



August 4, 2023

PRESCHOOL CLOSING CEREMONY - Gros Morne, Haiti

A Mass of Thanksgiving closed the year for the four classes in the preschool section in the Jesus-Mary School yard. And with the collaboration of the RJM sisters - Jackie Picard, Pat Dillon, and Middia Doute, postulant Marie-Jo Desir, and the teachers and school personnel, everything went very well.

The celebration was for the three preschool classes on our main campus and the school annex in Chacho on the other side of Trois Rivières.



Fr. Dachemy Destine (below), pastor of Our Lady of Guadeloupe, celebrated the mass for us.



The 7th grade students provided the choral. Each section presented their project at the moment of the offertory. Parents were present and helped the children.



Sr. Middia Doute, our preschool coordinator, created this closing ceremony, as always, with planning by the whole preschool team. Marie-Jo taught the children liturgical dance. The eight preschool teachers helped out wherever needed. At the end, each student who was moving to first grade, received a certificate and Fr. Dachemy gave all the children a special blessing.

- Marie-Jo Desir

Care of Creation Committee

A Message from Greenpeace: <https://greenpeaceusa.org>

Below is an excerpt from a recent Greenpeace communication



Did You Know...

- 99% of all new plastics is made from extracted fossil fuels, which release tons of toxins and carcinogens long before the plastic is ever made?
- Every day we interact with plastics: from food packaging, to the bags we use to bring them home, to the clothes, gadgets, and toys we touch on a daily basis, --some of which can lead (or have led) to us consuming plastic particles and toxins used to make them?
- Less than 5% of all plastics is recycled?

Marine biodegradable drinking straws: www.phadeproducts.com

Drinking straws that are a huge problem for the environment are made from petroleum-based plastic. They last for hundreds of years before they decompose.

Sr. Teresita Morse kindly sent the above link to a company named "Phade" that makes marine biodegradable drinking straws (which are available on Amazon).

These new straws are made from fermented canola oil. The term for the material is PHA. According to their website, PHA breaks down in the water and in a landfill in a matter of months.

Since we can't get people to stop using straws, we might be able to send a message to all restaurants, sports stadiums, fast food chains, other businesses, individuals, etc to use these straws instead of petroleum based straws.

Phade also makes paper cups that are lined with PHA instead of petroleum based plastic, but the cups will not be available in smaller quantities until next year.

- Submitted by Srs. Diane Dube and Doris Bissonnette



WE COMMIT...to the VULNERABLE & POOR

PROVINCE COMMITMENT STATEMENT

The Province Assembly of 2020 further specified this commitment by specifying “ministries to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers,” and efforts to carry it out include the border ministry in San Diego and work with refugees in the DC/MD area. *NETWORK*, the Catholic lobbying group of which we are a member, is calling for signatures to support a letter asking legislators to “*divest from programs that support immigrants and communities and invest in programs that support immigrants and communities providing care for them.*”

We invite you to click on the link, read the letter carefully, and, if you support the request, to add your signature.

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Jul 25, 2023

Subject: **Letter to Congress about border demilitarization & funding for immigrants**

Hello everyone,

NETWORK and our Catholic coalition partners, including Hope Border Institute and Kino Border Initiative, have a sign-on letter asking Senators and key House members to divest from programs that militarize the border and criminalize immigrants and invest in programs that support immigrants and communities that are providing care for them. This letter will be delivered on the Hill on September 12 to Senate leadership, appropriations committee leads, and key Democratic Senators who need our urging to do that right thing. **You may find the sign-on letter here: <https://networklobby.org/take-action-to-restore-and-protect-asylum/>**

Our goal is to get 10,000 signatures so that we can get strong press coverage and show lawmakers everywhere that Catholics do love their neighbors and believe in justice for immigrants at our Southern Border and across the country. **Signatures are due Thursday, August 31.** Please share this link far and wide!

If you would like to collect signatures from sisters who do not have internet access, please let me know, and we will work with you to do that.

Thank you!

