



September 16, 2022

95TH BRITHDAY CELEBRATION - for Sr. Antoinette Jacques

Sister Antoinette Jacques manages a group home at St. Kateri Tekakwitha parish in Exeter, RI, that has been associated with our community for several years. On this, her 95th birthday, we all went to Exeter with a meal of Chicken Tetrizzini cooked by Sister Priscilla Lemire, along with other 'fixings'.

Before dinner, Msgr. Gerard Sabourin presided at a special Mass for us in the parish church – his special gift for the occasion. We are not exactly 'in good voice' at our age, so the music was provided by hymns played over the microphone from Sister Doris Bissonnette's cell phone. "As We Gather At Your Table" for an entrance, "The Supper of the Lord" for Communion meditation, and "God Beyond All Names" for the closing were the hymns chosen.



Msgr. chose to use prayers and the homily relating to a religious' vow anniversary because this year is also Sister Antoinette's 75th anniversary. At the Prayers of the Faithful, we asked for special blessings on Sister Antoinette through the intercession of Blessed Dina Belanger whose 125th birth anniversary was being celebrated throughout the Congregation – especially in Canada.



We used the adjoining parish hall which had been set up especially by some ladies of the parish. They had placed a lovely floral centerpiece on the serving table, and we had brought another one for the dining table.

It was a great blessing for all of us, and especially for Sister Antoinette.

- Sr. Doris Bissonnette, RJM

Note: The above is an excerpt taken from the full story which is attached to the Bridges email along with additional photos.

CALL TO END DEPORTATION OF HAITIAN ASYLUM SEEKERS

The RJM USA-Haiti Province joined with numerous other organizations and individuals to call on our government to halt the deportation of Haitians seeking asylum in the USA. In the name of the province, our Leadership Team helped to finance the placement of an ad in *The Hill*, a publication that targets members of Congress and the Administration, demanding an end to the practice of denying a hearing to those fleeing violence and poverty.

The text of the ad, together with its supporters, is below and also attached to the Bridges email:

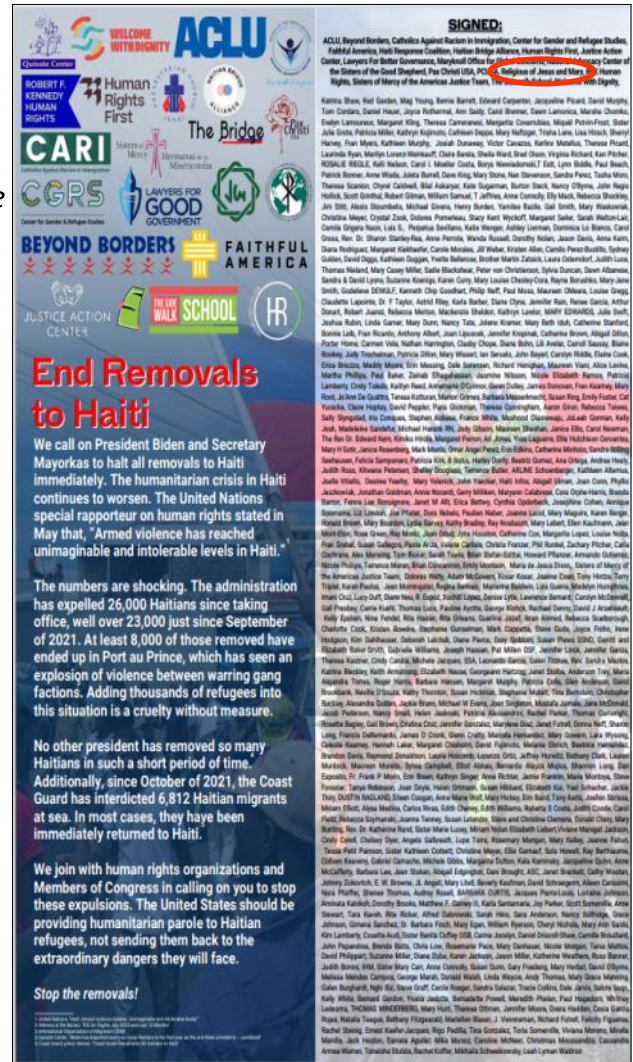
We call on President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas to halt all removals to Haiti immediately. The humanitarian crisis in Haiti continues to worsen. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated in May that, “Armed violence has reached unimaginable and intolerable levels in Haiti.”¹

