

In Lieu of September Commission Meeting

Since we last met, there have been a lot of emails, conversations and meetings – lots of behind-the-scenes work. Thank you all for your willingness to jump right in and join us in challenging conversations. What has been happening?

1. Our central Virginia regional twins met at St. Mary's in August. Discussions included hopes for the Diocesan Haiti Gathering (hoping for February during Haiti Solidarity Month); Covenants (their purposes, benefits & challenges); Virtus Training for Haitian Priests and Fundraising.
2. A zoom conversation with Diane, Tina and Ann, along with St. Michael and their twin priest, Fr. Norvella from Dos Palais regarding future funding of the Dos Palais Medical Clinic. Before the meeting, we received lots of input and direction from Fr. Herald and Fr. Jacques regarding the history of the clinic and parish and their hopes for the longevity of the clinic. Fr. Norvella shared the current situation from his viewpoint and St. Mike ministers shared the current financial situation. All discussed possibilities for a more “global” way to address the health needs through our Diocesan Partnership, not only parish to parish twinning. The clinic in Saltadere is in a similar situation. *Need a final recommendation *
3. Diocese of Hinche Strategic Plan – on the Diocesan website – continuing to look at ways to support, in words and prayer and dollars, Bishop Jean's well thought out plan for the Diocese of Hinche. Is there a way for us to leverage the fact that we have such a large footprint in Haiti – through a well thought out and long-term relationship between our Dioceses to apply for grants to support the needs, instead of constant fund raising? What does that look like?
4. Discussion between Diane and Tina and Chip Wirth regarding the University of Notre Dame and the work they are already doing in the Diocese of Hinche through work with Fr. Herald. What potential, can working with large universities or other corporations offer to our Diocese and the Diocese of Hinche?
5. Continued discussions with DOR Twins who are being asked to give beyond their abilities...and bringing those conversations back to Covenants and relationships over bigger and bigger commitments.
6. We are looking to re-establish the Haiti Partnership Support Team with a new focus on training and communication with current twins. Many of us on the Commission get calls and/or emails with concerns from our VA twins – wondering how to respond to new requests from Haiti twins, worries about fund-raising, etc. The Haiti Partnership Support Team (HPST) could provide direction and a consistency to responses and be a “clearing house” for ideas and resources.
7. The Diocesan Haiti Ministry Website – has been revamped and includes up to date information and resources. Visit the site and please let us know if there are any corrections or additions – the more eyes the better!

I feel like lots of good work is happening as we work ever harder to stand truly in solidarity with our Haitian brothers & sisters in Christ...toward a more shared Ecclesial experience as Fr. Jonathan reminds us.

With all of this in mind and additional meetings on the horizon, I suggest we do not meet as a group this month – instead continue to work to tie up the loose ends and come back together on October 18 at 4:00.