

# BRIDGES



June 7, 2024

## BORDER MINISTRY TO MIGRANTS - San Diego, CA

As you know, it is a very difficult and painful time for those seeking asylum in our country. We continue to pray as a community for the migrants who have fled their countries in fear of torture, threats by gangs and the inability to survive with dignity due to droughts or floods that have destroyed their sustenance and work.



This rope bracelet with the tiny cross was given to me by the migrant in the photo with the red lettering on his white t-shirt who is handcuffed to another man. The Border Patrol has everyone remove 'jewelry' before they are transported to the center for processing and then released in our country to proceed to their sponsors. He did not want to simply throw this on the ground as it was sacred to him.

One woman from Central America handed me what she has carried all along her treacherous journey - a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In reality, Our Lady of Guadalupe is carrying her. This migrant had her Bible and prayer book stolen along the way.



We have prayed at the border wall near our house with the Methodist minister and the migrants on the other side of the wall. Breaking bread at the wall is a moment of oneness as a body of Christ.

Simple gestures, smiles, Namaste greetings, sharing PBJ sandwiches, water, a backpack, ice packs all communicate something deeper in these moments of encounter.

Please pray for those who are injured at this wall. Sandra is very good at contacting them and getting them help through the different agencies we work with. The migrants come with pain, hope and deep faith which touches our hearts in such simple sacred moments.

- Sr. Rosie Nicholson

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## ***FLAG DAY PHOTO***

Standing on the right and holding a flag of her country is Marie-Jo Désir, PJM. With her is another member of her formation community in Yaoundé.

The community is celebrating Cameroon's National Day. Marie-Jo described the community celebration as "Flag Day." Given that our African sisters hail from different countries, it is presumably a time when they also celebrate their different countries of origin.



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## ***VISIT TO MARILLAC***

This photo of many members of the Marillac community was taken during Sr. Janet's recent visit to Wellesley Hills, MA.



Show here are: Srs. Claire Dandeneau, Dina Garcia, Fatima Viramontes, Helen Scarry, Vivian Patenaude, Gertrude Lavoie, Janet Stolba, Bernadette Oliva, and Therese Picard.

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## ***UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION***

A correction: **Sr. Rita Ricker** is in **room 9** (not room 4) at The Meadows.

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## **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - June 5th, Gros Morne, Haiti**

The World Environment Day theme, translated from Creole is, "***We are the generation that can restore the environment***".

Each class had a discussion on the theme and fact sheet prepared by our partner, Beyond Borders. And Jesus-Mary School students participated big time with a huge inside and outside the school clean up! The brooms were bigger than the preschoolers!

All the students also watched two short videos on the importance of saving coral reefs. Coral reefs might not seem in the immediate experience of our students since we are in the mountains far away from the ocean. However, we are only a ten minute walk from Trois Rivieres which flows northward to Port de Paix and the Atlantic Ocean. When rain comes, our river is always muddy with precious topsoil washed off the mountains. The sediment and garbage deposited on the coral reef at Port-au-Paix contributes to its bleaching and dying. So planting trees, as some students asked to do, helps lessen the amount of soil lost and helps save the lovely coral reef, even though it is far away. Coral reefs along with rainforests are the lungs of our plant which is why today was an appropriate day to continue discussion on coral. (The photo above was taken by School Director, Leny Laguere.)



## **MANGOES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN - Gonaives, Haiti**

Thanks to all who have donated so that our mango producers can sell their fruit and school children can eat nutritious mangoes.

The Quixote Center, which is spearheading the fund-raising, will have a report to share at the end of June. So many people here in Gros Morne / Gonaives and in the USA are participating in this effort that over 36,000 mangoes have been bought and distributed to date.

- Sr. Pat Dillon



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## ***SR. VALLE CHIAS WINS AWARD***

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, The Spanish Conference of Religious (CONFER) announced that Sr. Valle Chías (below) has won a Charisma Award for her work as a doctor in Jean-Rabel, Haiti, running a mobile clinic with a team of six, serving 4,000 clients per year!



The CONFER Charisma Awards “are intended to recognize the work that different people or institutions carry out in accordance with the fundamental purpose of CONFER: to encourage, serve and promote religious life.”

The award ceremony which will be held in November in Madrid, Spain. Sr. Valle says she feels overwhelmed” by news of the award.

Chef José Andrés, who heads World Central Kitchen, a non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides meals after the world after natural disasters and during war was one of the other 9 award winners.

