



**May 3, 2024**

## **SR. JACQUELINE JACQUES, RJM**



**Entrance into Life  
June 6, 1931**

**Entrance into Professed Life  
February 23, 1953**

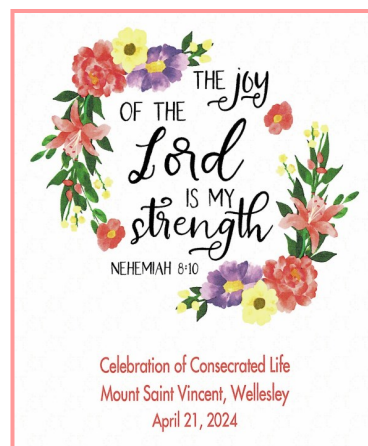
**Entrance into Eternal Life  
April 23, 2024**



### ***Funeral Mass***

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated by Msgr. Gerard Sabourin for Sr. Jacqueline Jacques on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, in the chapel of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Mission in Exeter, RI. RJM's from the New England Region were joined by Srs. Mary Bourdon, Margaret Perron, and Rosemary Mangan for the morning liturgy, followed by a luncheon in the parish hall. Attached to this issue of *Bridges* is the eulogy delivered by Sr. Margaret.

### ***JUBILEE CELEBRATION - Marillac and ESR Communities***



On Sunday, April 21, the Marillac and ESR Communities enjoyed a Celebration of Consecrated Life with the theme: The Joy of the Lord is my Strength. (Nehemiah 8:10) We celebrated the:

- ❖ 75th anniversary of two Sisters of Charity
- ❖ 70th anniversary of four Sisters: one Marist, two Charities and our own Lucie Jusseaume
- ❖ 65th anniversary of seven Sisters: five Charities and our own Mariam Norick and Helen Scarry
- ❖ 60th anniversary of four Sisters: three Charities and one Marist.

Our Jubilee Mass was celebrated by Fr. Don McMillan, SJ, who happily was able to join us for our special Jubilee Dinner.

## *Care of Creation Committee*

### **A Message from Jane Fonda and Greenpeace**

(Below are excerpts from a recent Press Release)

I'm not only a climate activist - I'm also a cancer survivor, twice over now. I realize I'm lucky to have had amazing doctors and nurses, and grateful to live in a time in which so much progress has been made in researching this awful illness.

Nevertheless, cancer has become an epidemic: the National Cancer Institute expects 40.5% of people will develop it in their lifetimes. That means it's almost certain that somebody each of us knows and loves will be impacted by this terrible disease - and this is no mere coincidence.



Creative Commons photo from Wikipedia

Not when the EPA keeps finding cancer-causing chemicals derived from oil, coal, and gas in our air, our food, our furniture, our clothes, our cooking utensils - and as a result, in us. This research indicates that fossil fuel reliance and the (corporations profiting from it) are driving both crises plaguing our planet.

In short, oil, gas, and coal are making people and the planet SICK. And this multifaceted tragedy won't stop killing us unless we take urgent action to end it first.

Find out how you can help support creative confrontation to expose climate culprits, promote solutions, and achieve the transformative change that can and will bring about the healthy, livable future we all deserve. Go to [www.greenpeace.org/usa](http://www.greenpeace.org/usa).

- Submitted by Srs. Diane Dube and Doris Bissonnette



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## MAY 1<sup>st</sup> GROUNDBREAKING - Washington School for Girls

Excerpted from WSG Press Release

The Washington School for Girls (WSG) – an all-scholarship independent Catholic School serving girls in third through eighth grade, broke ground on its 33,000 square-foot, \$25 million expansion at the Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC), in partnership with Building Bridges Across the River.

