



May 27, 2022

THE PROVINCE WELCOMES SRS. MONICA AND CARMEN

Our visitors from Rome arrived at Dulles Airport on Tuesday, May 24th, to begin the visitation of the USA-Haiti Province. Members of the Leadership Team were there to greet them and bring them to the University Park Community, their first stop in the planned 5-week visit.

The following day was spent in meetings with Srs. Marge, Mary and Rita at the Provincial Offices, looking together at the schedule for the visit, and issues of importance in the province. Taking a break from their meetings at the Stuart Center are (l to r) Srs. Mary, Monica, Rita, Marge and Carmen.



That evening, Srs. Carmen and Monica joined other RJMs of the region for a dinner, prayer and conversation at the 13th Street Community. The evening's gourmet meal was prepared by Sr. Norene Costa.

In attendance were: Srs. Farzana Philip (in gold) visiting from Haiti, Carmen Muñoz, Rita Ricker, Rosemary Mangan, Janice Farnham, Norene Costa, Eileen Reid, Marge Perron, Monica Joseph, Janet Stolba and Mary Bourdon.

Current plans for our visitors include time in New England, New York, and California before a return to the DC/MD region, from where they will leave for Haiti on June 17th and depart on June 29th.

- Sr. Rosemary Mangan, RJM

JPIC Committee Anti-Racism Project

"We, as a province, ...commit to efforts at eradicating the evil of RACISM..."
Statement of Commitment, 2020



Anti-Racism Retreat – 'In Solidarity'

Thursday, August 11 – Sunday, August 14, 2022
Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center
Marriottsville, MD

These retreat days will invite participants to engage spiritually and emotionally as they connect to newly informed historical and cultural insights to anti-racism efforts. Questions to be considered include: *Why is there such misunderstanding and mistrust between black and white folks in this country? What can I as an individual do to promote racial justice? Do I have white privilege?*

For more information on this retreat, contact Sr. Rosemary Mangan. The province JPIC Committee has funds to help meet the cost.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WITH JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- June 4 Teresita Morse, RJM
- June 6 Jacqueline Jacques, RJM
- June 13 Patricia Brito, RJM
- June 20 Joan Faraone, RJM



PROVINCE OFFICE

May 30 Office closed for Memorial Day holiday

MY VISIT TO THE STATES - Sr. Farzana Philip, RJM

I am grateful to Sr. Marge and the leadership team of the USA Province for inviting me to the Rivers of Hope conference for the religious accompanying the people with trauma and fear held in May 15-20, 2022. There were 43 participants with 3 presenters. It was organized by the collaborative effort of the Association of Latin American Missionary Sisters (AHLMA), the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC), and the Religious Brothers Conference (RBC) at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center, Marriottsville, MD.

It is a huge property surrounded by the woods, many beautiful lush green lawns, sweet smelling flowers, a pond with geese swimming in it and a swimming pool to name some of the things. I was in a room looking over to the pond. I awoke every morning with the chirping birds, honking geese and croaking frogs. Certainly very different from the gunshots I am used to hearing in Port-au-Prince.



At our very first meeting we were told that it is more of a retreat than a conference or workshop. On the left are all the participants. It touched each one of us personally and there was some time dedicated to personal reflections, journaling, small and large group sharing and discussion. The sharing was very enriching and comforting as we could connect with each other in our services to the most deprived and the poorest of the poor. We started each day with a guided meditation and some physical exercises to boost

us up to go through the day with God at the centre of every activity, fresh energy and positive mind. The Conference facilitators, Mary Elaine Anderson, IHM, Diego Diaz, SCJ and Pat Farrell, OSF were very good at keeping us all focused on how we could better serve the people in our missions by taking care of ourselves. They couldn't stress more the importance of self caring. We need to accept and get healed of our own losses and fears, no matter how small or insignificant they are in order to help others more effectively. We were recommended to have and talk to our spiritual directors regularly. We learnt some skills and practiced some instant physical exercises to relax, release stress and calm down in trauma. To put it in a nutshell, it was a one-week experience to have prayerful reflections on our lives, our own ministry experiences, rich and deep sharing and discussion, building contacts and learning some skills and processes that we can use with the people we lovingly serve. I am simply glad to be a part of it.

I am most grateful to the 13th Street community in Washington DC to host me and take me around to see the city and some of its famous and historical places starting with the 25th anniversary gala of 'The Washington School for Girls'. I was pleased to meet the sisters from the other 2 communities in Washington DC, Sr. Norene Costa who came all the way from New York and Sr. Rosa Mejia from Mexico who attended the 'River of Hope' conference with me (in front wearing a black skirt, in the photo above). I was more than happy to visit the Lakeshore community in Rhode Island where Sr. Mariam Norick lives now, the great American Missionary who served in Pakistan for more than half a century. I am grateful to her for her loving service, simplicity and positive approach to life. She has certainly inspired and has touched thousands of lives over the years and I am one of them. We can never thank her enough. I was very glad to see Sr. Vivian Patenaude who drove from Marillac Residence, Massachusetts to Lakeshore community to meet me. Before I left for Haiti on May 26, I also had the opportunity to meet Srs. Monica Joseph and M^a Carmen Muñoz who are on visitation to the USA-Haiti Province. I simply feel blessed! We are anxiously waiting to welcome them in Haiti and pray that we can with all the insecurities around.



Srs. Mariam and Farzana at a beach near St. Timothy's Mission Center.

Thank you Sr. Marge, the leadership team and each sister in the province, especially those with whom I had a chance to meet. It was indeed an experience of building bridges and our JM family spirit. God bless us all and continue to use us for His greater glory.

- Sr. Farzana Philip, RJM

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

*We thank everyone for their prayers for our nephew, Ed Crepeau.
After many tests, Ed is cancer free.*

- Mary & Jackie Crepeau

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Martha Maria Torres, RJM who was released from the hospital and has returned to St. Paul's Senior Services and Rehabilitation;
- Lina Lavoie, RJM who is undergoing tests at Brigham and Women's Hospital after a recent fall;
- The students and teachers who died in Uvalde, Texas and the consolation of their families;
- Jeff Healy, husband of Denice Healy, a generous benefactor of our Haiti mission. Jeff has been diagnosed with a very rare cancer and will be seeing a surgeon on Tuesday;
- Melissa Alley and Leo Higgins, grand niece and grand nephew of Sr. Pat Dillon, RJM, who both are awaiting biopsy reports;
- Donald Wakefield (father of the niece of Sr. Pat Dillon, RJM); Ryan Farris; 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); and Claire Ethier (sister of Sr. Pauline Ayotte, RJM);
- The peace and sovereignty of Ukraine and peace and prosperity in Haiti;
- The Thevenet House Community (Srs. Christine Carrigg, RJM, and Norene Costa, 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