



August 18, 2023

SHARED MISSION ENCOUNTER

Dear Sisters and Mission Companions:

A little over a month ago we were together in Mexico living the good experience of the Shared Mission Encounter. We remember you very much and with great affection. Today we are sending you the Document that includes **"THE JM COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION"**. The wishes that we want to live on a day-to-day basis were embodied in it. We walk together.

- Greetings on behalf of the team, M^a Carmen Muñoz RJM & Alejandra Diaz RJM

JM COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION



Mexico City, Mexico
July 5-9, 2023



*"When we go alone on a long journey we soon grow tired...
but when we travel together we walk with assurance, courage and fresh support. (Positio, page 54)*

*"The Global Compact on Education challenges us to a new humanity,...
to put the person at the centre, ... to heal broken relationships, ... to work together
to build a more equal world where all feel welcomed and included". (Pope Francis, GCE)*

We, Companions in Mission, Lay and Religious of Jesus and Mary, a total of 187 persons, from the four corners of the JM world, gathered in Mexico City from July 5th to 9th, 2023, for an International Conference to actively encourage Shared Mission, drawing inspiration from the charism of our foundress St. Claudine expressed in the JM Preferences and the Church's document - Global Compact on Education (GCE).

During the five days together, we were enriched by the various presentations and testimonies from our diverse JM ministries. At the end of each day, we gathered the fruits through Spiritual Conversations. This, together with times of formal and informal sharing, led to a deeper connection, thus building greater communion and a conviction to journey TOGETHER.

St. Claudine is a woman for all peoples, places and times. Guided by her charism and her pedagogy, we desire to creatively build a new culture.

We felt her presence in our hearts and minds, as we discerned the way forward and we desire to continue her heritage by committing ourselves to work **together**:

- **To place the person at the centre**, with the hope and confidence for what she/he can become, by forming an alliance with others, to create a 'village' of education.
- **To educate for service**, to form a culture of solidarity and to develop networks with other people to serve together at the peripheries.
- To enable the person to discover **the meaning of life and of the Transcendent**, by providing time, space and opportunities for interiority.
- **To build just and healthy relations** between self, others and our common home through the ethics of care, forgiveness, reconciliation and trust in a good and merciful God.
- **To grow in discernment**, as a way of living and working, through dialogue, listening, and praying together.
- **To nurture a revolution of tenderness**, by recognizing our own vulnerability and woundedness, that leads us to empathize with others and moves us to compassionate action.

We, Companions in Mission, Lay and RJMs, commit ourselves to invest our energies creatively and take responsibility to live and transmit the charism of St. Claudine, **TOGETHER**, so as to create a more just and humane culture.



REMINDER - there's still time to sign onto letter

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: <https://networklobby.org/take-action-to-restore>.

Network Lobby's goal is to get 10,000 signatures so that we can get strong press coverage and show lawmakers everywhere that Catholics believe in justice for immigrants at our Southern Border and across the country. **Signatures are due Thursday, August 31.**

PHOTOS OF SR. NORENE COSTA IN EAST TIMOR

After stops in Rome and India, Sr. Norene Costa has arrived in East Timor, where she is sharing her expertise in Montessori education with our sisters there.

On the right is Sr. Norene with some of the children she is working with; below is Sr. Alma Ekka, RJM, from Pune, India, who arrived with Norene; a group photo with a view from the shore of this island nation; sisters in the Fatuquero Community; and far below is Sr. Selma D'Souza (who founded the community) and Sr. Norene holding blue starfish!

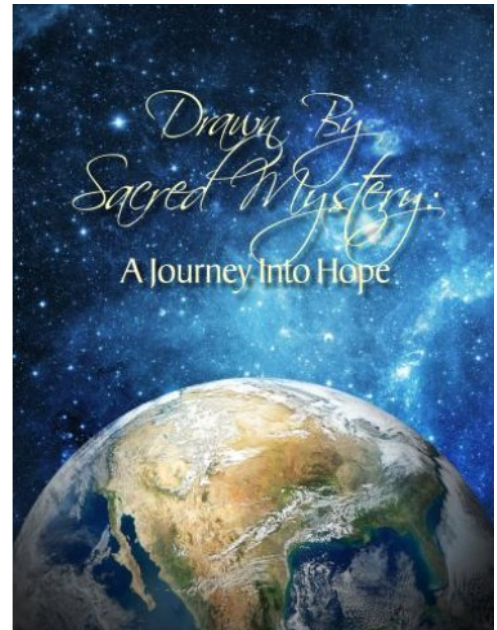


2023 LCWR ASSEMBLY

Srs. Mary Bourdon and Janet Stolba attended the LCWR 2023 National Assembly in Dallas Texas from August 8-11. More than 800 participants gathered to consider the vast array of challenges that are faced by leaders today, including the exploration of new collaborative and partnership opportunities, new expressions of mission, and the vision of religious life into the future, while assuring the care of their members and pondering new approaches to institute leadership and governance.

