



May 13, 2022

## JEAN RABEL NEWS - April 30, 2022

Hello to all the people who are interested in our life and mission in Jean Rabel!!!



First of all, thank you for the support and closeness we feel from many people who make yourselves present in many different ways. Although we are at the other end of the world, we feel you are here next door.

The community has expanded since the beginning of March. Laura Casallas García, a volunteer 23-year-old Colombian who just finished her studies in medicine, has joined us until July. She participates in several projects: the mobile clinic, the malnutrition project, the workshop and basketball. It is a richness to count on having one more person to share life and mission. Shown here are Laura Casallas García, Sr. Curin García Calvo, RJM, Sr. Valle Chías González-Blanch, RJM, and Sr. Rose Kelly, RJM.

At the same time as Laura, something else important arrived: a microscope that will allow us to start a microbiology laboratory very soon that will help in the diagnosis of some of the patients of the mobile clinic. We hope that in a few months the laboratory will be in operation. For this project, two laboratory technicians will be hired and they will facilitate the training. We also hope to have some volunteers from Spain who will come for a while to support such training.

We also want to share that during Holy Week, a group of 6 people came to carry out, once again, an eye exam campaign in Jean Rabel. We have counted on the presence of an optometrist (Kike), two ophthalmologists (Johni and Jorge), a technician (Albert), a nurse (Carmen) and Loli Herrero (who coordinates this whole project and who, thanks to her perseverance, it continues to be possible). It has been intense work. They have carried out 28 operations and checked the sight of more than 300 people.



*The above was excerpted from the newsletter which is attached, in its entirety along with many more photos, to the Bridges email.*

## Care of Creation Committee



A Message from Greenpeace:

Across the globe, forests are being **burned** and **cleared** for palm oil, beef, and pulpwood production. **Industrial agriculture accounts for 80% of global deforestation.**

**The devastating destruction of forests is the leading cause of biodiversity loss, and is increasing land conflicts and the dispossession of Indigenous peoples.** And we know that upholding Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities' land rights is essential in the protection of forests, biodiversity, and the climate.

**This is a critical year for the world's largest rainforest and its people.**

The Amazon rainforest is approaching a tipping point in which it would not be able to sustain itself as an ecosystem.<sup>1</sup>

2021 saw historic transformations of the Amazon, with scientists reporting that vast areas of the rainforest are emitting more carbon than they absorb due to



deforestation.<sup>2</sup> There were also record levels of invasion of Indigenous lands for mining and livestock ranching.

We will not solve the climate crisis without protecting and restoring these degraded forests and other ecosystems. To learn more about this and find ways to help, visit the Greenpeace website at: <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/> or the links below:

1. [nature.com/articles/s41558-022-01287-8](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-022-01287-8)
2. [npr.org/2021/07/15/1016469317/parts-of-the-amazon-rainforest-are-now-releasing-more-carbon-than-they-absorb](https://www.npr.org/2021/07/15/1016469317/parts-of-the-amazon-rainforest-are-now-releasing-more-carbon-than-they-absorb)

- Srs. Diane Dube, RJM and Doris Bissonnette, RJM



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## GATHERING WITH THE TRINITARIANS

At the invitation of Fr. Michael Barth, ST, RJM's from the MD/DC region joined the Trinitarians on May 8 at their retirement community on Metzerott Road.

We joined them for the celebration of the Eucharist, followed by a Sunday brunch. The Missionary Servants welcomed us with Mothers' Day Corsages. "After all," they said, "you all used to be called *Mother!*"

Our former neighbors from Regina days are celebrating their community centennial, and they took advantage of this occasion to express thanks for years of mutual support, collaboration in ministry in the South, and many friendships. Together with the RJMs who were there, another longtime associate of the Trinitarians, joined by members of her family, was feted for her years of service and collaboration with community.



On behalf of the Missionary Servants, Fr. Michael Barth presented the RJM's with the Trinitarian Centennial Anniversary Medal. Above, left to right are: Srs. Eileen Reid, Janet Stolba, Mary Bourdon, Fr. Michael Barth, Srs. Margaret Perron, Rosemary Mangan, Janice Farnham and Rita Ricker

The post-Eucharist brunch provided a wonderful opportunity for catching up. Conversations included memories of those who served as chaplains (they remembered the hostile dogs!), and recollections of ministry collaboration in Kiln & Delisle, Mississippi. There were many fond remembrances of past associations: "*Father Denis should be here!*" was heard more than once.

Those who were at Regina in years past may well recognize some of the Trinitarians who welcomed us. Fr. Conrad and Fr. Edwin are now in the retirement community. Each of them came often for liturgy, and both have served as the Custodian General. Brother Howard was among those who welcomed us at the door. Brother Loughlan has been a friend and consultant. In the past, he has offered a workshop to the province at Bethany and facilitated gatherings for our missionaries to Haiti. Together with seeing these old friends, we had the joy of meeting other ST's, including men from the Latin American countries into which the community has expanded.