In peace,

Meg Olson
Grassroots Mobilization
Director
molson@networklobby.org



BRITTANY TO MAKE FIRST PROFESSION

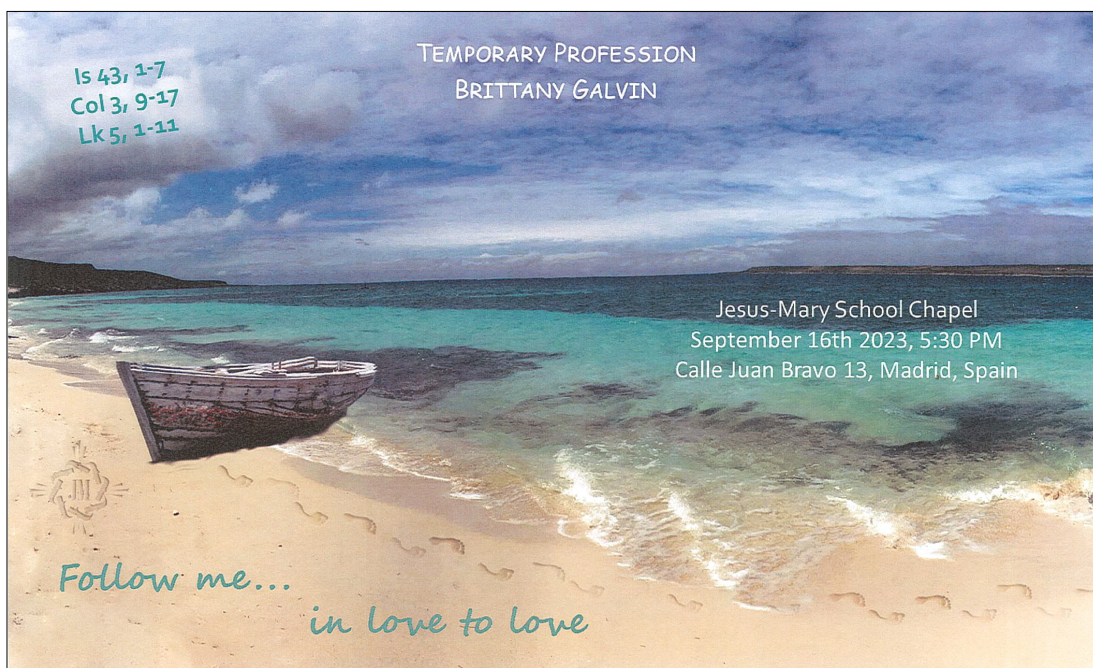
You are invited to rejoice with Brittany Galvin in her profession of temporary vows. Given here is the invitation to her profession ceremony, together with a message from Brittany:

With joy and gratefulness, I share with you all the invitation to my temporary vows.

We are eagerly preparing the celebration and would love that you all would be able to accompany us and celebrate it together. Although I know many will not be able to attend physically due to the distance, I know we'll be united in prayer during the celebration. We do hope to be able to live stream the celebration so that more will be able to 'join' from a distance and we will share the link a few days prior to the vows.

Some have expressed to me the desire to gift me with something. For me, the best present is to be able to share this special day with you all, giving thanks to God for all the love received. If someone would still like to give something, it would be very meaningful to me to be able to collaborate with the projects in Haiti through the USA Province Haiti Fund.

Love to each one of you! United in prayer!



Brittany will be visiting with her family in Wisconsin this month, and will be in Washington at the end of the month, where there will be a gathering for her on the 26th at the 13th Street Community that will include a Prayer of Thanksgiving. We hope to welcome all who can join that via live-stream. Srs. Mary Bourdon and Jackie Picard will be the province 'in-person' presence on September 16th in Madrid.

God grant you many years, Brittany!

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED AT MARILLAC AND ESR



On Saturday, July 22, the Marillac Residence and Elizabeth Seton Residence RJMs celebrated four of our sisters' birthdays: Srs. Lorraine Genest (purple), Bernadette Oliva (red), Agnes Bell (pink) and Lucie Jusseaume (white).

Together we celebrated a total of 361 years of life. Deo Gratias!

We changed our usual venue from our usual Fr. Murphy Conference Room at Marillac and crossed over to the First Floor ESR's Country Kitchen.

The celebration, complete with our Party Queens' (Dina, Bernie, Fatima) professional and lovely decor, included a creative variety of special snacks and dips, topped off with PETER'S PIZZA – better than ever! Wine and Sparkling drinks refreshed both our bodies and our spirits.

Attendees included Srs. Vivian Patenaude (left), Agnes Bell, Shirley Leveille, Claire Dandeneau, Lucie Jusseaume, and Fatima Viramontes. Not shown, but very much present were Srs. Dina Garcia, Gertrude Lavoie, Bernadette Oliva and Therese Picard, our photographer.

- Sr. Vivian Patenaude



GOOD NEWS ROOM VIDEO - Sr. Teresita Morse Featured



Recently, I was featured on *The Good News Room* for my 60th jubilee. The *Good News Room* is the Archdiocesan replacement for our world class diocesan paper.

In the video, I'm asked questions about my decades of service to the church, as part of Bishop Timothy Dolan's recognition of religious sisters and brothers who have served at least 50 years.

