

**St. Joan of Arc Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Minutes version 2**  
Prepared by Michael Milunic  
7PM, Tuesday, August 23, 2016  
SJA Library

<b>Present:</b> Deiling, B Milunic, M Phillippy, J Sheehan, D Stickler, C Willey, K Wright, C Yakstis, C  Fr. Sceski Fr. Arena Sr. Eileen Deacon Mortel Dr. Hasson	<b>Absent:</b> DeAngelis, T Horstman, A
--	---

**Opening Prayer offered by Fr. Sceski (7:00):**

**Pastoral Council Officers by John P:**

- Martha Rupert was asked by Father Sceski to chair our Pastoral Care & Outreach Commission and as a result will step down from her Pastoral Council role.
- Michael Milunic to immediately assume position of secretary

**Sister Parish in Haiti - Presented by Deacon Mortel (7:02):**

- Overview of Haitian sister parishes:
  - In 2001-2002 Arch. of Baltimore established partnership with 1 Haitian Diocese
  - “Parish Partnership Program” (PPP) Pilot program (**see attachment**)
    - Designed to focus on assisting the uneducated poor.
    - Evangelize through education.
    - Provide US Catholics opportunities to serve
    - Reviewed after 10 years
  - Structural overview:
    - Assistance on local level provided via PPP. 1 parish in the Arch of Baltimore assists 1 Parish in Haitian diocese. Currently 25 parishes participating.
    - Assistance on regional level provided via Mortel Foundation/Arch of Baltimore
    - 3 Priorities of PPP are: Feeding students, Improve teacher pay, Form catechists
  - Parishes in the Haitian Diocese only have 1 priest who also serve 4-10 mission churches.
  - Status of SJA Hershey sister parish:
    - SJA Hershey presently supports a Haitian school, not a parish.
    - The Haitian school's parish began as a parish 4 years ago (Our Lady of Lourdes Parish)
    - There is not, nor has there ever been a formal relationship between SJA Hershey and Haiti
- Proposals and Questions:
  - Deacon: Either remain in relationship with supporting school or assume formal relationship like PPP
  - Brian D: Thinks a PPP makes sense, but what does a formal relationship look like? How would it be different than our current arrangement. Can we bring Haitians here to visit?
  - John P: Questioned any Diocese of Harrisburg restrictions or expectations to be met. The answer was No, none needing fulfilled.

- Fr. Arena: Need to be Church to the Haitians, not just philanthropists
- Fr. Sceski: In favor of supporting Haiti. The parish needs to have a formalized relationship. Inquired about informational evenings and a Haiti Committee.
- Deacon: Prior attempts at informational evenings and forming committee spurred no action. Believes the formalized relationship authorized by the Pastoral Council will generate action in the form of mission trips, which will nurture more parish interest.
- Chuck S: Advocated social media publicity
- **Parish Council voted unanimously to formalize the relationship with the sister parish and have a committee formed.**
- **Martha Rupert to be charged with publicizing. The committee is to be run and governed from within the Pastoral Care & Outreach Commission**

#### **Status of SJA School by St. Eileen (8:04)**

- 2016/17 enrollment is 330. Down from 350 last year due to a drop in kindergarteners which is due to Lower Dauphin, St Catherine, and 7 Sorrows offering full day kindergarten.
- Kindergarten down to 2 classrooms instead of 3
- 2 teachers retired. 2 new teachers this year: Ms Grant and Ms. Ringebach
- Technology: A transition with the Diocese Area Wide network has required extra effort to prevent delays
- Blue Ribbon school award is a possibility this Fall
- School begins Monday 8/29

#### **Increasing Parish Council members by John Phillippy (8:08)**

- Currently 10 members
- Goal to have 4 or 5 more members
- John P to solicit names from a bulletin announcement