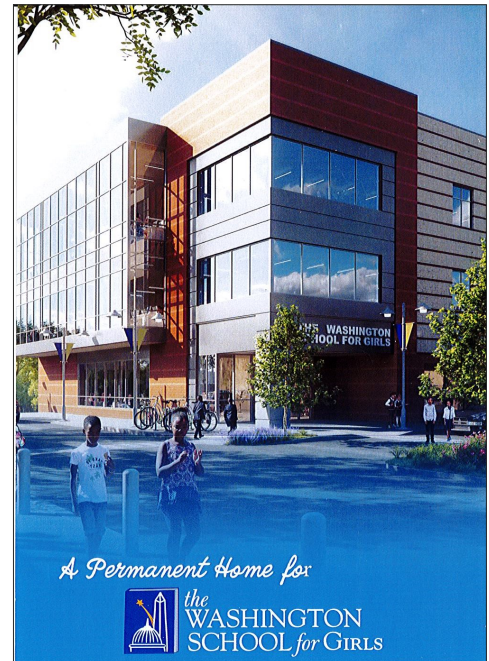
Currently, WSG's student population is split between two campuses with middle schoolers attending classes at THEARC and third through fifth graders attending at the View campus on Morris Road SE. The new building's size and design (right) will allow for the instruction and advancement for all 100 current students – and up to 150 students in the future – to take place in one location, and the adaption of staffing and schedules to meet students' learning needs while creating the opportunity for cross-grade experiences.

"We're thrilled to build a home of our own, an innovative and intentional space that sparks our students' joy of learning, is reflective of our mission, and will allow us to better prepare our girls for success in high school and equip them with the skills, the values, and the confidence to thrive for the years beyond," Beth Reaves, DBA, President, Washington School for Girls, said. "The new building will transform our girls' experience by creating a greater sense of community, allowing our younger students to join with older students each day under one roof, with cross-grade connections, learning and prayer opportunities and a greater sense of sisterhood."

The construction plans call for a three-story building between THEARC's east and west buildings, opening in the rear onto green space and THEARC Farm. Along with 14 bright and spacious classrooms, highlights will include a multipurpose space serving as a cafeteria and auditorium, an expansive library/media lab, a science lab, a makerspace/STEM lab, and a flexible art/music/dance area. This new building will allow WSG to grow the student body, the Graduate Support program, and the alumni engagement and health and wellness programs by providing additional dedicated space.

The building will also offer an important connection to the natural environment with access to an outdoor learning space and tying the curriculum to the THEARC Farm. With the building design, WSG has committed to the highest standards of environmental stewardship with solar panels, a green roof and will seek LEED Silver certification.

WSG's expansion is expected to be completed by November 2025.



*NOTE: Sr. Mary Bourdon's remarks from the event are attached to the "Bridges" email.*

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## JPIC CONGREGATION ZOOM MEETING



On Saturday, April 27 at 6:00 am (yawn!!!) I participated in our Congregation's JPIC Zoom meeting with Alejandra, RJM and our JPIC representatives.

We were 12 participants sharing our activities of the Laudato Si goals for 2023: 3. Ecological Economics, 4. Sustainable Lifestyle; 6. Ecological Spirituality. Although these were the main goals for this past year, all 7 of the goals - especially 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor - were actively engaged in based on the urgent needs of each province and the fact that all the *Laudato Si* goals have intersection points. RJM's, AFJM, students, parents, local communities all working together and collaborating with others to generate a culture of responsibility actively living the *Laudato Si* goals.

Some of the actions taking place: use of solar panels; recycle, reduce, reuse - some groups made items and sold them to raise funds for the poor and other missionary endeavors; eliminating the use of plastics; collecting rain water and using it carefully; planting food, school gardens, trees, bamboo to prevent erosion as well as economic opportunities; cleaning beaches, educational opportunities to care for creation; praying in creation alone or in groups and inviting/publicizing events; food banks in schools to help with food sustainability for the poor; reaching out to the poor, orphans, the 'untouchables'; searching with families for the 'disappeared'; working with migrants in Pune, Mumbai, Bombay, and at the US/Mexico border in San Diego with our Mexican Province; Pakistan's Community Resilience and Empowerment project that provides funding, books and uniforms to poor students.

Our sharing of these activities was very energizing and allowed us to see Claudine's presence meeting the needs of our world today through each of us, AFJM and our Companions in Mission. We agreed to continue utilizing all 7 Laudato Si goals during 2024 and with a dimension of spirituality as we move forward. More specifics on this year's goals will be forthcoming. Questions for pondering: What did we learn? What moves us to do what we do and why?

