



May 19, 2023

MORE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN RHODE ISLAND

On Sunday, May 7, the Marillac Community celebrated numerous Jubilarians, and among them were two RJMs, Sr. Gertrude Lavoie, 70 years and Sr. Vivian Patenaude, 65 years.

Here, Sr. Therese Picard pins the corsage on our 70th Anniversary Jubilarian, Sr. Gertrude Lavoie.



On the left, Sr. Bernadette Oliva pins a corsage on 65th anniversary Jubilarian, Sr. Vivian Patenaude, with Sr. Betsy Groome, SC looking on.

As usual, our Mass was meaningful and vows were renewed, making this celebration of God's fidelity and our own so memorable.

The Dinner Menu was at its best - a real work of art in itself.

At Sr. Vivian's table were: Sr. Betty Carvelli (left), Marist Missionary, Sr. Frances Gritte, Sr. of Charity, Sr. Therese Picard, RJM, Sr. Vivian Patenaude, RJM, and Ms Josephine Carchia, lay woman resident.

- Sr. Vivian Patenaude



Care of Creation Committee

A Message from Oceana: www.oceana.org

(Below is an excerpt of a recent Press Release)



Recently, the Washington State Senate passed House Bill 1085 to reduce plastic pollution. The bill, sponsored by Representative Sharlett Mena (D-Tacoma), requires that new buildings constructed with water fountains also contain bottle filling stations; phases out the use of small plastic containers, wrappers and packaging for personal care items like shampoo or soap by hotels and other lodging establishments; bans soft film-wrapped floats and docks; and mandates a study of hard-shell foam-filled floats and docks. The bill previously passed the House and now heads to Governor Inslee to be signed into law.

“Plastic pollution and microplastics are harming our environment, our marine wildlife, and bodies. Since 1983, we’ve generated 85 billion metric tons of plastic waste and for further context that would be equal to the weight of 25,000 Empire State Buildings. We can do better,” said Rep. Mena. “This bill helps us chip away at plastic pollution in three simple ways, reducing unnecessary packaging in hotels and motels, cutting down on plastic water bottles by making more places to fill reusable water bottles, and by banning polystyrene foam from being used for docks unless it is adequately covered. This will help prevent those little microplastics from getting into the water and cut down on unnecessary plastic waste.”



Said Giovanni Severino, Lead Policy Organizer, Latino Community Fund of Washington, “This action in Washington is helping set a standard for states across the country looking to put the planet over plastic and leave a cleaner, healthier environment for our future generations.”

- Submitted by Srs. Diane Dube and Doris Bissonnette

LAUDATO SI WEEK

May 21 to 28 is “Laudato Si” Week, celebrating the 8th anniversary of Pope Francis’ Encyclical on Care for Creation.

Attached to this week’s BRIDGES is a resource that can help you to mark each day.

Another suggestion: view the film, “The Letter,” which tells the story of the Pope’s call to care for our planet.

It is available on You Tube by clicking on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BIU>

- Sr. Rosemary Mangan



Hope for the Earth. Hope for Humanity
May 21-28, 2023
A Contemplative Guide to Laudato Si' Week 2023

There is no question that Laudato Si' issues an urgent call to action in response to the cry of Earth and the cry of the poor. But our action, to be effective and appropriate, must be rooted in a profound conversion of heart and mind. You are invited during Laudato Si' Week 2023 to a daily period of contemplative prayer. If you can, pray outside. Begin your prayer by becoming aware of your place in the communion of Creation. Press your feet into the ground. Become conscious of your breathing. Feel the sun or the breeze on your skin. Listen for the voices of other creatures. When you feel centered, read the daily quotes from Laudato Si' and from other authors. How do they relate to each other? Pick a word or phrase that has an attraction for you. Let that word draw you into silence. Dwell there for a while. What call did you experience in this time of contemplative prayer?

CONFERENCE SERIES - Laudato Si' and the US Catholic Church

The 2023 *Laudato Si'* and the U.S. Catholic Church national conference will be held in June and July! [Free registration is now live.](#)

The biennial conference series is co-sponsored by Creighton University and Catholic Climate Covenant to equip and inspire Catholics to more deeply integrate *Laudato Si'* and its creation care teachings into the U.S. Church.

