

BRIDGES



May 5, 2023

CARE FOR CREATION

In 1911, the Religious of Jesus and Mary arrived in Highland Mills, New York, and became stewards of a beautiful campus that had previously been owned by a senator and Quaker family before him. Beginning in 1914 the RJM opened what became Thévenet Hall Academy for Girls and since 1971 the tradition of RJM education has continued on the campus at Thévenet Montessori School.

The campus, which was also the home of Bethany Spirituality Center and the Convent of Jesus and Mary, is sacred ground to the RJM Sisters and the land includes a cemetery where many sisters rest in peace.



After over a year of virtual meetings, prayer, and hard work, the provincial Care for Creation Committee, led by Sr. Teresita Morse, RJM, (standing) gathered on Arbor Day (April 29) in space that had been part of the Bethany Spirituality Center to pray, learn about the trees on campus, and to plant a brand new apple tree. Kayel Conklin (seated), a dedicated lay member of the Care for Creation Committee, gave a comprehensive presentation about the types of trees that cover the sacred grounds at Bethany. Members of the Family of Jesus and Mary from the Bronx joined local friends and companions.

These gatherings at Bethany this spring are the launch of USA-Haiti Province's response to Pope Francis' letter *Laudato Si*. We are excited by the initiatives that the Care for Creation Committee will be leading over the years to come, especially at our sacred Bethany campus!

The RJM invite friends and companions of the sisters as well as all those who have been served by Thévenet Hall and Thévenet Montessori to join us May 13, for the planting of the new apple tree and a celebration of God's sacred creation.

The celebration will be held at 15 Bethany Drive, Highland Mills, NY, 10930 on Saturday, May 13. Please text Louise Pisano at 845-541-1492 for more information and to let us know you are coming.

- Sr. Teresita Morse



EARTH DAY - GROS MORNE, Haiti

May 1st in Haiti is Agricultural Workers Day when everyone, young to old, plants a tree or two or more.

We have a little (500) tree nursery in the forest outside our house - on the other side from where you enter. I was so delighted this morning to look out the window and see neighbors there picking



out trees to plant in their yards and gardens. Mme. Alexandre chose Moringa and Papaya trees.



These members of the Cressac Peasant Organization for the Development of Gros Morne chose trees for their May 1st planting in their hillside neighborhood and around their gardens outside of town. Many chose Mango trees and have plans to protect them from goats. The trees are in repurposed, plastic water bags.

Here, Bernio (left), manager of the new tree nursery in the Jean 23 Forest, shows Met Leny (right), J-M School director, the varieties of trees available - Pink Guava, Moringa, Papaya, among others. Cherry, Mango, Avocado and Bwachen trees were selected from the Fr. Jean Marie Vincent tree nursery in Grepin.



On April 27, Sr. Middia Doute, RJM, preschool coordinator, welcomed the 4th to 8th graders to the Chacho pre-school grounds. The students were well organized by Met Leny and Met Kenson, junior high coordinator and Claude, our school

guardian. The students planted cherry trees too on the main campus in Fon Ibo. Students brought water from the Trois river to start the new trees along.

Here I am in Jean Rabel, with Sr. Curin García Calvo who is holding one of four pink Guava trees from Gros Morne for the children to plant at their school vegetable garden in Cotton, on May 1.

- Sr. Pat Dillon (photos by Bernio and Sr. Curin)



2023 JUBILEE CELEBRATION - St. Tim's, Warwick, RI

Below are photos of the St. Tim's Jubilee Celebration held on Sunday, April 23. The cake and cupcakes were supplied by my family bakery, Wright's Dairy Farm and Bakery.



- Sr. Doris Bissonnette

UNANIMA NEWS

UNANIMA is a coalition of over 20,000 women religious worldwide who advocate on behalf of women and children, homeless, migrants and refugees, and Mother Earth. The Religious of Jesus and Mary have been part of UNANIMA since its early foundation.

Sr. Lourdes Vázquez Garcia, RJM, our UNANIMA international representative, shared with us that **María Herrera Magdaleno, nominated by our sisters in the Mexican province, has been selected by Times Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People of 2023.**

This 73-year-old woman helps lead a thousand-strong movement that no one wants to join. Four of her eight children have been missing for over a decade. They are among the more than 111,000 people currently missing in Mexico amid endemic violence sown by drug cartels. When Herrera's appeal for help from the Mexican justice system bore little fruit, she joined a movement of families taking the search into their own hands.

