

Haiti Commission Meeting – October 18, 2023

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Haiti Healthcare Update and the St. Mike and the Dos Palais Clinic – survey sent to all twinned parishes to learn more about healthcare being offered in Haiti – a synopsis of report to come soon. Keeping in mind Bishop Jean’s request that we look at grants for sustainable funding – do we need a grant writer within our group? Does the Diocese have a grant writer?
 - Look for matching grants (company that gives matching grant – for longevity not just one time and done)
 - Haiti Healthcare will need to work with Fr. Herald and the Dos Palais Clinic to find a solution.
 - Look for parishes that may wish to participate with healthcare – assist with funding
 - Both | And solution
 - Suggested to look at Universities to support the Haiti Mission
 - Question came up about Bishop’s Appeal – however, the group was reminded that this was not in line with Bishop Jean’s desires. He does not want to continue to have his hand out to the Diocese – he has asked us to go after grants.
 - Rhonda said she may know someone who can assist us with grants – she will look into this
 - Tina will look into whether the Diocese has a grant writer
- III. Year End Reports from Twinned Parishes: Parishes have been given to the end of October to respond then information will be compiled and shared
 - Due by October 31, 2023 – spreadsheet of results will be available at the next meeting of the Commission
- IV. Diocesan Haiti Gathering – St. Bede February 17th - possible speakers/workshops – theme for the day? Richard Joseph will be here and will talk –We would love to have Fr. Herald talk about Haiti Healthcare initiatives. Sister Limeteze Pierre-Gilles with Beyond Borders. Others?
 - Synodality – Fr. Goertz said that he could place the Gathering within the context of synodality – the Commission welcomed this suggestion
 - Fr. Herald has been asked if he is available to come
 - Someone suggested Bishop Jean or Drew Peloubet.
 - 10am – 2pm
 - 2-3ppl are needed to assist with the planning – Anne Knasel said she would help. Fr. Goertz is available to attend a planning meeting as well. Anyone else who is interested should contact Diane.
- V. Regional Gatherings – St. Elizabeth has offered to host for central Virginia
- VI. Haiti Partnership Support Team – revamp with focus on training and communication with current twins. This team could provide direction and consistency to responses to information that come into the diocese and be a clearing house for ideas and resources.

Ideas of who we should ask to join/lead the team? Patricia Britz and Patricia Hawn are possibilities - who from our group can be our representative?

- William Slowinski will join this group and will be the representative for the Commission.

Conversation took place regarding a goal campaign to show why we are going in the direction of Diocesan Twinning with a more global lens.

- Statement of purpose
- Build to where we are going and why
- Who's going to play which role
- Whose doing what – when
- Etc.

Bon Secours (Legacy Gift) - Father Herald asked about the money they have requested from the legacy gift held at Bon Secours – it has been months and this has not been sent. Tina said she would ask Dr. Kurt about this

- Border is closed to Haiti from the DR and from Haiti to the DR – creating a difficulty to get food and medical supplies (higher cost getting them elsewhere)
- Risk to go to Port au Prince – can travel from Cap-Haitian

Hope? Fr. Herald says he hopes that someone comes to Haiti to calm down the situation

VII. Next Meeting – November 15th at 4:00

VIII. Closing Prayer