

BRIDGES



June 21, 2024

GRADUATION - at Thevenet Montessori School, Highland Mills, NY

THE MANY FACES OF THEVENET



The end of the school year proved an exciting time for the children at TMS. Students participated in a Mile Run, enjoyed an Ice Cream treat from the "Ice Mother", supported their departing friends at Graduation, competed in Field Day games, celebrated the last day of school for the 2023/2024 academic year, and began the Summer Enrichment Program the following Monday. The Thevenet adults are still trying to catch their breath from all these activities!

- Mary Spanos, Assistant Director, TMS

RJM COLLECTION AT ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY

On April 17 – almost 6 years to the day it was begun – the transfer of the RJM Provincial Archives from St. Timothy’s Mission Center in Warwick, R.I. to the French Institute at Assumption University in Worcester, MA was completed.



Now shelved at their new home are 248 boxes, each processed according to archival standards. In production now is an online finding aid, a “road map” of sorts which will allow researchers to consult the inventory of the Province’s archives comprised of RJM Administrative and Historical records from 1877 to 2017.

A major concern of any institution is that once their records are on shelves, they will be “hidden.” Fortunately, as Sr. Janice Farnham discovered when she met Dr. Leslie Choquette in 1991, Assumption would be the perfect spot for the RJM’s historical legacy. The relationship between the community and the institute has grown over the ensuing years, demonstrating the French Institute’s commitment to safeguarding and sharing provincial records. Recently, Librarian and Archivist Kate Bradley joined the Institute where she worked closely with RJM Archivist Dee Gallo and Sr. Doris Bissonnette, monitoring the archival transfer.

Both Dr. Choquette and Ms. Bradley have been seeking new materials for the Institute. Recently, they traveled to Quebec to pick up a new collection purchased specifically as a donation to Assumption. While there, they both were interviewed about the French Institute’s holdings. Dr. Choquette also read a paper at a scholarly conference on the History of Quebec Families, offering an opportunity to note the RJM because of their origins in Sillery. Dr. Choquette will be speaking again at conferences in Montreal, Quebec, and Winnipeg, once again highlighting the Institute’s current holdings as treasures of French Canadian Studies.

In addition to designing a new layout for the French Institute’s repository and reading room, Ms. Bradley recently created a brochure highlighting its programs and holdings. Among the list of “Key Archival Collections” is the Religious of Jesus and Mary, American Province. Dr. Choquette and Ms. Bradley brought copies with them to Quebec; also, the brochure will be available at the Triennial Meeting of the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) in St. Louis from September 12 through 15.

No fear that the RJM’s history will remain tucked away on library shelves. Its audience broadens daily, providing new historical resources for French Canadian studies and American history, ensuring that the congregation’s legacy lives on.

- Dr. Dee Gallo, Provincial Archivist

TATA AND HER TEAM - Jean Rabel, Haiti

There is a special section in the Jean Rabel Women's Workshop that is given over to the creation of necklaces, bracelets, earrings, spectacle holders and all types of cards. They attempt to use local environmental materials, if at all possible.

The cards involve a lot of time and effort. First of all they source the correct type of banana leaf. It needs to be dried to a particular degree. The card carton is bought locally or in the next city of Portdepaix. A particular type of glue is acquired.



Then the crew get working, manually....

The cards are measured and cut. The banana leaf is cut into the exact sizes of the figures and "Haiti" sign for the front, as requested. These are all glued onto the cards. The cards



are then signed in the lower left by the artist, stamped with "Handmade with Love" on the back, then examined to check that all is in order! Lastly, the cards are packed and arranged for delivery.

On the right are a few of the 550 Christmas cards the Provincial Office ordered, which arrived in Sr. Jackie Picard's luggage a couple weeks ago.



Thanks so much for your support and appreciation of the work of these ladies: Tata, Erline, Roseline, Dina, Dieulita, Claircelia.



- Sr. Rose Kelly, the Jean-Rabel team, and Women's Workshop

PREPARING FOR GENERAL CHAPTER

It's hard to believe that we're nearing the time for another General Chapter! Five RJM's have been in Rome since June 10, working with the General Government to prepare for GC 38, scheduled to take place in the fall of 2025.



Commission members are, left to right: Srs. Sofia Padilla (Argentina), Annie Demerjian (Syria), Encarnita Suárez Perdigones (Spain), Linda Abicha (Africa), and Farzana Philip (Pakistan).

The call for the Chapter will be promulgated this coming fall, mandating provinces and delegations to prepare for the meetings that will precede it, at which delegates to the Rome gathering will be elected.

A VISIT TO BROOKE GROVE

Sr. Jackie Picard arrived in Washington, DC from Haiti on June 5th. Before beginning retreat, she had time to visit with Srs. Anne Magner and Rita Ricker, who recently joined Anne in the Brooke Grove Assisted Living residence. Pictured here are the three novitiate companions: Jackie is on the left, Rita on the right, with Anne seated.



PROJECT LEADERS SEMINAR - Jean Rabel, Haiti

Martineau Jean, an experienced educationalist gave a 3 day seminar to 10 of the people who head up the different projects in Jean Rabel. These included the mobile clinic team, education staff, IT personnel, environmental project leader, sport coordinator, and overall development officer.

