

# BRIDGES



**June 16, 2023**

## INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON SHARED MISSION

Pictured are the representatives of the USA-Haiti Province who will be taking part in the International Meeting on JM Shared Mission in Mexico City. Nearly 200 persons representing 23 countries will gather from July 5 to 9 to discuss and reflect on *JM in the Construction of the Global Compact on Education*.



Dr. Beth Reaves  
President, Washington School for Girls



Sr. Curin Garcia Calvo, RJM  
RJM in mission to Jean Rabel, Haiti



Sr. Mary Bourdon, RJM  
RJM Provincial



Kayel Conklin  
Care for Creation in New York



Adelyne Pinchinat Mocombe,  
FJM, Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Toby Harkleroad  
RJM Director of Mission  
Advancement



Modena Marcelin  
Education, Jean Rabel, Haiti



Leny Leguerre  
School Director, Lekol Jezi-Mari,  
Fon Ibo, Haiti



Sr. Rosie Nicholson, RJM  
RJM Provincial Councilor,  
Border Ministry

Topics to be addressed include: *We Build Together; The Vulnerability of the Person, The Person as the Center; Healthy and Just Relationships; We Build by Discerning; We Build from Tenderness*. Participants will engage in conversation groups, hear talks and testimonies, and take part in assemblies. Time has also been allotted to visiting various sites and enjoying a performance of the Folklore Ballet of Mexico. The meeting will close with an invitation to confirm and renew the commitment to education.

## Care of Creation Committee



A Message from JPIC Roma: <https://jpicroma.org/>

Below is an excerpt from a recent JPIC Roma communication.

2023 will mark the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day after it was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1973. The world Environment Day is celebrated on June 5th and it is a global platform for raising awareness and taking action on critical environmental issues. It serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility to protect and preserve the planet we call home.

It is time to change how we produce, consume and dispose of the plastic we use. Today we produce around 400 million metric tons of plastic waste every year and less than 10% of it is recycled. An estimated 19-23 million metric tons end up in lakes, rivers and seas.

This presentation (*which is attached to Bridges*) is an attempt to create awareness on the issue of plastic pollution on the occasion of World Environment Day 2023 and the ways and means we can respond to this situation.



## MANY THANKS!

We are very grateful to the family Mrs. Kathleen Hickey for asking that donations given in Kathy's memory be sent to the Haiti Fund, and to those who have sent donations. Among those received is an offering from Fr. Michael Kerrigan, Pastor of St. John's - Visitation in Kingsbridge. Mesi anpil!





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## **BORDER MINISTRY - San Diego, CA**

Sr. Natalia and I continue to purchase and deliver men's pants, a non-existent donation item, to Catholic Charity's shelter each week. The Border Patrol brings eligible asylum seekers to the shelter several times daily. The migrants are tested, treated for/or vaccinated for COVID, given a set of clean clothes as available, and cared for until they are sent to their sponsors which may usually take just a couple of days. When Sr. Natalia and I prayed with a single mom and her 3 children ages 3, 5 and 9 we listened to her story, all prayed simply together and gave her a rosary and psalm to accompany her on her long journey. When I pulled a stuffed animal out of my backpack, the little boy who remained close to his mother finally smiled and hugged his new companion. The other children quickly returned to the door and jumped for joy. It's such little things - listening, praying, companionship - a transforming experience for us.



We also purchase food, food items and pick up clothing donated by the SHCJ's for 'Cookie' who has a small facility across the border near the border wall. Sr. Ann Durst, SHCJ assists her and the asylum seekers with lawyers from Casa Cornelia Immigration Law in San Diego. Cookie helps the migrants and those deported from the US. She has seen the Mexican police approach those deported walking back into Mexico and actually take their money. She rescued one man by telling the police she was waiting for this man to help her at her facility. Thank God, the police knew

her and left. The police, gangs and cartel are very powerful in Tijuana. Please pray for Cookie's son who was shot south of Tijuana a week ago.

All of us sisters working with different aspects of the migrants' needs on both sides of the border have formed our Sisters' Collaborative. We meet on Zoom each month and discover how we can help one another. Sr. Maryanne Loughry, RSM from the UISG Migrant Project has met with us on Zoom and in person to see how we can connect with other hubs of sisters working with migrants around the world who are not as well established as we are. She looks forward to supporting us in a migrant ministry to the most vulnerable and marginalized, a ministry that is increasing every day.