This summer’s Catholic ecological convening, will be held virtually over a series of evenings starting on June 14th and concluding July 27th.

The purpose of this year's conference will be to encourage a greater understanding of the Laudato Si' Action Platform’s seven goals and encourage Catholic individuals and groups to enroll in the Platform, providing them with a clearer path for accomplishing each of the goals through speaker presentation.

Each virtual 90-minute session will be on the goals of the Vatican's [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) and feature a scholar who describes the goal, U.S. faith-driven practitioners who outline their work to achieve the goal, and a moderated Q&A.

Additional information is attached to the email accompanying Bridges.

Date	Day	Event	Time
JUNE 14	WED.	Opening Keynote	8-9:30 pm ET
JUNE 21	WED.	Response to the Cry of the Poor	8-9:30 pm ET
JUNE 27	TUES.	Ecological Economics	8-9:30 pm ET
JUNE 29	THURS.	Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles	8-9:30 pm ET
JULY 11	TUES.	Ecological Education	8-9:30 pm ET
JULY 13	THURS.	Ecological Spirituality	8-9:30 pm ET
JULY 19	WED.	Community Resilience and Empowerment	8-9:30 pm ET
JULY 25	TUES.	Response to the Cry of the Earth	8-9:30 pm ET
JULY 27	TUES.	Closing Awards	8-9:30 pm ET

Visit www.creighton.edu/catholicclimate to register and learn more.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT - Cotton, Haiti (near Jean Rabel)

“Our Common Home “ is in terrible danger! Pope Francis has written about it in his Letter “ Laudato Si”. Our Jesus and Mary Sisters have included it in their list of priorities. “ We commit to care for OUR COMMON HOME” in the commitment statement of USA-Haiti Province.

Our local Bishop, Mgr. Barthelus, has created a group, “GAPENO” (Group d’Actions pour la Protection de L’Environnement du Nord-Ouest) to try and create a cleaner environment.



In the JM mission in Jean Rabel, a young agronomist, Olby Desir, was employed last September to work in the 3 school gardens of Acadien, Gros Sable and Cotton. He also gave educational and practical experience to the pupils and teachers. After visiting the schools, consulting with the principals, a plan was drawn up. Garden tops were bought and delivered, water canals were unblocked or built, ground was prepared and seeds planted. Travel to two of the schools was a problem during the fuel crisis, but Olby like most of the teachers walked to the schools. Full evidence of this was seen in the wear and literally tear on the shoes and socks!

Tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, aubergines, onions, carrots, sweet potatoes, etc., were planted. Some immediate results were seen. The ripe tomatoes were eaten immediately, as there is still lack of food in the family homes due to the huge hike in prices and drought that set in after the first, and if one was fortunate enough to have seeds, the second planting.

However education classes were taking place, with both teachers and pupils. All were learning to respect the environment. An experiment was carried out, burying plastic and organic waste. Some months later it was unearthed to discover that the plastic waste remained the same, while the organic was degraded.



On the right, Srs. Pat Dillon, Jackie Picard and Rose Kelly, in Cotton, sharing ideas about the vegetable Garden.

A fantastic environmental celebration took place in Cotton! 110 pupils, 12 staff members, the local Casek leader, and other visitors attended the event.



There was a display of local produce, Chaka... a nutritious stew of various vegetables, spices and meat....cakes made using local corn and other types of flour, popcorn, and delicious Tamarin juice! There was a healthy meal of “diri djondjon” and vegetables.

Olby spoke about the importance of caring for the environment, eliciting information from the pupils, and complimenting them on their involvement. Creole music was played, some of the pupils danced, a tasting competition took place, and there was a fabulous atmosphere of enjoyment.



Then the pupils went to the garden to plant some trees. They then took a tree plant each and promised to plant it in their own house garden and look after it.