It was the first time all took part in a seminar together, so there was great sharing of ideas.

Martineau gave a presentation of how to apply for a project, the different steps to be taken. It involved the use of their laptops, a facility that has developed over the years. Groups were formed and practical exercises were initiated!



A very profitable time was enjoyed by all, with delicious meals cooked by Terilia and her assistants! It is another step along the road to sustainable living and sharing for the families living in the Jean Rabel area.

- Sr. Rose Kelly and the Jean Rabel Team

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WITH JULY BIRTHDAYS

- July 4 Martha María Torres, RJM
- July 8 Jacqueline Crépeau, RJM
- July 15 Christine Carrigg, RJM
- July 19 Agnes Bell, RJM
- July 22 Pauline Ayotte, RJM
- July 24 Michelle Authier, RJM
- July 27 Bernadette Oliva, RJM



PROVINCE OFFICE

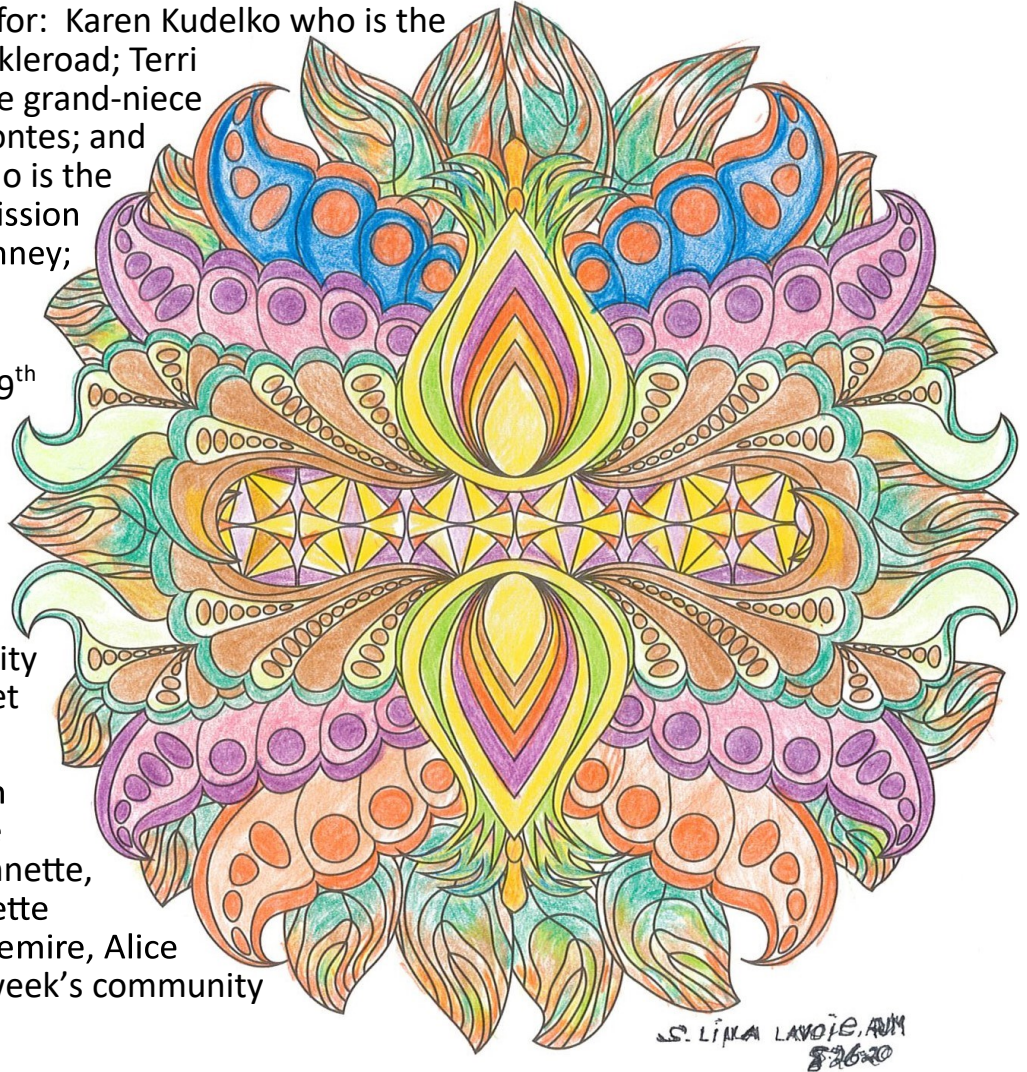
June 19 - July 2 Mary on vacation

June 21 - July 2 Rosemary and Janet on vacation

July 5 Next *Bridges* published (articles due by Tuesday 7/3 at noon)

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Continuing Prayers for: 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 Brian Kelly, who died on June 19th and for the comfort of his loved ones. Brian is the brother of Mary Spanos, longtime partner in mission with RJM at Bethany Spirituality Center and Thevenet Montessori School;
- St. Timothy Mission Center (Srs. Pauline Ayotte, Doris Bissonnette, Diane Dube, Claudette Lapointe, Priscilla Lemire, Alice Ouimette), 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