



February 2, 2024

CELEBRATING ST. CLAUDINE'S FEAST AROUND THE PROVINCE

On February 3rd, RJM's and their associates around the world will be celebrating the Feast of St. Claudine. Here in the USA-Haiti Province, some communities have shared their plans for that day.

The **St. Tim's** sisters, who have been praying the novena prepared by the Angelique community in Lyon, will be having a special Mass with Fr. Robert Marciano, Pastor of St. Kevin's, where Sr. Priscilla serves as a foster grandparent. Those at **Marillac** will gather for prayer and sharing, using parts of the Angelique novena.

Our **New Yorkers** will hit the road, as sisters from Yonkers and Highland Mills bridge the almost 50-mile distance between them to meet and celebrate at a designated mid-point. In California, the **La Casa de Esperanza** community has planned an evening prayer reflection, with each one bringing a reading, song or scripture passage that highlights Claudine's life.

The schools in the **Jean Rabel** area will be celebrating the feast on Friday. After Mass on the 3rd, RJM's will gathering with friends for a breakfast together.

On Wednesday, the Jesus-Mary Parish School student body in **Gros Morne, Haiti** held a "Life of St. Claudine" contest and performed two skits from Claudine's life, beginning with Fr. Coindre's discovery of the two little homeless girls in the church doorway whom he brought to Claudine. The first photo below is taken from a video, attached to *Bridges*, of the children singing. The second photo is of St. Claudine and children praying. In next week's *News Notes* there will be additional photos of the Jesus-Mary celebrations.



Attached to this issue of *Bridges* is a letter from Sr. Monica Joseph, inviting reflection on the central place of forgiveness in Claudine's life, and calling on us to bring that grace and that healing into today's world.

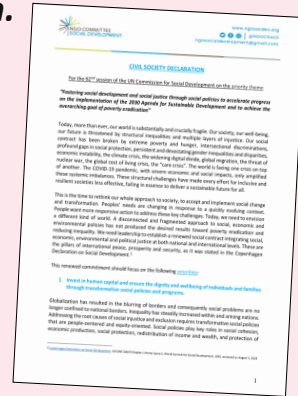
Happy Feast!

Support for Just Social Policies

On behalf of the USA-Haiti Province, and with the support of the JPIC Committee, the Province Leadership Team has signed in support of the **2024 Civil Society Declaration**.

The declaration calls for human rights-based social systems, ensuring equal access to healthcare, education, digital technology, affordable housing and food, as well as debt relief, access to a healthy environment, and equality before the law.

Sr. Jean Quinn, DW, Director of *UNANIMA*, will be presenting the declaration Monday, February 5th, when the session of the UN Committee on Social Development begins. It will be broadcasted live at <https://webtv.un.org/en>. A copy of the declaration is attached to this issue of *Bridges*.



PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On February 8th, the Feast of St. Bakhita, we are invited to join people all over the world to pray for an end to human trafficking which is a violation of human dignity.

Attached to the *Bridges* email, please find a prayer service that you can use or adapt in your own setting.

MEJ CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY - Gros Morne, Haiti

MEJ (*Eucharistic Youth Movement* in Creole) celebrated their anniversary on the Feast of the Conversation of St. Paul, but the mass was on January 28th at Our Lady of Guadalupe. About forty Jesus-Mary School students participate in MEJ thanks to Postulant Marie-Jo Desir.



After the homily by Pastor Fr. Dachemy Déstine (left), Marie-Jo Desir (above) put scarves on those moving up.

- Sr. Pat Dillon, photos by Sr. Rosario Fumanal

CHILD SAFETY SEMINAR - Jean Rabel, Haiti

Twenty-four school staff members attended a child Safety seminar, led by Michel Joseph Mertil. It was the first seminar of its kind in which our newer staff members had the opportunity to attend and participate. Others who had attended before, were happy to discuss and share their experiences.

Children in this area, and indeed in all Haiti, are very vulnerable. Their parents have often to leave them in the hands of a grandparent, or other relative, as they themselves seek work elsewhere. When the parents are unable to provide for all their children, one or more are given to another family as a servant. Depending on the adoptive parents, they may be well looked after, or maltreated.



