



April 19, 2024

## ST. MARIE SCHOOL - Jean Rabel, Haiti

April the 17<sup>th</sup> was a big day in the lives of the pupils of the afternoon school of St. Marie! For 4 months they had practiced playing the recorder. This is the music recital group - it was their first experience.

Sr. Curin García Calvo had received a gift of recorders from a music teacher, called Carmen, in Spain. She sought an instructor and asked a local music teacher to come and teach some of the pupils how to play the recorder. Teacher Francois Franzo (in



and asked a local music teacher to come and teach some of the pupils how to play the recorder. Teacher Francois Franzo (in yellow) took on the task and is shown on here with mentor Edler Elifrance, who holds a copy of the program.



It was not easy for the pupils to practice, as in the first months, they were not allowed to take the instrument to their house. Most of these pupils do not live with their parents but with other adoptive parents. It depends on how much work they have to do, if they have time to practice. However as the date for the recital drew near, they were allowed to bring home the recorders so they could practice more. It paid off! The wonderful recital was attended by members of the Montfortan and Jesus and Mary teams.



The other pupils such as these in the St. Marie Afternoon School were awestruck with the talent on display.

Many other pupils now wish to learn the recorder too. Two of the pupils had learnt on their own, a tune that is played at international football matches!

Congratulations to all concerned! Watch for news of future recitals!

- The Jean Rabel Team

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## MORE GOOD NEWS FROM JEAN RABEL, HAITI

Today two vehicles, the mobile clinic teams and the ministry teams set out for the day's activities in the rural isolated communities in the Jean Rabel department.

The mobile clinic team - Wadley, Valle, Chantal, Sherline and Celestine, are off to Mawouj, a 45 minute drive up the mountain, over treacherous terrain. But Wadley is used to negotiating these potholed roads over many years now. It is cloudy and all are hoping that it will not rain, so they can return safely!

They are visiting a centre for people with special needs. *Se Madda* will have 25 patients ready for consultation. Sherline prepares the files, takes blood pressure, etc, and then Valle with patience, love and professionalism, treats each one. Sherline gives the prescribed medicines, if they have them. Chantal takes lab samples to be diagnosed later in the lab. Celestine is on the beat, bringing nutritious mamba to the vulnerable children on her list. Last December, 60 children who were on the normally 6 month treatment, were fit enough to leave the *Se Madda* program and now 60 more are admitted.



On the second vehicle, Supreme and Olince, are loading up the car with supplies. Paul, Marco, Modena, Michel and Johnny are off in another direction, more on the flat, but nonetheless challenging terrain too! Like the mobile clinic teams, they will be crossing rivers. They pull into the preschool in Gros Sable, with boxes of peanut butter packets for the morning supplement for the children. They also have a small book case to deliver. Then it is on to Acadien school.

Michel supports the schools by accompanying and evaluates the work of the teachers, following up on formation, offering suggestions regarding its implementation, bringing necessary classroom materials, etc.

Paul is in the process of setting up a competition on the environment between 3 schools. He is on the committee with Olby, our environmental officer, and another interested teacher, Jimmy. They plan to have the final of the competition on the 1st of May, all is going well!

Marco is training in a new IT teacher who has replaced the last teacher who had a baby recently. Indeed Marco is in his final year of computer studies in Port-au-Prince, but because of the terrible insecurity there, has been unable to resume classes this year.

Modena coordinates most of these activities, paying special attention to the buying, storing, delivering and monitoring of the food distribution. It is a priority that the pupils have food every day...for many, it is the only meal they get.

The bad news hits the pages and it is true, Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas are undergoing unspeakable experiences, but it is important to highlight good news that is happening. The families here are so appreciative of the prayer and support you send that enable these activities take place. Otherwise there would certainly be more deaths due to malnutrition, lack of finance to support education, and other daily emergencies. Thank you and blessings on your families.