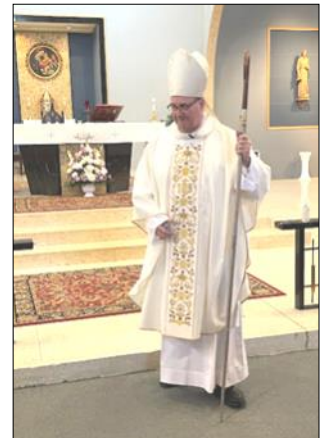
A very worthwhile day was spent by all!

- Sr. Rose Kelly

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN RHODE ISLAND

Our new Bishop, Richard Henning, Presided at the **Jubilee Mass for Women and Men Religious in the diocese of Providence**. It was held in St. Kevin Church, a mere ten-minute drive from St. Timothy Convent. A lovely, spacious, bright and beautiful place of worship it is.

The ceremony was followed by a beautifully laid out dinner and some photo-taking with the Bishop. As luck would have it, the RJM contingent was seated at a table near the end of the serving line. As Bishop Henning finished serving himself, he looked around for a seating possibility . . . and there we were waving him over to join us in the one empty chair at our table.



Bishop Henning gladly joined our conversation asking about our Congregation, our parish, and easily answered our questions about his upbringing on Long Island. He certainly was aware of the name of St. John's parish in Kingsbridge, Bronx which he knowingly referred to as "Da Bronx". So, of course, we gave him a quick overview of "Social Coin" in Woonsocket as well as of the beautiful former St. Anne's-church-now-Museum. He asked for prayers concerning the most difficult and pressing problem he has facing him right now, namely, what to do about so many dying parishes and so few priests in the diocese. He is quite concerned about his younger priests who are experiencing great weariness in their ministry. Already since his January arrival in RI, he has driven himself to visit about forty plus parishes in the diocese. No muss, no fuss, but he is "hitting the ground running" and definitely getting a flavor of the attitudes percolating in different quarters of the state.



St. Timothy Convent also celebrated some Jubilarians two weeks earlier. Photos of the event have already been published in BRIDGES, but here is another. In this photo, Sr. Doris (left) and Sr. Claudette (right) are joined with friend Sr. Angela Okoye, DMMM (standing) from Nigeria, who is staying at St. Timothy's for the time being.

It was an unexpected religious highlight for the St. Timothy parishioners to witness three Religious of Jesus and Mary renew their vows during the nine a.m. Sunday Mass on April 23. The Jubilarians who were able to be present celebrated 70 years (Sister Alice Ouimette), and 65 years of vowed life (Sisters Pauline Ayotte and Doris Bissonnette). Those who could not be physically present prayed their renewal deep in their hearts at home – Sisters Vivian Patenaude (65 years), Michelle Authier, Alice Coté, and Claudette Lapointe (60 years). At the presider, Fr. Perri's invitation, Sister Doris left the lector's position in the sanctuary to join her Sisters in the front pew who stood to recite the familiar formula they had offered the first time so many years ago. It's only when an event like this takes place that we realize how much it means to the laity to experience this witness from the heart.

Later in the afternoon, there was a gathering at Sofia's Tuscan Grille down the street from the convent. Family and friends joined the Sisters for a truly delicious buffet dinner prepared by Sister Claudette's friend, Chef Chris. Sisters Michelle and Alice Coté were able to be with us because of the generosity of "Crepeau Transport" (Sisters Mary and Jackie). Thanks to Sister Diane Dubé's thoughtful organization, there was a meal prayer at each place, as well as a memorial card and, of course, enough wine to cheer each one's heart (and palate). The artwork on the memorial card featured Sister Jeannine Coté's original design. It would have been her 65th as well.

After the meal prayer, Sister Helen offered a toast that led into a rousing rendition of "God Grant Them Many Years". Despite the rain that came to shower the day with blessings, it did not dampen anyone's spirit. Deo Gratias! Ad multos annos!

