

Haiti Committee Minutes

March 22, 2015

In attendance: Fr. Stephen Alcott, Sharon Barrett, Jim Benedict, Bob Fromm, Larry Hofmann, Anne Knasel, Mike Knasel, Shemika Louis, Joan McDonald, Joe Monaghan, Julie Murphy, Jeff Sanborn, Kathy Smith, Janet Stack, John Stack, Maria Wnorowski, Ginny Zeller

Action items are in bold type

Anne Knasel called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. She offered the opening prayer. Attendee introductions were made.

Finance Report

A written report was submitted by Paul Dierdorf. In February we had income from donations, sponsorships, medical donations, and coffee/card sales totaling \$4397.50. We had \$7850.00 in expenses. The fund balances as of February 28th were: 1) Medical Clinic – \$45262.14; Loan Fund - \$4600.00; Water Committee (Jeff Sanborn donation) - \$2,500.00; General Fund - \$35,246.33.

Coffee

Jim Benedict reported that we are averaging sales of 4 to 5 bags of coffee each Sunday. There was discussion and agreement that we would cut sale days to two per month. **Jim will set those dates to coordinate with events at St. Thomas.** The dates would be announced in advance so that regular coffee purchasers could plan. He will try to enlist more volunteers to help with selling. **Mike Knasel will look into selling coffee at the monthly Crozet mass, and Jim will explore selling at St. George's.** It was agreed that we would keep on sending the proceeds from coffee sales to the Haiti Education Fund.

Crafts and Cards

Joan McDonald reported sales of cards for January and February totaled \$55.00. Easter baskets are currently being sold and **she will report on the proceeds at the next meeting.**

Trip Report

Bob Fromm, Maria Wnorowski, and Fr. Stephen gave reports of the recent trip to Saltadere. Bob's excellent written report will be circulated shortly. Fr. Stephen reported that the parishioners appreciate the animal donation program. He requested that they give us information, records, and photographs of this program that can be shared with donors here. Fr. Stephen said that St. Michel has a very active youth ministry and has a Eucharistic Adoration schedule. He suggested that it would be nice for our student ministry to connect with them and do some fundraising for them. The needs expressed

by the Parish Council included a separate school building in Los Cacaos, solution to food shortages, and school supplies. Fr. Ilric's top priority needs were: 1) New clinic and transportation for patients to Thomassique when necessary, and 2) 5 more rooms for St. Michel School. Other priorities include funds to furnish the building in the rectory compound that is currently being used for meals, construction of a chapel in Los Posos, and needed repairs to the rectory.

Maria Wnorowski, student on the trip, reported the impact of the visit on her priorities. Although she has experienced Haiti twinning from the Virginia side, this was her first chance to see it from the Haiti side. She was impressed by the people and especially the children as they helped each other with their daily tasks. She saw many commonalities of the students of St. Michel with students here in the United States.

\As soon as possible, trip photos and write-ups will also be posted to the website, so keep checking to learn all the details of the trip.

Joe Monaghan commented many of these requests were not included in the budget set up when Fr. Ilric was here in November. Joe suggested that we should target our funding plans more specifically.

Sea Container

Kathy Smith announced that the weekends of March 28/29 and April 11/12 are likely working days for remarking and taping our sea container boxes now being stored at Bob Fromm's house. Help will also be needed April 13th and 14th for loading the boxes on the truck. Anyone willing to help should call Kathy at 434-979-3580. For an update on this project see www.parishprogram.org.

Haiti Parish Support Team

The Haiti Parish Partnership Support Team is the former Haiti Twinning Program. A Haiti e-newsletter with ministry updates and events will come from the Richmond diocese every two months. See <http://www2.richmonddiocese.org/haiti/> to sign up for e-news.

The annual Haiti gathering, sponsored this year by Catholic Charities, will be at the Church of the Incarnation Friday and Saturday, April 17th and 18th. For more information, contact www.carissadehaiti@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates

The Knights of Columbus chapter is seeking volunteers for cleaning the church on March 28th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be April 19th at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Comforter

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Fr. Stephen offered the closing prayer.

Minutes recorders: Janet Stack and Ginny Zeller