



October 6, 2023

## SR. LORRAINE GENEST, RJM



Entrance into Life  
July 16, 1926

Entrance into Professed Life  
August 20, 1947

Entrance into Eternal Life  
September 29, 2023



## "DAWN FOR HAITI" CONCERT - Madrid, Spain

The "Dawn for Haiti" benefit concert was held on September 10<sup>th</sup> in Madrid, Spain to promote solidarity with the people of Haiti through song, celebration and testimony. The event even included a market with handmade items made by the people of Haiti.

On the right, Sr. Curin García Calvo (in pink) speaks as the Catholic music group AAIRA prepares to sing and play. AAIRA wants to "revolutionize Christian music." Listen to a sample of their music, "[Wake me up](#)", which was inspired by the Encyclical Laudato Si', and is a criticism of a model of consumption that does not satisfy and creates slavery. "Wake me up" begins, "Wake me up from so much indifference... to leave no one behind."

***If you weren't able to attend the concert online, but would still like to donate, you can do so by going to: [rjmusa.org/donate/](http://rjmusa.org/donate/).***



## Care for Creation Committee



### Franciscan Action Network

<https://franciscanaction.org/about/>

Below is an excerpt from a recent message

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis released a new Apostolic Exhortation on the Environment, entitled “Laudate Deum”, which is a follow-up to his 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si, on Care for Our Common Home.”

A copy of “Laudate Deum”, is attached to the Bridges email or you can read it online at: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-10/laudate-deum-pope-francis-climate-crisis-laudato-si.html>

As the Season of Creation ends, let us commit to taking one more action beyond what we are already doing on behalf of Earth and vulnerable people whether it be related to food or energy, or use of plastics, or advocacy or something else.



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## **BRITTANY GALVIN'S PROFESSION CEREMONY - Madrid, Spain**

The First Profession of Brittany Galvin was celebrated on September 16, in Madrid, Spain after her completion of two years of Novitiate. The 2-day celebration included a special Evening Prayer on 9/15, Morning Prayer on 9/16, and the Profession Ceremony on 9/16.



Here, Sr. Mary Bourdon, Province Leader of the USA-Haiti Province, receives the vows of Brittany, as Sr. Jackie Picard and Sr. Middia Doute who represented the USA-Haiti Province at the celebration, look on. Other members of the province joined via YouTube.



Brittany's parents, Ann and William Galvin (left) watch as Brittany receives the RJM cross, a sign of religious consecration.



RJMs from a number of communities in Spain and Companions in Mission were also in attendance (photo on right). The photo below was taken after the special Evening Prayer service on the 15th.



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# JPIC NEWS



## DC Catholic Coalition

USA-Haiti Province has joined the DC Catholic Coalition. The Coalition is made up of several Catholic organizations who have a base here in DC and are interested in potentially advocating at the federal level for JPIC issues (the list of members is below). Mr. Toby Harkleroad, our Director of Mission Advancement, will represent us at the meetings.

1. Franciscan Action Network
2. Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology
3. LCWR
4. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
5. National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
6. NETWORK Lobby
7. Pax Christi International
8. Pax Christi USA
9. Religious of Jesus and Mary USA-Haiti Province
10. Quixote Center
11. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Institute Justice Team
12. Stuart Center

Most notably, the Coalition helped to coordinate an advocacy event at the Capitol for the Haitian people on September 21, a National Day of Action in Support of the Haitian People. The province was listed as a sponsor of the event, in which Haitian-Americans, religious leaders, local elected officials, and friends of Haiti in Washington, DC and across the U.S. to called on Congress to stand with the Haitian People by:

- Helping restore democracy in Haiti by ending U.S. support for the corrupt and anti-democratic regime ruling Haiti and supporting a Haitian-led transition
- Helping restore security in Haiti by stopping the flow of weapons and sanctioning collusion between gangs and Haitian elites
- Helping fight rising hunger in Haiti by supporting local Haitian farmers
- Helping end abuse and discrimination against Haitian and other Black migrants

## Protesting Deportations to Haiti

The Province JPIC Committee signed on to a letter, directed to the Secretary of Homeland Security, calling on our government to suspend deportations to Haiti. The letter is attached to Bridges.

## Advocating for Haiti Food Sovereignty

The Province Leadership Team signed on to a letter to Members of Congress asking that annual appropriations for USAID to Haiti realign this assistance with the urgent needs of local Haitian farmers, so they can play a leading role in response to hunger in Haiti. The letter is attached to Bridges.



## BACK TO SCHOOL PHOTOS

In Jean Rabel, Haiti, preschool teacher Yeslene Diondion instructs a group of eager new students.

Below are students at Thevenet Montessori School, in Highland Mills, NY, who are also beginning a new school year filled with wonderful learning opportunities.

Check out <https://rjmusa.org/education/> for updated information on the sisters global commitment to education



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## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY PARTY - Wellesley Hills, MA**

The September birthday party for the Marillac and Elizabeth Seton Residences was held on Saturday, September 30, at the Country Kitchen of the ESR Residence to celebrate 4 community birthdays: Srs. Therese Picard, Claire Dandeneau, Fatima Viramontes and Gertrude Lavoie. (Lorraine Genest had passed away the night before and was joining us from her heavenly banquet!)

The party-goers below are: Srs. Agnes Bell, Fatima Viramontes, Dina Garcia, Gertrude Lavoie, Shirley Leveille, Vivian Patenaude, Lucie Jusseaume, Claire Dandeneau, Therese Picard and Bernadette Oliva.



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



- October 1     Diane Dube, RJM
- October 5     Rosario Fumanal, RJM
- October 20    Marge Perron, RJM
- October 21    Shirley Léveill , RJM

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## **PROVINCE OFFICE**

- October 6 - 14 Mary in RI for a family wedding, then Monday heads to New England  
October 16 - 18 Mary at LCWR Region 4 meeting in Marriottsville, MD  
October 20 Next Bridges published (articles due by Wednesday 10/18 at noon)
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## **PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...**

- Pedro Cornejo (the father of Sr. Liz Cornejo), as he recovers from glaucoma and cataract surgery;
- A gentleman from Gros Morne, as he recovers from serious surgery. He is very appreciative of the prayers of our sisters and for the financial help that made the operation possible;
- Colleen Pusateri, the daughter of Haiti Mission supporter Lorrie Kenney. Colleen is very sick and in need of a kidney transplant;
- The repose of the soul of Sr. Lorraine Genest, RJM and for the comfort of her family and loved ones;
- The repose of the soul of Lewis Santos, younger brother of Sr. Patricia Santos, RJM, of the Pune Province and for the comfort of his family and his loved ones. Patricia spent several years at Sophia House in Arlington while she was studying at Boston College.
- The repose of the soul of Bob Patenaude, the brother of Sr. Vivian Patenaude, and for the comfort of his family and loved ones. Bob died October 3rd and his obituary is attached to Bridges;
- Continuing Prayers: Jennifer Morse-Meisenkothen, niece of Sr. Teresita Morse; peace in the Christian and Muslim communities in Jaranwala, Pakistan; 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 Convent of Jesus and Mary (Srs. Stella Herrera and Teresita Morse) as week's community for special prayer.



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

***We rejoice with all RJMs and Companions in Mission  
as we celebrate 205 years of our foundation on October 6<sup>th</sup>.***

**Praised Forever Be Jesus and Mary**