- The Jean Rabel Team

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## CELEBRATE EARTH DAY ON APRIL 22

We asked Sr. Teresita Morse, Chairperson of the *Care for Creation at Bethany* Committee, to share her suggestion for an *Earth Day Prayer Service*. Given below is a 'taste' of what is given fully as an attachment to this edition of BRIDGES.

### Prayerful Reflection on God's Presence in All Creatures

#### *Excerpts from the two prayers written by Pope Francis in Laudato Si*

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with Your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of Your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Father, we praise you with all Your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are Yours, filled with Your presence and Your tender love, Praise be to You!

Son of God, Jesus, through You all things were made. When you were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, You became part of this earth. Today You are alive in every creature! Praise be to You!

Holy Spirit, by Your light, You guide this world toward the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and You inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to You!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate You in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of You.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that You have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. Praise be to You! Amen.



Suggested music available on YouTube: *Everything is Holy Now* by Peter Mayer  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ua0PE1zulD4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ua0PE1zulD4)

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## MANRESA RETREAT - Summer 2024

The Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies at Boston College invites you to participate in the **12 Weeks in Manresa: Spiritual Exercises for our Times**, an Ignatian retreat in daily life that will help you deepen your prayer and relationship with God. The retreat is from June 2 to August 25. Attached to the email accompanying *Bridges* is a flyer with complete details and a link to register.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WITH MAY BIRTHDAYS



May 5 Lucie Jusseaume RJM  
May 7 Brittany Galvin, RJM  
May 20 Curín García Calvo RJM  
May 23 Norene Costa RJM  
May 27 Janice Farnham RJM  
May 31 Kathleen Scanlon RJM

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## PROVINCE OFFICE

May 3 Next Bridges published (articles due by Wednesday 5/1 at noon)

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## MESSAGE FROM CORINE GREENWALD

*Thank you, thank you, thank you for your prayers regarding the tumor removed from my stomach. I was so upset because my regular doctor thought I had cancer, but the surgeon says, no, I'm cancer-free! I'll have a procedure just to make sure in a month. But I'm so happy it was a benign tumor! I always say that the prayers of the sisters get answered!*

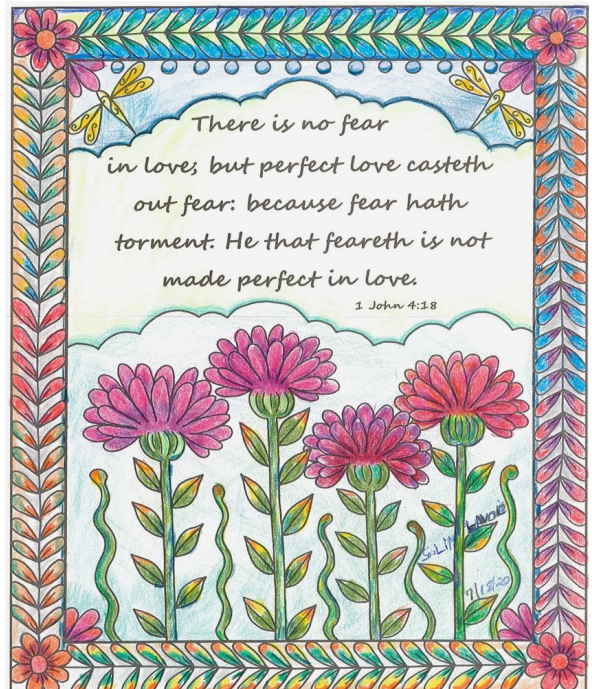
*- Corine Greenwald, sister of Sr. Dina Garcia*

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## PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Terri Contreras, the grand-niece of Sr. Fatima Viramontes. Terri is battling cancer;
- Continuing Prayers for: Mr. Pat Scanlon who is the father of Mary Scanlon, Colleen Pusateri who is the daughter of Haiti Mission supporter Lorrie Kenney; and Jennifer Morse-Meisenkothen who is the niece of Sr. Teresia Morse;
- Convent of Jesus and Mary (Srs. Stella Herrera and Teresita Morse), as this week's community for special prayer.

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



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**Praised Forever Be Jesus and Mary**