- Sr. Rosie Nicholson

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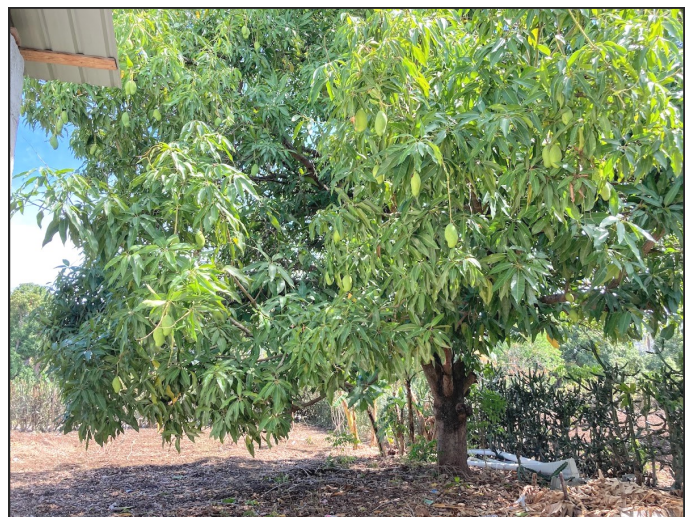
## EARTH DAY - in Gros Morne, Haiti

This majestic Mango Fransik tree grows in the school garden.

For the second year in a row, severe insecurity has prevented local mango growers from exporting Gros Morne's main cash crop: the Mango Fransik. Our local parish Caritas and associations of mango growers are trying to work with the World Food Program to buy their mangoes and distribute them to schools in areas without mangoes.

If they succeed, the hungry students will have delicious fruit, and mango growers will get some income for their crops. And growers will have an incentive to protect their mango trees and not cut them down for lumber or to make charcoal.

- Sr. Pat Dillon





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## ***EARTH DAY - at St. Timothy Mission Center, Warwick, RI***

This year, the sisters at St. Tim's made Earth Day very special. It all began on Sunday evening with a Garden Blessing taken from Interfaith Power and Light. Sisters Alice, Claudette, Doris, Priscilla and Diane gathered in the dining room facing our newly trimmed garden praying together and singing the Garden Song: "Inch by inch...row by row, gonna make this garden grow..."

On Monday, Earth Day, we delivered on a promise made at a community meeting several years ago. We planted a Dogwood tree on the church grounds. Our good friends for many years, Lucia and Bob Cornwell delivered the tree that we purchased from the nursery. On the right, Bob and Lucia stand with Sr. Alice Ouimette by the potted tree.



Mark Smith, our parish caretaker and dependable helper, planted it for us at a spot where it could grow unhampered. An added bonus is that it is in a place where we can all watch it grow from our convent windows.

On the left, Srs. Priscilla Lemire, Diane Dube, Mark Smith, and Sr. Doris Bissonnette admire the new Dogwood tree.

The day ended gathered in our chapel with the beautiful prayer service sent to us by Sr. Teresita. Each one present took part in the readings.

- Sr. Diane Dube



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## ***EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES - Jean Rabel, Haiti***

Integral Ecology is alive and well in the Jean Rabel, Haiti area.

There are 12 students who are in an environmental club in the school of Cotton and 12 more in the school of Acadien. Below they are preparing the ground and planting vegetables. There are cabbage, bit onions, peppers, carrots and a few other nutritious vegetables. The students are delighted to see the seedlings growing into strong plants.



The cycle of caring for creation that nourishes the people who in turn continue caring for and nourishing planet earth.

- Sr. Rose Kelly and the Jean Rabel Team

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## PROVINCE OFFICE

May 24     Bridges published later than usual (articles due by Wednesday 5/22 at noon)

May 8-23     Sr. Janet in New York, then at Marillac, then on retreat starting 5/14

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## PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Terri Contreras, the Grand-niece of Sr. Fatima Viramontes. Terri is battling cancer. She lives in Louisiana;
- Continuing Prayers for: Corine Greenwald who is the sister of Sr. Dina Garcia; 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;
- The repose of the soul of Melanie Crepeau, the widow of the nephew of Srs. Jackie Crepeau and Mary Crepeau, and for the comfort of her friends and loved ones;
- The repose of the soul of Mme. Abel Thelamour, who passed away the evening of May 1st after a sudden and unexpected illness of one day. Mme. Thelamour was our faithful receptionist in Gros Morne, Haiti, who worked with our sisters for 25 years or so. Also pray for the comfort of her loved ones as this is a great loss for her family and for many who come to our door and of course for all of our community and workers in Gros Morne;
- Thevenet House (Sr. Norene Costa), 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**