

BRIDGES



September 1, 2023

"DETERMINED TO LIVE IN FUTURE FOR YOU ALONE..."
from *Formula of the Vows*



RJM's and friends gathered at the 13th Street community, some in person and many via ZOOM, to celebrate the coming profession of Brittany Galvin, njm.

The *Prayer of Thanksgiving* (attached) was celebrated on August 26th and was followed by a meal together. Brittany, who has made her novitiate in Spain, arrived in Washington from Wisconsin, where she was visiting with her family. She has now returned to Madrid where profession will take place on September 16th.

God grant you many years!



Photos, clockwise from upper left:

Brittany holding a gift, a print of the gospel scene from Matt. 14:28 ("Lord, if it is you, bid me to come...");
Brittany with Sr. Jackie Picard her friend and companion of her years in the Haiti mission;
Chatting before the service, L to R: RJM's Mary Bourdon, Janet Stolba, and Rosemary Mangan, and Molly Shakeri;
Joining in the prayer, L to R, Cheryl Nichols and RJM's Rita Ricker and Diane Dube.

Care for Creation Committee

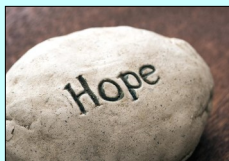
Excerpts from articles attached in full to Bridges email



Climate Change Disasters: Katharine Hayhoe

By Bob Jones, writing for REVwords.com

The last few months, there's barely a corner of the planet that hasn't been touched by some form of climate change-related disaster, it seems. From Hawai'i to northern China, wildfires, drought, hot oceans, floods, severe storms and seemingly endless heatwaves are leaving a trail of devastation.



The challenges we face are significant; but they are not insurmountable. And the more we do, the better off we will all be. This is literally what the science says: every bit of warming matters, and every action and every choice matters, too.

That's why I am not giving up, and neither are millions of others. I am not accepting our current circumstances as the new normal. Throughout the world, there are companies transitioning to green energy, voters speaking up, governments making progress, and people fighting for climate action. Yes, there are harrowing headlines; but there is also good climate news all around us.

Katharine Hayhoe is a climate scientist and evangelical Christian. <http://katharinehayhoe.com/>

Why Catholics Should Divest From Plastic In Their Closets

By Lizzy Case, writing for EarthBeat

Polyester, which is derived from oil, is the most common material used in clothing and makes up more than half of the clothing produced, and 20% of total plastic production. The Microfibers from synthetic fabrics are microscopic plastic fragments shed during washing and wearing. A recent study from the North Pole found that more than 73% of the microfiber pollution is polyester. An estimated 500,000 tonnes of microfibers enter wastewater every year from washing - the equivalent of 50 billion plastic bottles.



Wash full loads of laundry with cold water to reduce friction and stress on fabrics and cut down on the amount of microfibers released in the washing machine. Spot clean as often as possible and wash clothing less frequently. Use a drying rack or dry clothing in the machine on a low setting to keep fabric fibers more intact.

Choose garments made of natural fibers such as cotton and linen.

- submitted by Srs. Diane Dube and Doris Bissonnette

CONCERT TO BENEFIT HAITI - Madrid, Spain

On Sunday September 10, there will be a concert by the musical group, AAIRA, in Madrid Spain, adding MUSIC and LIGHT to a simultaneous event in Jean Rabel, Haiti, where we will be selling crafts made at our Women's and Youth Workshops.

We want to include you in this event, too!

You can attend the Madrid concert virtually, as we bring the world together in support of Jean Rabel, Haiti.

Click here to attend virtually:

<https://meet.google.com/rhr-tzhy-sko>

September 10 at 6pm in Madrid, Spain

September 10 at 12 noon Eastern Standard Time



The intention is to spark hope!

At this moment, life is especially difficult in Haiti. Haiti is going through a tremendous political, economic and social crisis, but the people are still fighting every day for a better life and will not fail. We want to convey that the Good News is still possible, so we are uniting Spain and Haiti as we unite to create bridges of mutual support and solidarity.