Anyone coming to work in our schools, is asked to attend this course and sign a document that declares that they will do all in their power to ensure the safety of the pupils in the schools. The phone number of a contact person, Miss. Sherline, is given to them, should there be concerns about a child or adult. Miss. Sherline then follows up with family and doctor when necessary.

- Sr. Rose Kelly

REGINA HIGH SCHOOL REUNION INVITATION

Many alumnae of Regina High School have been generous in supporting *The Washington School for Girls* over the years. See below for an invitation to a reunion with Regina friends, and an opportunity to learn more about the work of WSG.

The deadline for RSVP has been graciously extended to accommodate the publication date of BRIDGES, but we urge you to RSVP **ASAP!**



REGINA GRADUATES, Faculty & Staff: SAVE the DATE!

Let's Reunite and Rekindle our Reggie Connections!



COME JOIN US IN BETHANY BEACH

We all know the Religious of Jesus and Mary from Regina High School, but did you know that the RJM's have dedicated their work to improving the lives of young girls? For over 200 years, the nuns have kept this promise in places all over the world. Currently, in our DC area, the Washington School for Girls continues this work.

If you have supported WSG over the years, you know there is so much good news coming from the school. During this upcoming social gathering, you'll have an opportunity to briefly hear from WSG. Dr. Beth Reeves, WSG President, will be with us and will take a moment to catch you up on the inspiring things occurring at the school.

When: Friday, May 3, 2024
Where: Bethany Beach, Delaware
Time: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

— *Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by the ROSKAMP FOUNDATION* —

Whether you live in the beach area, or love to visit the beach, this is a chance to spend some time with your Regina friends! We will need to know how many might hope to attend. Kindly RSVP to dsroskamp@gmail.com or text to 941-685-3143 by February 1, 2024, so that further planning can begin. Details will follow after RSVPs are received.

The Reggie Planning Committee is looking forward to a great time with old friends, and catching up on all the good news from [the Washington School for Girls!](#)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK - at St. Frances de Chantal, Bronx, NY

Many Catholic Schools Week activities have occurred at St. Frances de Chantal School in Bronx, NY. The students led prayers each day. We had over 300 visitors in 2 hours time for our Open House. The students had crazy sock day and brought in a pair of new socks for the homeless. We are happy to report that 999 pairs of new socks were collected! Grandparents Day will held be today.



Above, Middle School “Reading Buddies” read books to the Pre-K and Kindergarten students.

On the left, Middle school teachers dressed up for “Twin Day” as did the students!

- Sr. Pat Brito, Principal

INTERNATIONAL JM FORMATORS' MEETING

Sr. Mary Bourdon returned from the Formation Meeting in Yaoundé on January 30th. She is pictured here (look for the red star) with the participants.

In addition to the RJM hosts in Africa, and our General Team from Rome, sisters came from Bolivia, Peru, Mexico, Argentina, USA, Canada, Spain, Ireland, Syria, Pakistan, India and East Timor.

More about the meeting in the next *Bridges*!



MESSAGE FROM SR. PAULINE AYOTTE

As most of you have experienced, the passing of someone loved is devastating. Claire L. Ethier died the day after Christmas from complications caused by Covid.

The service in Falmouth at her Church was a heartwarming attendance by cousins, step-family, friends and my religious from Marillac and Warwick. Then Claire's ashes were brought to hometown Woonsocket for a service in Precious Blood Church.

"Gratitude" is the only fitting word to my adopted sisters in religion. Warwick sisters and Monique Tedino came to both services. For all the prayers, cards, phone calls (Haiti). Thank you.

"They live forever in our hearts those who gave (and give) our lives beauty and love. (adapted).