*The numbers are shocking. The administration has removed 26,000 Haitians since taking office, well over **24,400**² just since September of 2021. At least **9,000** of those removed have ended up in Port au Prince, which has seen an explosion of violence between warring gang factions.³ Adding thousands of refugees into this situation is cruelty without measure.*

*No other president has removed so many Haitians in such a short period of time.⁴ Additionally, since October of 2021, the Coast Guard has interdicted at least **7,137**⁵ Haitian migrants at sea. In most cases, they have been immediately returned to Haiti.*

Human rights organizations and Members of Congress have repeatedly called on you to stop these expulsions. The United States should uphold its asylum laws and protect Haitian refugees, not send them back to the extraordinary dangers they will face.

Stop the removals!



¹United Nations, "Haiti: Armed violence reaches 'unimaginable and intolerable levels'" <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1118432>

²Witness at the Border, “ICE Air Flights July 2022 and Last 12 Months” <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e221cacff87ba2d2833cf54/t/62e9e7084a5c497562af8a6/1659496205550/ICE+Air+Jul+2022+v11THCPDF.pdf>

³International Organization on Migration, FINAL Brief - Arrival Registration with Recent Returnees to Port-au-Prince in Haiti-Oct 2021 -Feb 2022 - IOM. <https://haiti.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11091/files/documents/iom-factsheet-migrant-returns-and-reception-assistance-in-haiti-february-2022.pdf>

⁴Biden has deported nearly as many Haitians in his first year as the last three presidents—combined, Quixote Center, February 18, 2022 <https://www.quixote.org/biden-has-deported-nearly-as-many-haitians-in-his-first-year-as-the-last-three-presidents-combined/>

⁵ Coast Guard, press release, “Coast Guard Repatriates 83 Haitians to Haiti” September 1, 2022, <https://coastguardnews.com/coast-guard-repatriates-83-haitians-to-haiti/>

SEASON OF CREATION — September 1 - October 4



Please find this week's suggested exercise to help celebrate this year's *Season of Creation*, attached to the email accompanying Bridges.

INSTALLATION OF NEW PROVINCIAL TEAM

The installation of the new Provincial Team will take place in early October, after the General Conference on Reconfiguration in Rome. Stay tuned!

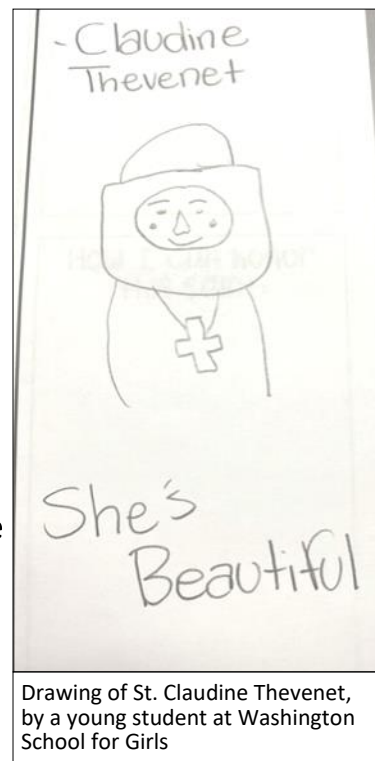


PROVINCE OFFICE

September 23 - October 4 Srs. Marge and Mary in Rome

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- The repose of the soul of Sr. Lina Lavoie, RJM, who died this afternoon at Brigham and Women Hospital, and for the comfort of Sr. Gertrude Lavoie and loved ones.
- The new Provincial Team (Srs. Mary Bourdon, Rosemary Mangan, Janet Stolba, Rosemary Nicholson, Pat Brito, and Rose Kelly) as they transition into their new responsibilities, and the old Provincial Team (Srs. Marge Perron, Rita Ricker, Mary Bourdon and Anne Magner) as they work in tandem with the new team to transition duties;
- Sr. Claire Dandenau, RJM as she undergoes testing;
- Sr. Loretta Knapp, RJM as she continues to recover from knee replacement surgery;
- Continuing Prayers: Tom Stegman, SJ;
- The safety and security of the people of Haiti, and for God's blessings on all the efforts being made to bring peace and justice to this island nation;
- Comunidad-Caridad del Cobre (Noviciado de España) community (Brittany Galvin (novice), Arantxa Gavilán Álvarez, RJM, Carmen Sanz Marín, RJM, Christina Torrent, RJM, M^a Jesús Olmos Rodríguez, 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