

## Haiti Committee Minutes

January 13, 2013

In attendance: Fr. Stephen Alcott, Jim Benedict, Kate Burke, Paul Dierdorf, Katie Hilgrove, Larry Hofmann, Anne Knasel, Mike Knasel, Joan McDonald, Joe Monaghan, Vince Powers, Jeff Sanborn, August Sanusi, Kathy Smith, Janet Stack, John Stack, Monica Walker, Mary Woloski, Mike Woloski, Ginny Zeller (21 committee members)

### **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.

### Financial Report

Paul Dierdorf reported income and expenses from July 1-December 31. There was a beginning balance of \$59,503.21, income of \$60,181.72, expenses of \$67,866.35, leaving a balance on 12/31 of \$51,818.58. We are now sending \$6000.00 every month to St. Michel.

### Coffee Sales

Mike Woloski reported that at the end of 2012 we had \$2356.00 in sales. In December we had approximately \$870.00 in sales from STA and \$130.00 in sales from Holy Comforter.

### Craft and Card Sales

Joan McDonald reported that the Alternative Gift Fair sales resulted in a profit of \$1526.00. We still have an inventory for future sales.

It was suggested that we might sell small crafts and CDs along with coffee on Sundays. Jim Benedict suggested making a poster with photographs of available crafts. Ginny Zeller agreed that presales from a poster would be a good idea for Holy Comforter as well.

Joan reported that the Alternate Gift Catalog sales resulted in the donation of 7.2 cows (\$2160.00), funds for 1 displaced child (\$250.00), and 2 sponsorships (\$300.00). **Anne will send the money for the cows with this month's payment. January travelers will be sure Fr. Ilric understands how to use this money.** He can contact Fr. Blot for help if he needs it.

## New Lectio Divina

Kate Burke asked that information about her ministry in interactive scripture immersion be spread whenever possible. Information can be found on the website at [www.newlectiodivina.com](http://www.newlectiodivina.com)

## Sponsorship Program

Mike Woloski reported that income was \$6500.00 in November and \$10,500.00 in December. As of January 9<sup>th</sup> there were 405 unsponsored and 553 sponsored students. Mike Knasel suggested that the number of sponsored children be posted on the Haiti table as well as the number of unsponsored. **Joan McDonald will make the change.**

**Joan will repeat the Xmas ornament tree concept that was used for sponsorship in December with a valentine tree in February.**

## Sea Container

Kathy Smith reported that STA will get a \$280.10 refund from the last sea container shipment. Costs are approximately \$20.00 per box. Kathy would be interested in obtaining some large appliance-sized boxes for future shipments. **Kathy will check on the disposition of articles sent in the last shipment when she goes to Saltadere this month.**

## Annual Gathering

The annual Haiti gathering will be at STA on March 16<sup>th</sup>. 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. Paper and plastic serving implements are to be avoided, and in order to avoid a lot of dishwashing it was suggested that a box lunch might be advisable. Anne said that Julie Balik may be able to provide some help for serving and cleanup. Katie Hilgrove said that the Daughters of Isabella (a group of college-age women) might also be able to help with set up. **Katie will investigate this.** Fr. Stephen reminded that we will need to reserve all the classrooms that will be needed for breakout sessions. Audio-visual setup will also be needed. Joe Monaghan mentioned that Janet Diller orders box lunches for the Senior Ministry group and might be able to help with information for that.

## January Trip

Janet Stack reported that arrangements for the Saltadere trip on January 22<sup>nd</sup> are going well. There will be a dental clinic, art projects at the school, and visits to water and farm sites. **The group will ask Fr. Scordo for a blessing at the 11:30 mass on January 20.**

### Haiti Education Fund (HEF) Presentation follow up

Anne reported that Sue Doughery at CCS is interested in possibly helping with teacher training in some way. She suggested possibly creating a scholarship fund to support Saltadere residents for teacher training. CCS might also be able to have a fundraiser that would help St. Michel, such as providing some continuing education for teachers.

HEF at this time has no regular way of raising money. The Office of Justice and Peace has no authorization to “tax” parishes. It has been suggested to Jay Brown that some other way to provide a regular donation from parishes be explored. Vince Powers suggested that we should take \$500.00 from our monthly stipend to St. Michel and divert it to HEF. Mike Woloski suggested that we could use the coffee sale money for this. Anne suggested sending a quarterly donation of \$250.00 from the coffee sales and this was approved by the committee. **Anne will discuss how the money would be used with HEF, suggesting that we would like it to involve teacher training.**

### Twinning Meeting

Larry Hofmann and John Stack reported on the 1/8 twinning meeting in Richmond. There was discussion about the value of the regional gatherings that are held in the fall, and whether they are worth continuing given the cost. After some discussion the Committee agreed that the annual regional meetings are worth continuing, but that the expenses should be cut down.

### Health Care Ministry Fund

Anne reported that this fund supports the midwife program and the mobile midwife clinic. We have been giving \$1500.00 per year, which has been matched. As of June 2014, we will have to provide the entire \$3000.00 per month for the cost of the monthly visit to Saltadere. Working with “Haiti Kids” is being looked into as a way to have an additional person who would take care of children under the age of 5. **The January travelers to Saltadere will try to get more information from Manno (one of the translators) who works with the midwife program.**

### Future Trips

Katie and Fr. Stephen reported that no trip is currently planned for the CSM students to go to Haiti during spring break.

### Agriculture Report

Mike Knasel reported that Jeff Sanborn would bring back up to date information after the January trip to Saltadere. The irrigation project is not finished due to many obstacles that have been encountered. The Clean Water Project is not as difficult since we are just fixing an existing system that has deteriorated.

## Web Site

Father Stephen has updated Haiti information on the St. Thomas website.

## Building Goodness Foundation

Mary Woloski reported that we must start any relationship with this organization by filling out an application. It is possible that someone could attend our next meeting to discuss possibly working with us. The foreman for the Priory construction has also expressed an interest in working in Haiti. One possible project would be the renovation and restoration of the building in Saltadere that used to be used as a clinic before it was moved to the Rectory compound. **We will move forward with the application.**

## Computers for Haiti

Monica Walker proposed that with expected major technological changes in the computer industry there will be a great deal of updating and it will provide an excellent opportunity to get donated or inexpensive computers that users no longer want. This might be a very good fit with the Haitian Education Fund. **Vince Powers and Mike Woloski will work with Monica on pursuing this idea. Larry Hofmann will head the investigation.**

The February meeting will be 2/10/13 at St. Thomas. The March meeting will be 3/10/13.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00. Anne offered the closing prayer.

Minutes recorder: Janet Stack