#### **Growing in Christ status by Fr. Sceski (8:10)**

- "Liturgy and Worship" Committee renamed "Spiritual Life"
- Committee Heads:
  - Spiritual Life: Joe Gusherowski
  - Pastoral Care and Outreach: Martha Rupert
  - Stewardship and Development: Rick Barger
  - Community Life: Pat Mooney
  - Evangelization and Faith Formation: TBA
- Deacon to facilitate commission leader

#### **Open Discussion (8:17)**

- Michael M inquired about main Church doors being locked after 4PM. Fr. Sceski indicated it was in response to summertime cleaning crews.
- Michael M inquired whether additional handicap parking spots would be useful in an aging parish.
  - Fr. Sceski met with parish disabilities advocate, Lisa Kronmuller, on Monday 8/22--No need for additional handicap spots has been recognized.
  - Brian D questioned whether providing and publicizing extra spaces would promote use. Brian to contact Lisa to discuss options for weekend Mass handicap parking spaces in rectory parking lot.

#### **Closing Prayer offered by Fr. Arena (8:24)**

#### **Next Meeting:**

- Tentatively scheduled Wednesday, 10/26/16. Location TBD.

# THE PARTNERSHIPS

[www.archbalt.org/missions](http://www.archbalt.org/missions)

The parish partnership program started in 2002. By the beginning of 2011, 20 parishes in the *Archdiocese of Baltimore* are partnered with 18 parishes in the *Diocese of Gonaives* in Haiti.

**Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Homeland**  
Partner: Cathedral of Gonaives

**Holy Trinity, Glen Burnie**  
Partner: St. Laurent, Bassin-Mangnant

**Church of Nativity, Timonium**  
Partner: St. Ann and St. Joachim, Labranle

**St. Ignatius de Loyola, Ijamsville**  
Immaculate Conception, Villard

**St. Agnes, Catonsville**  
Partner: SS. Peter and Paul, Desdunes

**St. Ann, Hagerstown**  
Partner: St. Claire in Dessalines

**St. Clare, Essex**  
Partner: St. Francis, Desarmes

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Crofton**  
Partner: OL of Mt. Carmel, Liancourt

**St. Francis de Sales, Abingdon**  
Partner: St. Andre, L'Estere

**St. Francis Xavier, Hunt Valley**  
Partner: OL of Assumption, Anse Rouge

**St. Isaac Jogues, Carney**  
Partner: St. Anthony Hermit, Poteau

**St. John the Evangelist, Hydes**  
Partner: St. Guillaume, LaChapelle

**St. Timothy, Walkersville**  
Partner: St. Jerome, Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite

**OL of Perpetual Help, Ellicott City**  
Partner: OL of Nativity, Verrettes

**OL of Perpetual Help, Edgewater**  
Partner: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Perodin

**St. Joseph, Odenton**  
Partner: St. Peter, Poteau

**SS. Peter and Paul, Cumberland**  
Partner: St. Joseph, Medor

**Holy Family, Middletown**  
Partner: St. Martha, Marmelade

**OL of Mt. Carmel, Thurmont & St. Anthony Shrine**  
Partner: St. Martin de Porres, Pierre-Payen

**Saint Mark, Fallston**  
Partner: St. Joseph, Lalomas

For more information on the Parish Partnership Program, please contact:

Archdiocese of Baltimore Missions Office  
320 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-547-5498

# PARISH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

[www.archbalt.org/missions](http://www.archbalt.org/missions)

**Helping the Poorest of the Poor in Haiti**

*By raising awareness and creating lasting relationships, we can expand our efforts and do more for the people of Haiti.*



*Display about sister parish at St. Timothy's in Walkersville*

The Parish Partnership Program is an integral part of the Baltimore Outreach Program, located in the Missions Office of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.



*Sean Hackett and Judy Sikorski from St. Isaac Jogues in Baltimore visit a classroom at St. Anthony parish in Chenot, in Haiti.*

## Building For The Future

It is through the building of close relationships between parishes of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and those in its sister Diocese of Gonaives that the Haiti Outreach Project hopes to accomplish its mission of support and education.

