

## Minutes-- Haiti Committee at St Thomas, April 21, 2013

---

**Present:** Jim Benedict, Leni Covington, Paul Dierdorf, Robert Fromm, Tom Herlihy, Larry Hofmann, Anne and Mike Knasel, Joan McDonald, Joe Monaghan, Vince Powers, Jeff Sanborn, Mary Simonette, Kathy Smith, Monica Walker, Michael Woloski, Ginny Zeller

The meeting opened with a prayer from Mary Simonette who volunteered to take minutes of the meeting. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Anne Knasel announced that there is no recent news from Father Ilric. Last month, Father Ilric said he would be able to come to the U. S sometime in August and that our last donation of monies was received.

**Long Range/Executive Committee Report:** On April 4, 2013, the long-range group, consisting of 7 members met and discussed the following, as reported by Anne Knasel

- Concerns of Fr. Ilric's vehicle, which has been in customs since last Fall. Money is needed to release the car and other vehicles.
- Bob Fromm, on his May trip to Saltadere will try to find out the cost for releasing the vehicle.
- Bob needs funds for supplies for his trip. He has purchased these and will get reimbursed.
- Parish account for this fiscal year budget--\$277 is left and will be used to fund those supplies.
- For next fiscal year, \$3500 is requested to cover expenses for Fr Ilric's plane ticket and a contribution to the midwife program and how much is needed for on-going priorities especially sea container costs.
- After many e-mails, funds sent for Feb and March arrived from our account.
- Our mission statement for the parishes of Charlottesville and Haiti was read, for the purpose of providing for spiritual, physical, economical and educational needs of our sister parish in Haiti
- Anne Knasel proposed changing our Long Range committee to an executive committee and involve Holy Comforter Parish in this. Anne Knasel invited those interested in being a part of this committee to contact her.

**There was a recent meeting with Fr. Joseph Mary**, pastor of Holy Comforter in regard to all our activities as a Haiti committee . Anne gave him the history of our twinning (compiled by John Stack) and information about St Michael's school and the town of Saltadere. The various components of our committee and how Holy Comforter is and has been a part of it was also discussed. Father related that he being fairly new to the parish, he would like to have more participation of the H C parishioners. Fr Joseph Mary would like to meet Fr Ilric at one of his visits. One of the items of discussion was the computer lab grant.

## Minutes-- Haiti Committee at St Thomas, April 21, 2013

---

**FINANCE REPORT:** Paul Dierdorf --Expenses-\$6,000 April 1, 2013, \$36,097 in the general account. \$15,750 in the clean water account. The money in the clean water account derives in part from grants of \$5000 from the Rotary Club and Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Battaglia Fund of the Diocese of Richmond to the water project.

One question was asked about the \$70,000 balance a year ago which has dropped off? Monthly variation in sponsorships may account for the drop in funds.

Holy Comforter, representative, Ginny Zeller stated that parish collections are made to St. Michael's four times per year and sent through the same channel as our committee allocates the money. Sponsorship money is sent to St. Thomas Aquinas parish. HC finance person is to keep track of all transactions. A sponsorship drive is currently being held until April 28. So far 10 parishioners have become sponsors. A space in the "commons" has been set aside for forms, cards and monetary donations. Alternating meetings at Holy Comforter was suggested and Father Joseph Mary will be consulted on this matter.

**COFFEE REPORT:** Mike Woloski --To date, April 20, 2013

Contract with Singing Rooster: Starting revenue: 3,191.00 Expenses for coffee (\$7.00 / bag) and shipping \$2,576.40  
Balance after sales and other expenses: \$873.60 (includes current inventory)

Total sales from July 2012 to April 2013 is \$3,191.00

\$500 sent to Haitian Education Fund for the BDE of the Diocese of Hinche for education purposes so far in calendar year 2013.

**SPONSORSHIP REPORT:** Tom Herlihy --Total # of students to be sponsored: 958 (668 in Saltadere and 290 in Laguna.) Of those #'s 540 in Saltadere and 28 in Laguna have been sponsored as of April, 2013. Renewals of 139 have not been received. The total so far for 2013 is \$8,394.45. May renewals have been contacted. Parishioners of St. Francis of Staunton, Va. have sent new sponsorship forms. At present, the past chairperson is seriously ill and unable to continue. In regard to keeping current data for renewals, updates on changes in email addresses and other pertinent information is a constant task. Anne will make note of the sponsorship contact info in the Haitian Station.