- Srs. Curin García Calvo, Valle Chías Gozáalez-Blanch, and Rose Kelly



In Memoriam

Sr. Isa Sola, RJM

May 24, 1965
to
September 2, 2016

RJM WEBSITE ANNOUNCEMENT



We are excited to announce that over the summer we transitioned to a new internet host and we have begun updating and expanding the provincial website using the WordPress format.

The website remains located at <https://rjmusa.org>

Going forward, you will be able to find and download copies of new editions of Bridges, our Haiti Mission Newsletter, and the Care for Creation Newsletter. Past editions of Bridges and the newsletters are also archived on the website.

We will be working to update and refresh the content on the provincial website throughout the fall with a special focus on integrating news and connecting with RJM social media accounts on Instagram, [Facebook](#), [Twitter \(X\)](#), and LinkedIn. We also hope to begin using video content on our website through our YouTube channel.

Be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW us on social media.

All of the provincial accounts are using the handle: [@rjmusahaiti](#)

We are also thrilled to share that over the summer we have been working with a technology company called Bloomerang to compile a new “relationship database” to help us better understand and connect with donors and supporters of the RJM ministries in the USA and Haiti. This new database, called a CRM or “constituent relationship manager,” will help us improve our communications and especially better manage our email and postal mailing lists. The Bloomerang CRM is also an integral tool in understanding our donors and supporters. Our provincial Director of Mission Advancement, Toby Harkleroad, and the provincial leadership team will be able to analyze our financial giving history and trends, stay better connected with donors and friends, and plan strategies and efforts to increase funding and support for our ministries, especially the Haiti mission.

The Bloomerang CRM will also help us to update and streamline our processing of financial support. Going forward all electronic donations will be processed and recorded through Bloomerang. Our primary donation page on the provincial website is being updated and will now be able to process credit and debit card donations from VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express as well as donations made electronically directly from checking accounts. The feature to setup a recurring monthly or annual donation will also be available. One of the biggest advantages of this new integration of our database and web presence is that we will be able to highlight and focus fundraising campaigns on specific needs and ministries. Look for emails, social media posts, and postal mailings over the coming months introducing the new ways and reasons to support RJM ministries in the USA and Haiti!

Donations to support the Haiti Mission, the RJM Retirement Fund, and all RJM ministries can be made at anytime online at <https://rjmusa.org/donate>

- Toby Harkleroad, Director of Mission Advancement

SEASON OF CREATION

To celebrate this special time, which begins September 1st, and continues through October 4th, we recommend this [Catholic Liturgical Guide](#) for the Season of Creation, developed by Laudato Si' Movement Member Organizations. Click on the three blue hyperlinks for [resources](#) to help you promote the Season of Creation in your community.

Pope Francis has already left us his [message](#): "In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our common synodal journey, let us live, work and pray so that our common home may once again teem with life."

We're counting on you!

Christina Leañó

Associate Director, Laudato Si' Movement



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

SEASON OF CREATION ADVOCACY AND PRAYER

The Catholic Climate Covenant and Laudato Si' Movement warmly invite the US Catholic community to join us **September 6th at 1pm**, for a webinar on how we can celebrate, pray, and act during the Season of Creation. To register, click on: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Speakers on this webinar will explain why the forgiveness of the debts upon developing nations is a critical climate solution and how prayer and public witness can help our nation commit to a just transition away from fossil fuels as we practice the two feet of love in action for creation.

A recording of the webinar will be sent to everyone who registers.

FEAST OF BLESSED DINA - SEPTEMBER 4TH

This year, we celebrate the Feast of Blessed Dina on Labor Day, which heralds the unofficial end of summer.



As we celebrate her feast, we invite you to go on the very fine websites created by our Canadian province.