## The Baltimore Haiti Outreach Project

The Baltimore Haiti Outreach Project was created in order to forge bonds of faith and friendship between Catholics of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and those in the Diocese of Gonaives in Haiti.



*Patty Kuzmak from St. Agnes in Catonsville teaches English at SS. Peter and Paul in Haiti.*

### The Vision

To develop in a single diocese in Haiti a model which, if successful, could be emulated and transported to other dioceses in the country and positively impact the living conditions of the Haitian people.

### The Mission

To provide educational opportunities for all age groups and to promote church to church solidarity by encouraging a mutual relationship rooted in our common Christian faith.

The Parish Partnership Program provides us with an effective vehicle to accomplish most of our objectives.

## The Parish Partnership Program

*Designed in 2002 jointly by the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Diocese of Gonaives in Haiti, this program exposes Catholics to their Haitian brothers and sisters who have a totally different culture and special needs.*

### Benefits

#### To Haitian parish

The Parish Partnership

- \* Contributes to the feeding and educating of children enrolled in the sister parish schools.
- \* Assists in improving the living conditions of its parishioners.
- \* Assists with the formation of catechists and sacristans to minister to Haitians living in remote areas of the sister parish.
- \* Allows for Haitian pastors to visit with Baltimore parishioners and understand the cultural differences between the 2 countries.
- \* Fosters a spiritual relationship by including special intentions for the sister parish in the prayer of the faithful.

#### To Baltimore parish

The Parish Partnership

- \* Exposes parishioners to their brothers and sisters very poor economically but gifted with a powerful spirituality.
- \* Gives opportunities for adults and youth parishioners to volunteer and get involved in various activities of their sister parish.
- \* Fosters a spiritual relationship by including the Haiti parish in the prayer of the faithful.
- \* Builds community: the partnership brings together parishioners to embrace a common and spiritually fulfilling endeavor.

## How can my parish get involved?

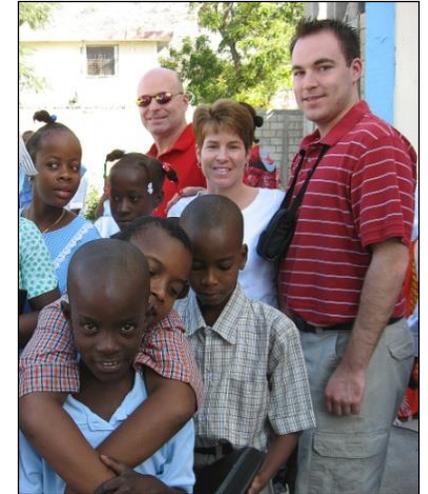
The procedure is very simple.

- **Express your desire** to the pastor or the Pastoral Council or the committee of Social Justice.
- **Contact** other parishes already participating in the program (see list on back page) or the Missions Office for information and next step.
- Someone from the other parish or the Missions Office arranges to make a **presentation** to either the Pastoral council or the interested committee.
- If still interested in exploring the possibility of a partnership, two parishioners selected by the parish are invited to **travel to Haiti** to visit two or three parishes in the Diocese of Gonaives
- The visitors make recommendations to the parish leadership for a **decision**.
- The relationship starts and the partner parishes **communicate** and establish **goals**.

## Expectations

There are no expectations other than a spiritual relationship where the sister parishes pray for one another regularly.

Any other form of assistance varies from parish to parish and depends solely on the financial capability of the Baltimore parish. Accountability is built into the program when financial assistance is given.



*Parishioners from St. Ann in Hagerstown visit their sister parish: St. Claire in Haiti*

#### A few quotes from parishioners and travelers to Haiti

"...this pairing has brought the face of God to our parishioners in a very real and tangible way...It brings true meaning to the words: *we are one body in Christ...*" Judy Sikorski, St. Isaac Jogues.

"...it has been a true blessing to do God's work for His children...." June Smith, St. Francis Xavier.

"...I went to Haiti expecting to give of myself, but I received so much more than what I gave..." Agnes Supernavage, St. Ann.