Known affectionately as Doña Mary, she helped found in 2014 a national network of local collectives that teach people how to investigate a loved one's disappearance. In May 2022 she met with Pope Francis, and in November she sued the Mexican state in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for its failure to investigate her sons' disappearances. Human-rights advocates say such efforts are piling pressure on Mexico's leaders to respond to the crisis.

Our sister Paola Clérico from Mexico, is with her and the family members in the network known as the Search Brigade. We congratulate and thank María Herrera Magdaleno and all who support this important work.



To read the *Time* article, go to: <https://time.com/collection/100-most-influential-people-2023/6269871/maria-herrera-magdaleno/>.

- Submitted by Sr. Diane Dube



FUNERAL MASS RECORDING

Fr. Thomas Stegman, SJ was a friend to all of the RJMs. Every year he would take time to celebrate Mass for us at our annual Jubilee celebration. We prayed for him especially during his illness.

If you would like, click [here](#) to view the celebration of his life.

NEWS FROM THEVENET MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Spring has arrived in Highland Mills and the Thevenet student have been busy as bees!

These photos of the Lower Elementary Class Art Exhibition, showcase pupil masterpieces from their study of Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, Georgia O'Keeffe and Yayoi Kusama.



Younger students celebrated Earth Day by helping to plant three new flowering trees on the Welch playground.

Additional photos are attached to Bridges.



They also designed jewelry made from recycled materials.



- Sr. Joan Faraone, Administrator, Thevenet Montessori School

PROVINCE OFFICE

May 19 Next Bridges published (articles due by Wednesday 5/17 at noon)

May 12-14 Srs. Mary, Rosemary, Janet and Pat in New York for a Leadership Team Meeting. Srs. Rosie and Rose will be joining by Zoom.

MESSAGES OF THANKS

Thank you for your support and prayers as we mourn Ed's passing. Our brother, Charles, has asked us to express his gratitude for your prayers during Ed's battle with cancer.

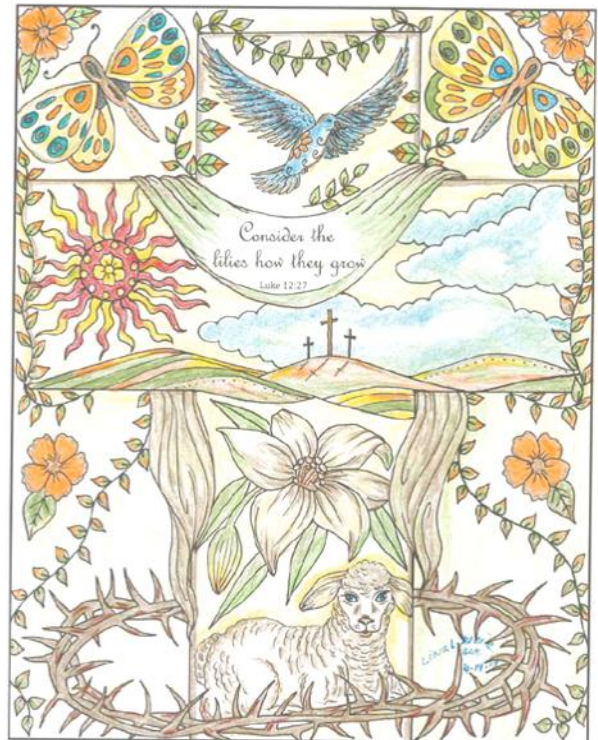
Mary & Jackie Crepeau

Thank you for your prayers for my ankle surgery to remove screws. I am healing very well—not quite dancing yet but walking. God bless each of you.

Gratefully, Sr. Natalia Mejia, rjm

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Mr. Patrick Scanlon, the father of Sr. Mary Scanlon. Mr. Scanlon, who is 99 years old, is in the hospital for tests;
- Continuing Prayers: Bob Patenaude; 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; an end to the war in Ukraine and a restoration of the country and its people;
- The repose of the soul of Ed Crepeau, nephew of Srs. Mary Crepeau and Jackie Crepeau, who died April 27, and for the comfort of his loved ones;
- 13th Street Christian Community (Srs. Mary Bourdon, Rosemary Mangan and Eileen Reid) as this week's community for special prayer.



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

Praised Forever Be Jesus and Mary