- Sr. Rosemary Mangan, RJM



The accompanying certificate reads: *In gratitude for the gift of our long and grace-filled relationship, collaboration in ministry and shared values in preserving the faith in areas and among people who are spiritually neglected and abandoned, especially the poor.*

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## MESSAGE FROM SR. PAT DILLON

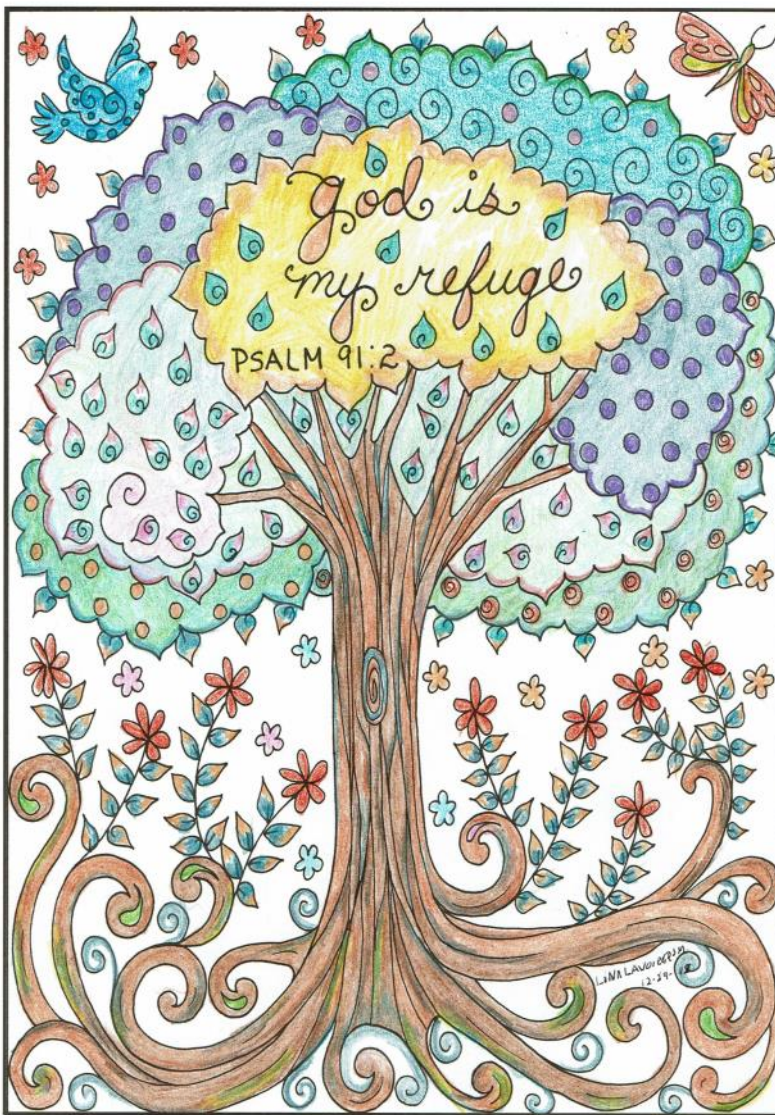
*Thank you for your prayers, concern and communications during my surgery and recovery. I am doing well and appreciate your love and encouragement!*

*- Pat*

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## PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Sr. Martha Maria Torres, RJM, as she continues her recovery;
- Gavin Dacey, who was diagnosed with Leukemia. Gavin is the son of Shirley Dacey, a friend of former RJMs Rita and Jeannine Godbout;
- Robert St. Laurent, (nephew of Sr. Pauline Ayotte, RJM) who is hospitalized in serious condition; Ricky Lopez (nephew of Sr. Fatima Viramontes, RJM) Alice Willard (sister of Sr. Claudette Lapointe, RJM) who needs more healing before getting a prosthesis and going to a rehab facility; Bob Patenaude (brother of Sr. Vivian Patenaude, RJM); Ed Crepeau, (nephew of Srs. Mary Crepeau, RJM and Jackie Crepeau, RJM) who awaits a treatment plan and biopsy results; and Claire Ethier (sister of Sr. Pauline Ayotte, RJM) - who all request continued prayers;
- The Peace and sovereignty of Ukraine and peace and prosperity in Haiti;
- Chez Claudine (Srs. Michelle Authier, RJM and Alice Cote, RJM) and Madonna Manor (Srs. Bernadette Berard, RJM and Mary Sanchez, RJM) as this week's community for special prayer.



**WE ALSO PRAY FOR ALL THE NEEDS OF OUR RJM SISTERS,  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

<https://rjmusa.org>

**Praised Forever Be Jesus and Mary**