

# BRIDGES



May 20, 2022

## WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

RJM’s from the MD/DC region and New York joined about 500 supporters of the Washington School for Girls on May 14<sup>th</sup> in a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala at Trinity Washington University.

Sr. Mary Bourdon (1st) was one of three honorees receiving the Founding Spirit Award, in recognition of her role as co-founder of the ministry that began in the basement of an apartment house in Southeast Washington, DC. Honored with her were Jennifer Gibbs-Phillips (3rd) of the National Council of Negro Women and Sister of the Holy Child, Eileen McDevitt (2nd).



Past donors, among them many alumnae of Regina High School, were acknowledged and thanked, as a video scrolled the names of those who have supported WSG for ten or more years consecutively. The event itself was a fund-raising as well as social success, with anniversary donations totaling over one million dollars.

The emcee of ceremony for the evening was a 2009 graduate, Kami Simmons. Ms. Simmons, who has an extensive background in multi-media productions, most recently earned a Master of Science degree from Columbia University. A 2012 graduate, Amari McDuffie, was the keynote speaker for the evening. While the founders and supporters were honored in this event, the focus was on WSG’s present students and 301 graduates. Current students served as hostesses, welcoming guests at the door. Several graduates of WSG were among the staff and faculty present.

In an underserved area of the city, where high school dropout rates hover around 50%, the 99% graduation rate for WSG alumnae, and their career choices, attest to the success this school in living out its mission statement:

***“to ignite the joyful pursuit of learning and inspire lives of faith-filled service.”***

### Friends and Colleagues at the RJM Tables



Srs. Rosa Mejia of Mexico/San Diego (1st) and Farzana Philip of Pakistan/Haiti (3rd) are in Maryland for a workshop, and were able to take part in the gala. With them are Srs. Rita Ricker (4th) and Margaret Perron (2nd).



Srs. Patty Chappell, SND de N (1st); Bridget Bearss, RSCJ (2nd), and Joan Ewing, RSCJ (3rd). Sr. Patty is Province Leader of the SND East-West Province; Sr. Bridget is Executive Director of the Stuart Center.



Two of Sr. Mary Bourdon’s nephews, together with their spouses and some of their children continued the celebration on Sunday with the 13th Street Community. Mary is holding her Founding Spirits Award.

This full-page ad was placed in the commemorative anniversary booklet by the Religious of Jesus and Mary.

WE BELIEVE THE SPIRIT THAT GAVE BIRTH TO  
THE WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS 25 YEARS AGO  
IS LIVING AND SUSTAINED BY THE DAILY PRAYER  
OF OUR GIRLS AND THEIR TEACHERS:

*TO FORGIVE AS CLAUDINE THEVENET DID,  
TO REVERENCE OTHERS AS CORNELIA CONNELLY DID,  
TO CHERISH EDUCATION AND FREEDOM  
AS MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE DID.*



IN THE SPIRIT OF COURAGEOUS WOMEN, AD MULTOS ANNOS!



RELIGIOUS OF JESUS AND MARY -- USA/HAITI PROVINCE

- Sr. Rosemary Mangan, RJM

## FROM THE LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM TEAM



We are pleased to join in celebration with you during Laudato Si' Week 2022 from May 22 to 29. This global event celebrates the 7th anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark [encyclical on creation care](#), rejoicing in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life.

The theme for the week of May 22-29 is "Listening and Journeying Together." Register Today:

- Register to receive the latest information about Laudato Si' Week: [LaudatoSiWeek.org/](https://LaudatoSiWeek.org/)
- See the list of global events or learn how to host and register a local event: [LaudatoSiWeek.org/allevnts/](https://LaudatoSiWeek.org/allevnts/).

We diligently pray for you on your journey toward integral ecology and encourage you to invite others to engage in Laudato Si' Week and the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) as we are collectively "bringing the human family together to protect our common home." (LS 13)

## Care of Creation Committee



A Message from Franciscan Action Network:

[Laudato Si' Week 2022](#), to be held May 22-29, will mark the 7th anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on creation care. We urge our members and friends to take part.

The Laudato Si' Week [events page](#) has a listing of scheduled events as well as ideas for both online and in-person functions. Click [here to find resources](#) such as social media posts, pulpit announcements and more.

Additionally, some of our partners have developed special programs:

- Catholic Climate Covenant has developed an interactive educational program for 2022, [Integral Ecology: Pursuing the Common Good for Our Common Home](#), is a guide to help your parish or Catholic community celebrate Laudato Si Week.
- Laudato Si Movement (formerly the Global Catholic Climate Movement) has created [52 Ways to Care for Creation](#).