- Sr. Doris Bissonnette

WOMAN OF COURAGE AWARD NOMINATIONS

UNANIMA International is seeking nominations for its Woman of Courage Award. Awardees are selected annually according to the following criteria:



- ❖ That the awardee be a woman, who can be from a UNANIMA International member congregation, but must be nominated by a member of a different congregation
- ❖ She has demonstrated courage in the face of adversity (e.g., from government, popular opinion, leaders)
- ❖ That her actions reflect and support the values and principles promoted by the UN
- ❖ Her display of courage relates to one of the major areas of concern for UNANIMA International
- ❖ She be nominated by one or more of the UNANIMA member congregations
- ❖ That awardees collectively represent diverse geographical regions

Perhaps someone in the USA-Haiti Province can identify a person who would qualify? The nomination form is attached to the Bridges email.

- Submitted by Sr. Diane Dube

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 18-22 Mary, Rosemary and Janet at 2023 Jubilee Celebration in Wellesley Hills, MA

May 22 Mary in New York

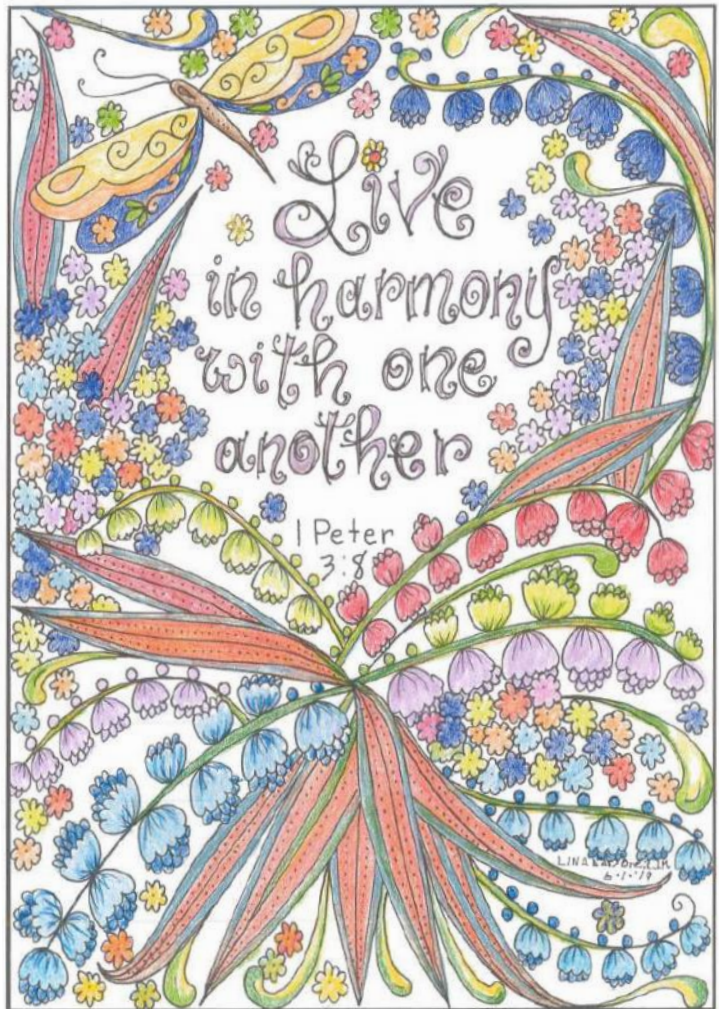
June 2 Next Bridges published (articles due by Wednesday 5/31 at noon)

IN MEMORIUM

We have received the news that Patricia Connolly Kinstle died on April 25 in Llano, Texas. Pat was a 1962 graduate of Regina, and a member of the RJM community (M. St. Janet Marie) for 15 years. She worked in education until her retirement in 2007. R.I.P.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity who will be holding their General Cenacle XVII for five days beginning May 28, the Feast of Pentecost. At the meeting they will be electing a new Custodian General and team for their congregation and attending to congregational matters. They will be meeting in Cuernavaca, Mexico;
- Continuing Prayers: Mr. Patrick Scanlon (father of Sr. Mary Scanlon); Bob Patenaude (brother of Sr. Vivian Patenaude); an end to the war in Ukraine and restoration of the country and its people; 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;
- The repose of the soul of Patricia Connolly Kinstle, a former RJM, and for the comfort of her loved ones;
- The University Park Community (Srs. Janice Farnham and Marge Perron) 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