**CARDS AND Crafts:** Joan McDonald --Haiti Gathering, \$105.00 for cards sold and \$62 for crafts. Other monetary donations total: \$282.50.

## Minutes-- Haiti Committee at St Thomas, April 21, 2013

---

**NEWTOWN, CONN.** donations: Joan McDonald --60,000 supplies (toys, blankets, etc.) were given to this town from around the nation to be dispersed to its citizens. What was left was redistributed to the needy throughout the US, Africa and Haiti.

42 boxes were given to our parish in which there are 350 stuffed animals and many blankets. These will be added to the SEA container program.

**SEA CONTAINER REPORT:** Containers can take 3-6 months to arrive in Haiti. Sometime in June or July, a container of up to 1500 cu. Ft. may be reserved in cooperation with a lead parish of the Richmond diocese. Kathy Smith will obtain details from the organizer and we will request donations once we know what Father Ilric needs.

**BROWNIES:** Ginny Zeller, Kathy Smith and Joan McDonald made a presentation to the Brownie troop at Charlottesville Catholic School. They compared a school day for third graders in St. Michel School to that for the Brownies at CCS. This troop of 3rd graders from the Charlottesville Catholic School may take on a project of gathering shoes to send in the sea container. A suggestion about shoes was made to approach a shoe store-Rack Room Shoes- that will mark down the price for those items which remain unsold after some months, so they might donate or drastically discount items for our sea container shipment.

### **BOB FROMM'S TRIP in May.**

Purpose: replacement for a water pump, left before on a previous trip, that was not to be used because of the approaching rainy season. Some of the original plans for the project were changed by Father Blot and his successor, Father Ilric will be consulted with a proposal and new ideas, such as the building of a pump house to accommodate pumping water out.

Electrical hook ups will be set up to be installed at a later visit. Supplies will be stored until the Fall trip when the river will be flowing to capacity. USAID needs a proposal to be presented about the whole water system, such as pictures of elevations, and installation of a cistern.

**Father Ilric Visit:** If Father Ilric is able to visit the US, sometime in August, preferably the last weeks, he will speak at the masses at Holy Comforter and St Thomas Aquinas. There could be sponsorship drives at one or both parishes at that time. Father Luke has given an ok to developing Haiti support at St. George's in Scottsville and they would be contacted in planning for Father Ilric's visit.

**COMPUTER PROGRAM:** A report and guide for computers for teachers of Saltadere was submitted at our last meeting. Monica Walker has a background in setting up computer programs. She has been in touch with Paul Fuhs of the Haiti Education fund on the plans. 20 laptop computers have been designated to be sent the Saltadere once the permission of Father Ilric is obtained. MIT is developing a "creole" system in computer

## Minutes-- Haiti Committee at St Thomas, April 21, 2013

---

education. In the town of Hinche, near Saltadere, there are 4 teachers, who can help in this project. This will be a slow process as the teachers need more computer education, more textbooks, costs and salaries.

Our committee agreed that we should first obtain permission from Father Ilric.

Questions remain about how these 20 laptops will be transported, received, set up and maintained and what will be the cost.

It was noted that St. Michael's school was built in 2007. Now the computer lab, put in last August, is being used as a classroom. If the computers arrive to this lab, they will be in a secure place and the room will be locked.

**TWINNING REPORT:** Larry Hofmann reported the group has identified the need to support with spiritual help those who are making trips to Haiti. All chairpersons in our northwest region will be notified of anyone from the region visiting Haiti. Thus, individual parishes in our area will pray for the visitors for their spiritual needs.

**LAST TRIP - REPORT:** Jeff Sanborn reported that on the January 2013 trip, a visit to a soap factory was made to witness how this form of industry was succeeding in profits, jobs and product sales. A detailed self explanatory microloan application form was passed out to our committee for consideration. This would be a process of making loans to individuals, associations, and business entities residing or located in and near Saltadere. This is a way of introducing new businesses to make products, create jobs and income for this region.

Our meeting adjourned with the announcement of the IMPACT gathering on April 29th at 6 PM at JPJ and a prayer for Bob's safe trip. Our next meeting will be May 26 at St Thomas Aquinas at 1 PM.