- Sr. Rosie Nicholson

The photos were taken at Cookie's facility in Tijuana, Madres Deportadas en Accion

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## **BRONX FJM MEETING - June 17**

A small group of FJM members met on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to “pause awhile” to reflect on our journey of 22 years as a FJM group. We recognized that our members began or joined at various times during these years; some members moved out of the area and others were called to their eternal home by our God.



We began by reviewing the history of RJM lay association and the decisions made at both the RJM General and Provincial levels to incorporate our lay sisters and brothers as companions on life’s Journey.

The members noted several positive aspects of our meetings, the companionship, social interaction and the time for reflection, as well as the focus on spirituality and social justice. Mention was made of various topics covered during these years including; Ignatian spirituality, forgiveness, Vatican II, immigration, capital punishment, Catholic social teaching, human trafficking, care of the earth, RJM’s missions around the world. These were presented either by guest speakers (RJMs and others) or by video presentations followed by discussion and conversation. We also made use of many RJM resources including Claudine’s Letters, Sr. Janice Farnham’s research and reflections, and “The Journey Makes Us One,” (a favorite)! Retreat days were appreciated, as well as an outing to Ellis Island.

We acknowledged the outreach that the FJM began over 10 years ago– to undertake a “tag sale” to raise funds for our RJM Haiti Mission. Because of this commitment both of FJM members and many donors who give items to sell, over \$42,000 has been raised and sent to the RJM Haiti Fund. Thanks to Alba Sanchez who heads the St. John’s/Visitation Flea Market, we have had access to 2-3 tables monthly and our donors have contributed generously.

We have indeed been blessed in so many ways!

- Sr. Kathleen Scanlon

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## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WITH JULY BIRTHDAYS**



- July 4 Martha María Torres, RJM
- July 8 Jacqueline Crépeau, RJM
- July 15 Christine Carrigg, RJM
- July 16 Lorraine Genest, RJM
- July 19 Agnes Bell, RJM
- July 22 Pauline Ayotte, RJM
- July 24 Michelle Authier, RJM
- July 27 Bernadette Oliva, RJM

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## **PROVINCE OFFICE**

- June 19 Office closed in observance of Juneteenth
- June 19 -28 Mary, Rosemary and Janet on vacation
- July 4 Office closed in observance of Independence Day
- July 4 - 11 Mary attending and speaking at Encuentro Shared Mission Meeting in Mexico City, Mexico
- July 7 Next Bridges published (articles due by Wednesday 7/5 at noon)
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## **UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Sr. Agnes Bell** has moved to: Elizabeth Seton Residence, 125 Oakland Street, Wellesley Hills, MA 20481, **Room 2-E2, room phone 781-997-1326.**

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## **PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...**

- Fr. Timothy Horan, who is former-RJM Madeline Bruneau Azoulay's Pastor at the Most Holy Trinity in Webster, NY and who has inoperable liver cancer and is undergoing immunotherapy. Prayers to Blessed Dina for a cure or miracle are requested;
- Coleen, the daughter of long-time Haiti donor Lorie Kenny, who is waiting for a kidney transplant;
- The complete recovery of Loveky Gue, a preschooler in Haiti, who has had a serious operation;
- The repose of the soul of Mrs. Muriel Gagnon, the sister of Sr. Alice Cote, who died last week and for the comfort for her loved ones;
- Continuing Prayers: Bob Patenaude (brother of Sr. Vivian Patenaude); Patrick Scanlon (father of Sr. Mary Scanlon); 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 Marillac Residence (Srs. Claire Dandeneau, Dina Garcia, Lucie Jusseaume, Gertrude Lavoie, Shirley Leveille, Bernadette Oliva, Vivian Patenaude, Therese Picard, and Fatima Viramontes) and the Elizabeth Seaton Residence (Srs. Lorraine Genest and Agnes Bell) as this week's community for special prayer.



Photo by Sr. Carmel Ethier, RJM

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

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**Praised Forever Be Jesus and Mary**