

Haiti Committee Minutes

February 10, 2013

In attendance: Fr. Stephen Alcott, Jim Benedict, Kate Burke, Paul Dierdorf, Zakary Goldberg, Caroline Hackett, Paul Harnois, Tom Herlihy, Anne Knasel, Mike Knasel, Joan McDonald, Julie Murphy, Garrett Rapp, Jeff Sanborn, August Sanusi, Mary Simonette, Kathy Smith, Janet Stack, John Stack, Monica Walker, Mary Woloski, Mike Woloski, Ellen Zagrobelny

Action items are in bold type

Anne Knasel called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. She offered the opening prayer. Attendee introductions were made.

January Trip Report

Janet Stack reported on the Dental Clinic, Kathy Smith and Joan McDonald on the activities at the school and meetings with some Saltadere residents who may be able to provide us with some crafts, and Jeff Sanborn on his meetings with the Water Committee and others to discuss several possible future projects. Joan showed the completed "Thank You" banner that the students made as well as new drawings for greeting cards by the student artists. A brief slide show was presented. Detailed reports of all activities are attached.

Financial Report

Paul Dierdorf reported income and expenses for January. Income was \$9463 and expenses were \$9075. The Clean Water project has \$15,500.00, and the general fund has \$37,000.00, for a total of almost \$53,000.00. Last month we sent the regular \$6000.00 payment as well as \$2160.00 for cows from the Christmas catalog.

Coffee Sales

Mike Woloski reported slowed sales in January, which may be due to the fact that there were no donuts served. Volunteers are scheduled for February, but will be needed for March.

Bags for Haiti

Mary Simonette showed the large fabric bags that she makes and donates for children in Foster Care. These might be very useful for the children in Haiti. They can be easily altered to become skirts as well.

Sponsorship Program

Tom Herlihy reported that he has received \$450.00 in renewals so far this month. There were more in January. There will be 21 renewals due in March. There are 403 unsponsored children at this time.

Annual Gathering

The annual Haiti gathering will be at STA on March 16th. Anne reminded the committee that volunteers will be needed for food, set up and cleanup. We will be responsible for serving a continental breakfast and lunch. **Tom Herlihy will see if the Knights of Columbus will help with set up on Friday afternoon. Joe Monaghan will help with coffee. Final preparations will be discussed at the March meeting.**

Twinning Meeting

John Stack explained that the purpose of the Twinning Committee is to foster good communication among all the twinning parishes in the Diocese. One of the problems with the meetings is getting people to come from such long distances to Richmond. They are investigating possible electronic meeting methods such as conference calling or Skype.

Agriculture Report

Mike Knasel reported progress in the project and said that reports will be needed soon to present to donors. He reminded the group to check the website for updated videos/pictures, etc. The Agriculture Committee plans to meet after the general meeting today.

Computers for Haiti

Monica Walker reported that the Computer Committee will try to meet with the Haiti Education Committee to see what their needs are for refurbished computers and educational software and training materials. Colleen Fernandez is hoping to set up a computer lab at the Normal School in Hinche. She got feedback from Katherine and Patrick about the setup in Saltadere. She will be doing a trifold presentation at the Haiti Gathering.

Fundraising Committee

Anne expressed a desire to activate this group as soon as possible.

Anne announced a farewell party for Patrice Schwermer at St. Edward's parish on Sunday, February 17. She is the former head of Haiti Outreach for the Diocese and known to many on the committee.

The next meeting will be on March 10th at St. Thomas Aquinas at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20. Kate Burke offered the closing prayer.

Minutes recorder: Janet Stack