Click here for the novena in preparation for the feast. Near the end of the novena, you can access all the previous days' offering: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3hiUqzR_4E

Click here for the Centre Dina Belanger on Facebook and to view the novena with animation and music: <https://www.facebook.com/centredinabelanger/>

Click here for the website of the Centre Dina Belanger: <https://www.jesus-marie.ca/centre-dina-belanger/>

HAPPY LABOR DAY, AND HAPPY FEAST!

PROVINCE OFFICE

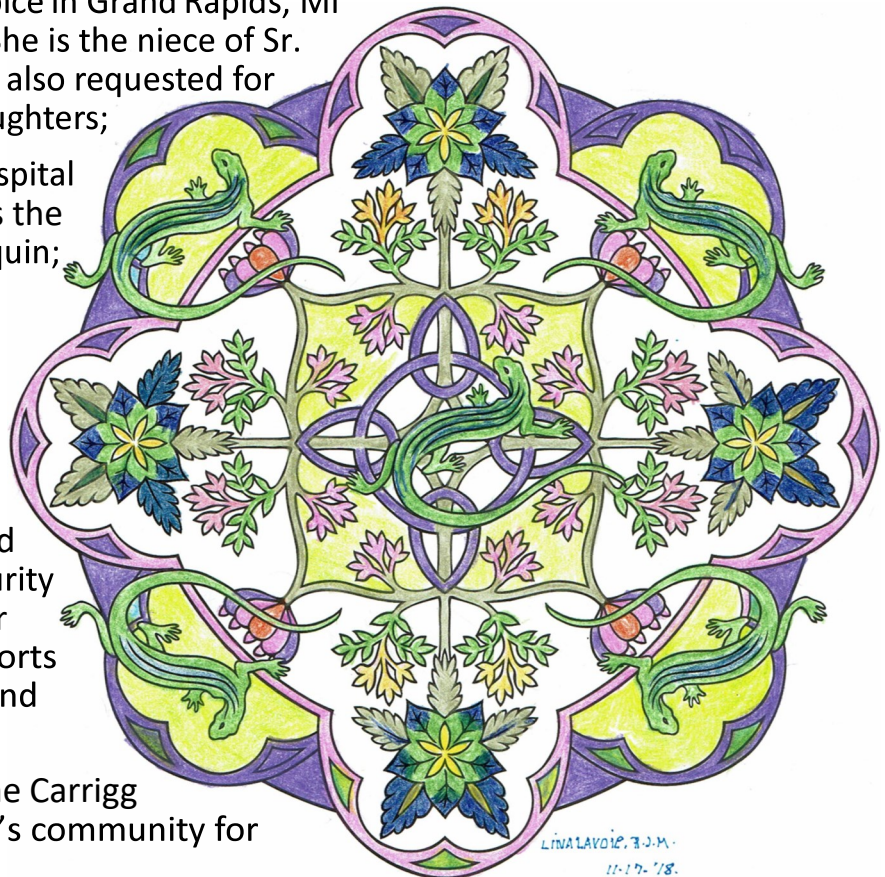
- September 4 Office closed for Labor Day holiday
September 6-14 Rosemary in Highland Mills, NY
September 13 Mary B. leaves for Madrid, Spain
September 15 Next Bridges published (articles due by Wednesday 9/13 at noon)

ADDITIONAL "COMING AND GOINGS"

- August 30 Norene Costa arrived back in the USA
September 13 Jackie Picard leaves for Madrid, Spain
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PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Gloria Ramirez, who is in hospice in Grand Rapids, MI with a recurrence of cancer. She is the niece of Sr. Bernadette Oliva. Prayers are also requested for Gloria's two sons and two daughters;
- Gail Leake, who was in the hospital with fluid in her lungs. Gail is the sister of former RJM Louise Paquin;
- Continuing Prayers: Jennifer Morse-Meisenkothen, niece of Sr. Teresita Morse; 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;
- Thevenet House (Srs. Christine Carrigg and Norene Costa), 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