



January 19, 2024

DISCERNING THE WAY FORWARD IN HAITI

Sisters from our Haiti communities joined with two members of the Province Leadership Team for days of conversation and reflection aimed at strengthening and sustaining this vital expression of our JM mission. With Fr. Emilio Travieso, SJ facilitating, the gathering took place from December 28th to January 3rd at the Stella Maris Retreat House in Cap Haitian, Haiti's second largest city.

The meeting was preceded by gathering information from those serving in Haiti on their ministries, the sources of support for these and the groups or individuals with whom they collaborate in the work. They, together with Sisters Middia Doute and Brittany Galvin, were also invited to share their vision of JM's overall mission in Haiti, its needs and its future.

With this information gathered and shared beforehand, and using the method of "contemplative conversation," over a period of five days, participants addressed the following topics:

- **Taking stock** (How has the mission been fruitful? What have been the difficulties?)
- **Vision** (What will we do in 3-5-25 years; how will this look in specific places?)
- **People** (Who will do it? And, with whom as collaborators?)
- **Support** (What type of governance will support this vision? How ensure funding?) [We sought input from our Director of Mission Advancement, Toby Harkleroad, for this session.]
- **What are next steps?**

The group identified some 14 steps, and some are already underway, with, e.g., commitments to improve translation services, increase efforts in youth and vocation ministry, explore a future governance structure.

In addition to monthly Zoom meetings between the Haiti communities, there will be an annual in-person meeting with provincial leadership. A date in early May has been set for a Zoom meeting to report on follow-up to the commitments.

At the close of the meeting, participants expressed themselves happy with its planning, process and outcome. There is agreement that the Haiti mission is a valued expression of the priorities of the 2019 General Chapter, and the commitments of the 2020 Province Assembly. With this recent gathering, the Province Leadership Team acted on the question asked in its 2022 statement, ***We Make Our Way By Walking***: *How can we create new ways to unify and sustain this mission as an interprovincial reality?* Looking back on the time in Cap Haitian, one part of the answer is clear: *by working together!*

- Sr. Rosemary Mangan



Participants were: (standing left) Marie-Jo Désir (postulant), Srs. Pat Dillon, Rosario Fumanal, Mary Bourdon, Fr. Emilio Travieso, SJ, (facilitator), Srs. Jackie Picard, Rose Kelly, Rosemary Mangan; (seated left) Srs. Valle Chías, Liz Cornejo.

INTERNATIONAL JM FORMATORS' MEETING

Joining with RJM's throughout the world, Sr. Mary Bourdon leaves today for Yaoundé, Cameroon. The meetings will take place from January 22nd through January 26th, and have as their theme

Walking, Discerning, Integrating...To Bear Fruit: Initial Formation – Growing in Healthy and just Relationships.

Over five days, participants will address the issue of just and healthy relationships by looking at:

- Our Sources (Constitutions and Book of Formation)
- The Vows
- Community & Mission
- The Economy & JPIC
- The Family

Yaoundé is the site for the novitiate of the African Delegation, and where we hope that our Haitian postulant, Marie-Jo Desir, will soon be able to go to continue her formation.

More about the meeting when Mary returns!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE IN FEBRUARY

- February 2 Sandra Salazar, RJM
February 7 Rosemary Nicholson, RJM
February 10 Priscilla Lemire, RJM



PROVINCE OFFICE

- January 19 - 28 Mary in Yaoundé, Cameroon
February 2 Next Bridges published (articles due by Wednesday 1/31 at noon)

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...



- Continuing Prayers: Sr. Claudette Lapointe, Sr. Mariam Norick, Jennifer Morse-Meisenkothen who is the niece of Sr. Teresita Mores and for Colleen Pusateri who is the daughter of Haiti Mission supporter Lorrie Kenney;
- 13th Street Christian Community (Srs. Mary Bourdon, Rosemary Mangan, Janet Stolba, and Eileen Reid), as this week's community for special

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

Praised Forever Be Jesus and Mary