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## ***ONLINE MUSICAL ABOUT BLESSED DINA BELANGER***

Sr. Loretta Knapp suggests this bilingual musical about the life of Blessed Dina Belanger: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI5DGoR18TY>. The link will take you to the first of a series of short videos that will play in succession.

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## ***ONLINE COURSE - Mission: The Never-ending Story***

The International Union of Superiors General is offering an online course:

**Mission: The Never-ending Story**  
**June 10 & 11, 8 - 9am ET** (2 – 4 pm Rome time)  
Speaker: Mary Pat Garvin, RSM, Ph.D.

During our time together, we will explore our extended life-span and how it invites us to reimagine our call to mission as women religious. In particular, we will focus on the growing body of interest in the importance of pre-retirement and encore ministries. By aligning our desire for mission, while realistically considering the various stages of our lives, our members may be able to appreciate more fully how they participate, at every stage of life, in the mission of Jesus.

[Click here to register](#)

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## PROVINCE OFFICE

June 19 - July 2 Mary on vacation

June 21 Next *Bridges* published (articles due by Wednesday 6/19 at noon)

June 21 - July 2 Rosemary and Janet on vacation

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## MESSAGE FROM DR. DEE GALLO

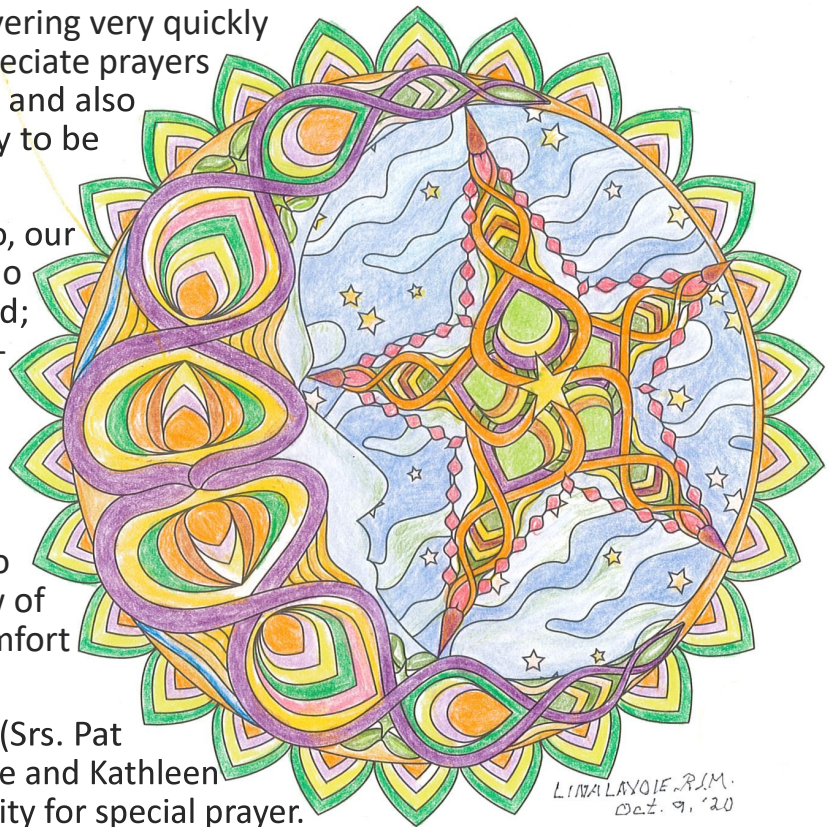
*Thank you for your prayers for my hip surgery and recovery! It's only been two weeks, but the surgery went very well. I'm out and around and thankful I had the surgery.*

*- Dee*

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## PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Sr. Lucie Jusseaume who is recovering very quickly from her fall but she would appreciate prayers until she's completely recovered and also as she prepares for knee surgery to be scheduled;
- Continuing Prayers for: Dell Gallo, our RJM Archivist; Karen Kudelko who is the mother of Toby Harkleroad; Terri Contreras who is the grand-niece of Sr. Fatima Viramontes; and Colleen Pusateri who is the daughter of Haiti Mission supporter Lorrie Kenney;
- The repose of the soul of Ricardo Vazquez Hernandez, the nephew of Sr. Natalia Mejia, and for the comfort of his family and friends;
- The Ellison Avenue Community (Srs. Pat Brito, Christine Carrigg, Pat Ryerse and Kathleen Scanlon), 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**