

## Haiti Commission Meeting – December 20, 2023

### I. Opening Prayer

### II. Diocesan Haiti Gathering

- Speakers for the Gathering: Fr. Herald Jean, Fr. Jonathan Goertz, Richard Joseph, Tina Wandersee
- Opening prayer: Tie into the start of Lent – Stations of the Cross – Diane has a prayer walk (journey) that she has done with prayers on Haiti – we will work with this and images provided by the teams coming to the gathering. This is being worked through.
- Flight for Fr. Herald – fly in on Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup> into Richmond – leaving on Monday. Fr. Jonathan offered his rectory for accommodation and said he could arrange for pick up at the airport if needed, etc. – keep him in the loop.
- Haiti Groups are welcome to sell coffee, bags, etc. at the Gathering.
- Fr. Herald and others asked for the schedule of the day. Tina said she would send this out by Thursday (12-21-23).

### III. Final follow-up on Dos Palais Clinic

Recommendation that has been agreed upon by St. Michaels Haiti Leadership and the Commission:

- St. Michael's has plans in the works and/or is thinking about the possibility of holding a second collection or fundraiser of some sort to raise some funds from the parishioners at St. Michael's for the Dos Palais Clinic
- St. Michael's Haiti Ministry will determine if they will use an annual drop down of assistance for the clinic instead of just stopping assistance all at once
- Once determined this will be put in writing and given to Fr. Nova and the Commission
- Dawna and Gary would like to attend the next HHST meeting to understand the plans of Haiti Healthcare going forward ○ Dr. Kurt said he would schedule this for the third Thursday in January – the Zoom link will be coming soon.

A lot of conversation took place surrounding Healthcare. Fr. Herald expressed great concern about those on US side who have the money and are funding clinics – holding all the power. The clinic is not in the hands of those who can impact healthcare needs of those of the Diocese of Hinche. He shared that we must be on the same page and that the leadership at the Diocese of Richmond must make sure that Haiti twins in US understand how critical it is to not remain in a position of power with a health clinic. Rhonda asked us to remember the history that got us to where we are now – so that we have a better understanding of why we are here... not as a way to digress but as a way forward. Diane echoed the sentiment that we don't need to go back to dig up old problems but start where we are and move forward. Tina talked about honoring a plan that comes from the people of Haiti for the people of Haiti and not being afraid to provide resources that will help assist the Hinche Healthcare Commission. People should be equipped to make a way for themselves.

William Slowinski asked about another parish that seems to have a clinic which isn't being discussed – the group was reminded that the only reason the Commission is talking about the Dos Palais clinic is because the leaders of this ministry reached out to the Commission for help and a resolution.

- IV. Chip Werth will be asked to join us in January.  
The commission asked that he send of summary of what type of work he is doing ahead of the meeting. Tina will ask for this.
- V. Central VA Regional Haiti Meeting
- January 9th @ 7pm
  - St. Elizabeth's – Richmond – host
- VI. Closing Prayer