- Pauline Ayotte

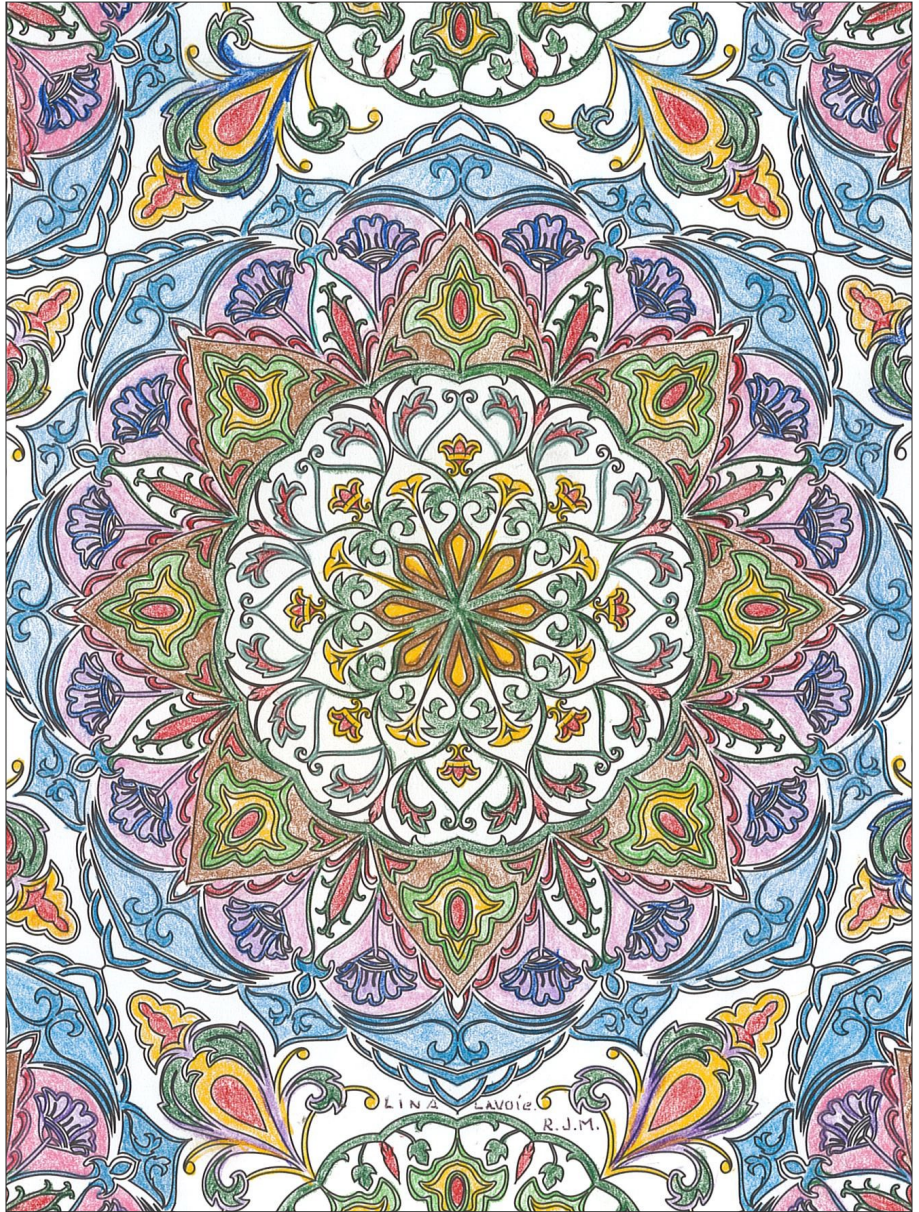
PROVINCE OFFICE

February 16

Next Bridges published (articles due by Wednesday 1/14 at noon)

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Continuing Prayers:
Sr. Claudette Lapointe,
Colleen Pusateri who is
the daughter of Haiti
Mission supporter Lorrie
Kenney, and for Jennifer
Morse-Meisenkothen
who is the niece of Sr.
Teresita Morse;
- The repose of the soul
Msgr. Bill Foley, who had
been the Pastor at St.
John's Kingsbridge from
1984-1994. Msgr. Foley
passed away January 27th
at the age of 82. May he
rest in peace;
- University Park Community
(Srs. Janice Farnham,
Marge Perron, and Rita
Ricker), as this 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