



June 17, 2022

## **MY EXPERIENCE IN HAITI...**

Coming here just after finishing med-school has been a wonderful and very deep experience for me. I have never considered in my life coming to Haiti, but I am sure now that it has been a beautiful present from God. I am a Colombian medical doctor, 23 years old, who believed in Jesus and was involved in catholic groups at university, but I think I have never felt Jesus as near as I have found him being here.

Right now, I am saying goodbye to this experience after 4 months of volunteering, and I can say that it definitely made me actively search for that God who does not abandon, who supports and embraces. Sometimes I'm getting upset and wanting to run to my comfort zone, to my safe place and to where I have control... but then, seeing myself pushed by Jesus to stay, to keep insisting; to sharpen my gaze and recognize Jesus' face in each person, each child, each grandmother here... to witness that an "if God wills" or an "only God knows" is more valuable and sufficient for them than a scientific, medical or probabilistic explanation; to be part of an Eucharist sung with fervor, wearing their best or only gala dress with their most charming shoes; of the overflowing kindness and anguish to give three times more of what you have asked for them, what you need or what they think will be good for you... of looking at you with a deep and loving gaze, just as Jesus looks at us every day.



Today I thank God and all the people with whom I was able to share some of this. It has been an experience that has expanded my horizons and has rebuilt me with a different sensitivity towards the last, the marginalized, the forgotten and the most needy, but also the most faithful, the most compassionate and the unconditional to the Lord. Thank you Haiti and thank you Religious of Jesus and Mary for allowing me to come here.

- Dr. Laura Casallas

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## **NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON HAITI**

Several weeks ago, The New York Times published insightful articles on Haiti. One of the articles, "The Root of Haiti's Misery", is attached to the Bridges email, or you can read it (or listen) online by going to: [www.nytimes.com/2022/05/20/world/americas/haiti-history-colonized-france.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/20/world/americas/haiti-history-colonized-france.html). If anyone want to be more involved stateside in advocacy, I would be happy to pass along contacts.

Here in Gros Morne, we count on your continued prayers for us and our Haitian sisters and brothers.

- Sr. Pat Dillon, RJM

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## *Care of Creation Committee*

### **A Message from Greenpeace**

[info@greenpeaceusa.org](mailto:info@greenpeaceusa.org)



When you see plastic in the ocean or on the beach, you might feel disgusted.

But how do you even begin to wrap your mind around the scale of the crisis and the reality that the one piece of plastic you're looking at is one of BILLIONS of pieces of plastic now contaminating our oceans, choking and poisoning marine wildlife, and putting our future at risk?

I also know it won't only be our passions that save the oceans from plastics. It will be our actions.

When you walk along the beach, it's only natural to focus on the plastic pollution you can see — including all those effing plastic bottles.

And, naturally, we feel furious when we see dolphins, sharks, sea turtles, and other marine life tangled or choked to death on plastic line, filament, beverage holders, and other waste.

But it's also important to remember that some of the most dangerous plastics in the oceans are the plastic microparticles we CAN'T see.

Scientists have cut open whales and sharks that washed up dead on the beaches and found plastic inside of them. According to some studies, there will be more plastic in our ocean than fish — much of it broken down into tiny, tiny, particles that get into our salt ... our bodies ... our blood...

Oil is drilled in our oceans and used to make plastics, so every plastic bottle contributes to the climate crisis. Oil derricks and pipelines leak, and oil tankers explode and collide, polluting our ocean water. Billions of tons of plastic waste, made from fossil fuels, end up in the oceans every year.

And all the while, the fossil fuel production needed to make plastics is warming and destabilizing the oceans as well. It's causing coral reefs to bleach and die, threatening the very existence of the complex ecosystems that depend on them!

So, the next time you see plastic on the beach or in the ocean, go ahead and feel disgusted. Go ahead and feel angry.