Below is the link, if you care to watch the video which is under 5 minutes: <https://thegoodnewsroom.org/sr-teresita-morse-celebrating-60-years-in-religious-life/>

- Sr. Teresita Morse

WORLD YOUTH GATHERING - Lisbon Spain, August 1-6

Sr. Middia Doute is with the delegation of JM Youth, at the World Youth Gathering in Lisbon. She sends this message, which we have translated into English.



Jesus-Mary Youth living in the way of Jesus!

The gospel of last Sunday prepared us to begin this pilgrimage.

Like a treasure that someone finds and sells everything to buy it – we have this desire to search, to feel, to walk to meet this treasure that makes us leave our homes, family, opening our hearts to live this beautiful experience, feeling like a church where all of us have a place.

The Portuguese put it this way: (in this experience) *the whole world fits in Portugal, and this world seems beautiful to us because we are all in the heart of Jesus.*



Words of Pope Francis:

In the Church, there is room for everyone. For everyone.

In the Church, no one is left out. No one is too much.

There is room for everyone. Everyone has a place.

Everyone. Everyone.

It is the Church, the mother of all.

- Sr. Middia Doute



THE RICHES OF "UBUNTU"

Click on the link below to see how Dr. Beth Reaves, the head of The Washington School for Girls, used a video from the recent Shared Mission 'Encuentro' in Mexico to inspire her faculty: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1--znlaikVm4oXCV2-qeuQDxPp0St5R5G/view?ts=64c28459>

The video, presented by the delegation from Africa, unfolded the rich meaning of this Bantu word, which refers to "humanity," and is sometimes translated, "I am because we are," or "humanity towards others." Already, the meeting's focus on *Building Together* is being felt!



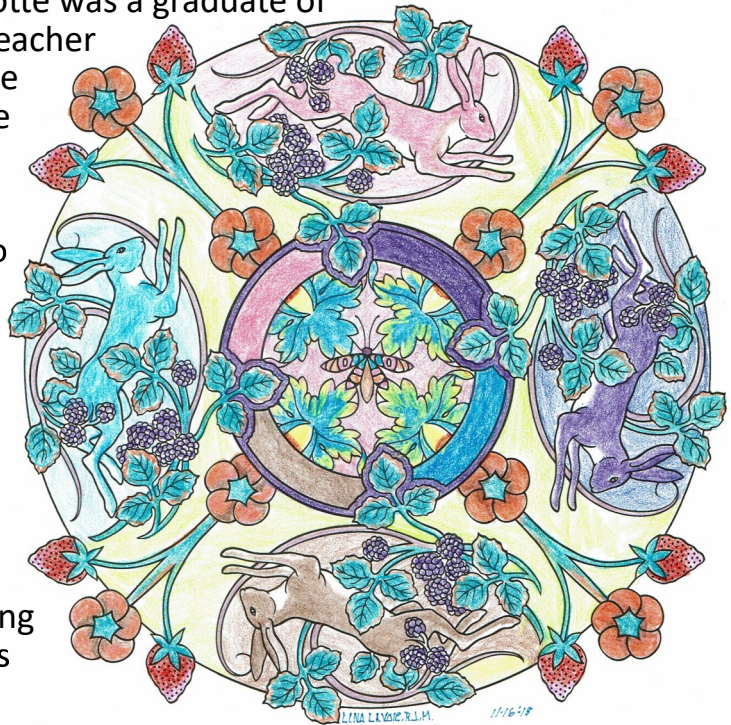
PROVINCE OFFICE

August 7-12 Mary and Janet at LCWR Conference in Dallas, Texas

August 18 Next Bridges published (articles due by Wednesday 8/16 at noon)

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Jennifer Morse-Meisenkothen, niece of Sr. Teresita Morse, who has been diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer and is undergoing chemo and surgery. Please pray that Jennifer beat this disease, for her husband Fred and their two teenagers;
- The repose of the soul of Charles Crepeau, brother of Srs. Mary Crepeau and Jackie Crepeau and for the comfort of his friends and loved ones;
- The repose of the soul of Ross Dominique, son of Charlotte Dominique, who passed away last week at the age of 38. Charlotte was a graduate of St. Clare High School, and later was a teacher there. Every year, Charlotte held a huge yard sale with her neighbors and all the proceeds went to the RJM Haiti fund;
- The repose of the soul of Sr. Encarna Viarnès' brother, Francisco Viarnès, who died July 28th and for the comfort of his friends and loved ones;
- Continuing Prayers: for Bob Patenaude (brother of Sr. Vivian Patenaude) as he still struggles with rehab; 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;
- Nimitz Community (Srs. Pat Brito and Pat Ryerse), 2995 Independence Avenue (Sr. Loretta Knapp) and 122 South Broadway (Sr. Kathleen Scanlon), as 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