sejour.... Dear donors, thank you for what you are for the parish of St. Gabriel and for what you represent for the people of Beau Sejour. In this difficult world, those are not the people**

who are rich who help those in need, but those who have a big heart and a good heart. Thank you for your good heart. “

- **As the 2024 calendar year draws to a close we celebrate the success of our 16 years Twinning with St. Gabriel church and our primary goal of keeping the promise of a Catholic education alive for some 900 Haitian youth. To each of you who have and continue to support this mission through prayers and financial donations, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your goodness, kindness and sacrifice as this mission has withstood the test of time. With this annual report to the parish we invite you and need you to reaffirm your commitment for this coming year to our mission of hope in Beau Sejour Haiti.**
- **An article published on September 30, 2024 in The Associated Press ,titled “ Hunger in Haiti reaches famine levels as gangs squeeze life out of the capital and beyond “ highlights the most recent challenge facing the people of Haiti. “ The number of Haitians facing crisis emergency and famine levels of hunger increased by 1.2 million in the past year , for a total of 5.4 million as gang violence disrupts the transportation of goods and prevents people from venturing out of their homes to buy food. This is one of the highest proportions of acutely food insecure people in any crisis around the world, “ said UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric.**
- **In 2014 only 2% of Haiti’s population was food insecure, a number that has soared to nearly 50 % according to Mercy Corps., one of several non-profit organizations.**
- **This new reality has impacted our brothers and sisters in the Beau Sejour region and Fr. Jude has responded in this past year by trying to provide a healthy meal to each of the students about 3 times /week while they are in school. We know that in order to satisfy a mind to be filled with knowledge we need to satisfy first, the uncomfortable expression of hunger pains. Fr. Jude has expressed his intentions to provide this most basic need through a wholesome meal for each student which in the current environment has cost the community about \$ 1,000.00 US / month.**

- Therefore, your Parish Twinning Committee is hoping to be able to send Fr. Jude some additional funds in this school year, beyond our current quarterly transfer of \$ 3,000.00 US Funds to help feed the students. Our first priority is to ensure we cover our commitment to keeping the schools open and through the continued generosity of the parishioners of St. Margaret Mary to supplement the funding in order to assist Fr. Jude in his desire to feed the children.
- We invite you to take notice of the special “ Blue Envelope” and information insert in this week’s bulletin and to respond as your personal circumstance allows and return your offering next weekend. In addition we have established another option of providing a donation[s] through our parish website www.stmargaretmaryparish.ca under the Haiti Mission Tab for which a charitable donation receipt will be issued.
- On behalf of the wonderful group of committee members we thank you for your patience, love and support and we hope that you will take a few minutes immediately after mass to join us in the Hearth Room for some fellowship, refreshments and to view some pictures of our students, teachers and Fr. Jude.

Thank You !