But don't keep it to yourself. There may be billions of pieces of plastic in the ocean. But there are also more than ONE MILLION activists around the world who share your passions, and who support your actions.

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

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## PROVINCE OFFICE

June 20                      Office closed for Juneteenth holiday  
June 21- 24                Sr. Mary out of the office  
June 24 - July 7        Sr. Marge on vacation

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## MESSAGE FROM SR. PAT DILLON

*The Higgins and Dillon families thank you for your prayers for 5-year-old Leo Higgins, who needs to stay on strong antibiotics for osteomyelitis. The good news is recent X-rays show bone re-growth.*

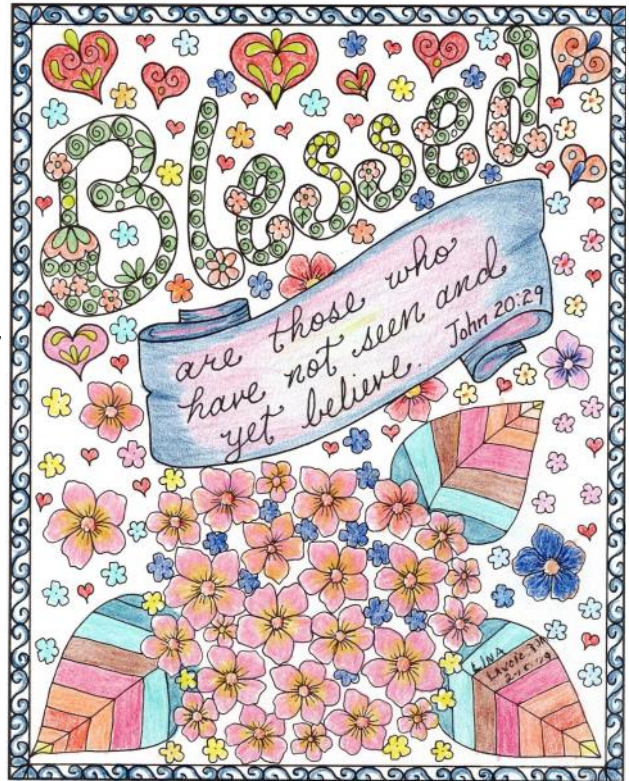
*And, thank you to all our sisters and friends who supported me in getting a new hip with your prayers, cards, phone calls, rides, etc. Special thanks to Kathleen Scanlon and Loretta Knapp for help with visits to doctors, hospital and making rehab workable. Thanks to the 13th St. community for welcoming me before and after retreat. I was happy to see so many of you, but sorry I missed so many too.*

*- Pat*

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## PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Srs. Monica Joseph, Carmen Muñoz, and Núria Cuadras as they continue the visit to the province, especially to our sisters in Jean Rabel, Gros Morne, and Port-au-Prince;
- Recent victims of gun violence and for the consolation of their families;
- Continuing Prayers\*: Christine Ouimette (sister-in-law of Sr. Alice Ouimette, RJM); Leo Higgins (grand nephew of Sr. Pat Dillon, RJM);
- The peace and sovereignty of Ukraine and peace and prosperity in Haiti;
- St. Timothy Mission Center (Srs. Pauline Ayotte, RJM, Doris Bissonnette, RJM, Diane Dube, RJM, Claudette Lapointe, RJM, Priscilla Lemire, RJM, Mariam Norick, RJM, Alice Ouimette, RJM, and Helen Scarry, RJM), Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Mission (Sr. Antoinette Jacques, RJM), Dina Mission Center (Srs. Jacqueline Crepeau, RJM and Mary Crepeau, RJM) and Clifton Assisted Living (Sr. Antoinette Gamache, RJM) as this week's community for special prayer.



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

**\*In an effort to keep prayer requests timely, we will be keeping the names of individuals in our continuing prayer section for a month. Please let us know if they need to be re-added again.**

<https://rjmusa.org>

**Praised Forever Be Jesus and Mary**