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

## JPIC Committee Anti-Racism Project



You are invited to join a prayer service and reflection on systemic racism in honor of the Buffalo shooting victims, organized by the St. Camillus JPIC Anti-Racism Initiative:

**Sunday, May 22; 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Zoom-link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88931803351?pwd=bnFYdzB2NTdGZzE5TmhwVUFnY01Sdz09>

Meeting ID: 889 3180 3351      Passcode: 254648

For questions please contact Dominique Njinkeu, [njinkeu@gmail.com](mailto:njinkeu@gmail.com), (202) 641 2458

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## PROVINCE OFFICE

May 27 - June 2    Sr. Rita will be out of the office

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## MESSAGE FROM SR. KATHLEEN SCANLON

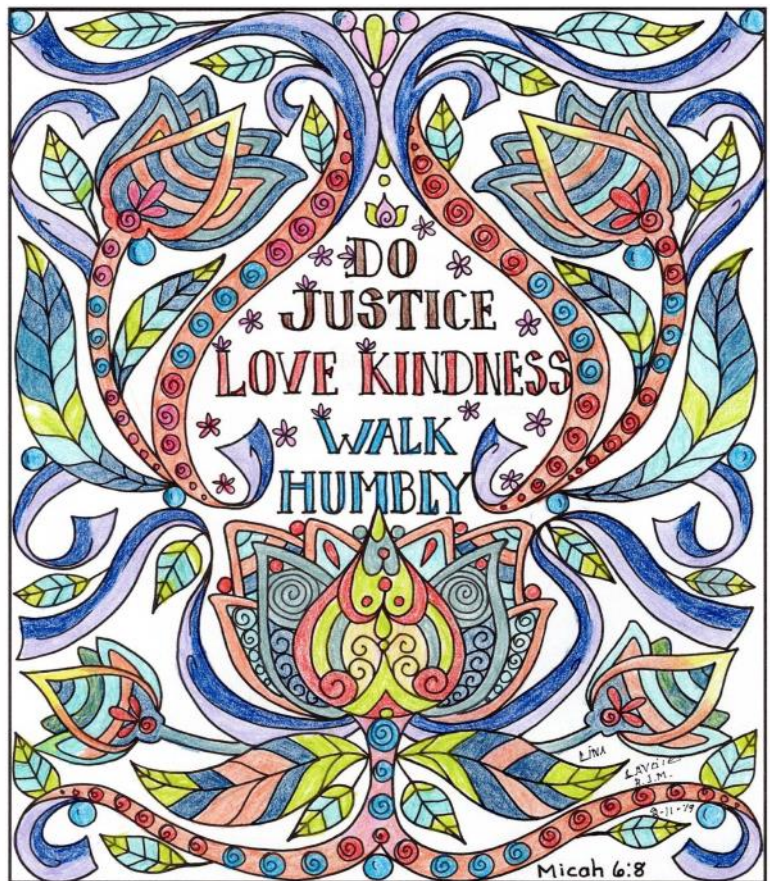
*Thank you for your prayers and support for my nephew, J.P. Scanlon. He had his 20 stitches removed and the Doctor said all is well. The Scanlon family is relieved and grateful for the RJM prayerful support. My special thanks to those of you who wrote notes and/or e-mail messages.*

*- Kathleen*

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## PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- The repose of the soul of Anthony Dorsch, the father of Clara Dorsch Callahan, who died Tuesday. Clara is Center Director for the Stuart Center where the RJM Provincial offices are;
- Leo Higgins, 5-year-old grand nephew of Sr. Pat Dillon, RJM, who is having trouble walking;
- Donald Wakefield, father of the niece of Sr. Pat Dillon, RJM, who just had his leg amputated;
- Ryan Farris, who has multiple health issues;
- Robert St. Laurent (nephew of Sr. Pauline Ayotte, RJM); Ricky Lopez (nephew of Sr. Fatima Viramontes, RJM); Alice Willard (sister of Sr. Claudette Lapointe, RJM); Bob Patenaude (brother of Sr. Vivian Patenaude, RJM); Ed Crepeau, (nephew of Srs. Mary Crepeau, RJM and Jackie Crepeau, RJM); and Claire Ethier (sister of Sr. Pauline Ayotte, RJM);
- The peace and sovereignty of Ukraine and peace and prosperity in Haiti;
- The Nimitz Community (Srs. Patricia Brito, RJM, Claire Dandeneau, RJM, and Patricia Ryerse, RJM, RJM) and Independence Avenue (Sr. Loretta Knapp, RJM) and South Broadway (Sr. Kathleen Scanlon, 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**