Below is the Resolution that was affirmed for the next 5 years. Also attached to this Bridges are the written transcripts and video recordings of all the major presentations offered at the Assembly.

- Sr. Mary Bourdon



LCWR Call for 2023 - 2028

We, the members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), are living the gospel call at a critical juncture in human history. Aware that the world's future depends upon the decisions that are made in the next few years, we embrace our responsibility to make choices that support the good of all life on this planet. We also recognize that the state of US religious life is shifting and that significant decisions are before each of us that will impact the development of this vocational call.

In light of these realities, we commit ourselves to:

- **Engage in practices and processes that foster the needed evolution of consciousness that will assure that all life on Earth has a future.**
- **Integrate the work of justice into every aspect of our lives and ministries and use our collective voice and moral authority to effect systemic change. We place particular emphasis on the urgent work to dismantle racism in society, our religious institutes, and ourselves.**
- **Support the emerging future of religious life as it reimagines its role in the world today, focusing particularly on the type of leadership and governance that will make this lifeform compelling and sustainable into the future.**
- **Promote and practice leadership from a contemplative stance.**

As we embrace this direction, we remain filled with hope, inspired by the radical call of the Gospel, and committed to discerning together the leading of God's Spirit. Affirming LCWR's mission, we embrace our time as holy, our leadership as gift, and our challenges as blessing.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP - Thevenet Montessori School

Summer Enrichment Camp has ended, but what a memorable time of fun and learning!

On the right, campers built marble tracks to study potential and kinetic energy. Below are other fun group and individual activities.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WITH SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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|--------------|-------------------------|
| September 3 | Stella Herrera, RJM |
| September 10 | Claire Dandeneau, RJM |
| September 11 | Antoinette Jacques, RJM |
| September 22 | Gertrude Lavoie, RJM |
| September 25 | Fátima Viramontes, RJM |
| September 29 | Thérèse Picard, RJM |
| September 29 | Patricia Dillon, RJM |



PROVINCE OFFICE

September 1 Next Bridges published (articles due by Wednesday 8/30 at noon)

UPDATE ON 8/26 GATHERING TRAVEL PLANS

On August 26, the 13th Street Community will host a gathering which will include a Prayer of Thanksgiving, for Brittany Galvin as she prepares to make her first profession in Madrid, Spain on September 16th. The gathering will be live-streamed on Zoom. Details will follow.

In preparation for the gathering, Brittany Galvin arrives in Washington, DC on August 23rd, from Wisconsin, where she has been visiting family. Sr. Jackie Picard will arrive in Washington from Haiti on August 22nd.



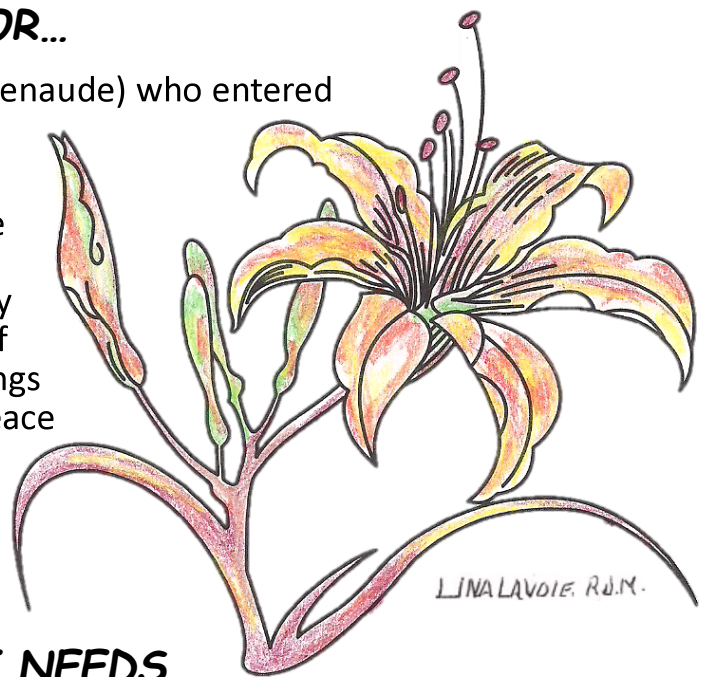
MESSAGE FROM SR. MARY CREPEAU & SR. JACKIE CREPEAU

Thank you to everyone who expressed sympathy and prayed for us as we mourned our brother's death. The funeral for Charles is scheduled for Friday, September 15, which was his wedding anniversary and the birthday of his first son, David (deceased at age 16).

- Mary & Jackie Crepeau

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Bob Patenaude (brother of Sr. Vivian Patenaude) who entered hospice Wednesday;
- Continuing Prayers:
Jennifer Morse-Meisenkothen, the niece of Sr. Teresita Morse; 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;
- Life Care Center of Attleboro (Sr. Jacqueline Jacques), 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