

# BRIDGES



November 1, 2024

## FELICIDADES, SR. STELLA!

Congratulations to Sr. Stella Herrera, who was recognized by Cardinal Dolan and the St. Anastasia Parish Community for her work in bringing the Gospel to the Church's Hispanic Community in Harriman, NY.



St. Anastasia Church celebrated its 125th Anniversary, on October 16, and we are so proud of the role that the RJMs, through Stella, played in the evangelization of these Hispanic parishioners.



- Sr. Joan Faraone

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## **THE GREAT LOCAL MANGO SAVE - Gros Morne, Haiti**

***The Quixote Center recently published a report written by Sr. Pat Dillon about "The Great Local Mango Save". The full article is attached to Bridges, and below is an excerpt.***

In April 2024 we began a last-minute effort to salvage some of the delicious, nutritious mangoes which are the main cash crop of Gros Morne. It is from the mangoes which ripen from April to August that small-scale growers earn the money to buy food for their families, send their children to school and pay for health care. However, this was the second year in a row that the growers could not sell to the exporters, who are their main buyers, due to the extreme insecurity in Haiti and cancellation of their export contract with the USDA.

The Notre Dame de la Chandeleur parish Caritas asked the Quixote Center, which was working on having the export contract renewed, to find funds to buy the local mangoes and donate them for school children. The amazing response to Quixote fund raising made it possible to buy and distribute just under 20,000 dozen (230,000 mangoes).



In Gonaives the Viatorians received many of the mangoes at their school and coordinated with other schools for distribution. Direct deliveries went to one hard-to-reach school and Mother Theresa of Calcutta's Sisters' clinic and home for the elderly and four other schools. It would be hard to say who received the mangoes with greater joy and appreciation! In Gros Morne mangoes were delivered direct to the eight schools. After the school year ended, the schools/parishes happily continued to distribute the mangoes.

The growers received \$25,340 for 19,965 dozen mangoes, the truck drivers received \$13,385, and the coordinator, dispatchers (who traveled to Gonaives), \$1,885 and accountant \$300. The donations to the Quixote Center covered the payments to the mango growers and facility workers /truck drivers. The Religious of Jesus and Mary covered the other \$2,185.

Transport owners/truck drivers have almost been put out of business by bandits controlling the highways. Tolls must be paid which raise the price owners/drivers have to ask customers. These drivers were grateful for the income and delighted to transport the mangoes.

The growers were able to pay school fees so their children could take their exams and get their report cards. Some who had started to cut down their mango trees to sell the wood decided to save their trees.

Only God knows how many mango trees were not cut down because the growers found some hope and income from the generosity of those donors who answered the appeal of the Quixote Center. Thank you!

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## MIGRANT MINISTRY EVENTS - San Diego, CA

At 6:00 AM on Saturday, I participated in our Congregation's Formation Webinar led by Sr. Lourdes Várquez, RJM from Canada. It was titled "Forms of Modern Day Slavery".



Such slavery takes place in all countries in various ways - forced labor; trafficking; forced marriages; domestic servitude and abuse; and the list goes on. The most vulnerable are the homeless, migrants and especially women and children. Migrants forced from their home countries due to these experiences as well as effects of climate change disasters unfortunately are vulnerable to these same situations while seeking hope migrating to new countries. Such painful 'push factors' we have listened to both at the border wall as well as at the shelter. There are two 30ft border walls here. This one is on the Tijuana/USA border and the sign on the tent says, "seeking asylum is a human right". Below is the second 30ft wall where once in the USA, the migrants await Border Patrol to turn themselves in for asylum.

Then on Sunday morning, several of us from our Sisters' Collaborative participated in auxiliary Bishop Ramon Bejarano's presentation at USD, our Diocese Catholic University, "Trapped Between Borders: A Migrant Nightmare". He presented a simple historical background of migration, its causes, its biblical background and our current day migration experiences. Some of the actions promoted by the Bishops are: welcoming the stranger, respecting their human dignity, accompanying and helping them, advocating for improved just immigration reform policies, and protecting borders in the process.

Below at dawn, a 4-year-old boy warmly dressed holds his mother's hand after they received food, water, a backpack from us and American Friends, a Quaker group. Next, the same boy with his parents after the Border Patrol had them strip down to one item of clothing, which is the usual procedure but not always for children. Then, Sr. Rosa Mejia, RJM praying with a small group and we are giving backpacks for people to put their removed clothing rather than leave them on the ground.



I continue to ask us to be united in prayer for migrants especially women and children, to be aware of modern-day slavery in our midst, to accompany one another in being transformed by our encounters with the most vulnerable. I feel Claudine is in our midst...

- Sr. Rosie Nicholson

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## **USCCB PUBLIC SESSIONS LIVE-STREAMED - November 12 & 13**

Public sessions of the USCCB assembly on November 12 and 13 will be livestreamed at: [www.usccb.org/meetings](http://www.usccb.org/meetings), during which an update on migration and a report on the 2021-2024 Synod of Bishops are expected. News updates, vote totals, texts of addresses and presentations, and other materials will be posted to this page.

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### **VULNERABILITY - Jean Rabel, Haiti**

**Please note that these are NOT photos of Micheline and her children, yet represent them.**

Micheline comes to the Centre for help. Her story is as follows:



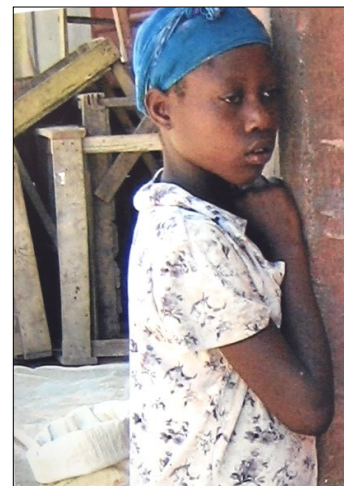
She is 34 years old. She was put out of the house she rented, on 17th October. Her husband left two years ago, trying to get work abroad. He died en route. She was pregnant with her 5th child.

Previously she had her first child, a little girl, with another man. He left her and went to Port-au-Prince, where he entered into another relationship. When the child was aged 4, he took her to Port-au-Prince. The stepmother treated

her so badly that she returned to her own mother, Micheline, in Jean Rabel. Four years ago, when the girl was then 10 years of age, her father sent another person to bring her to the capital. Her mother did not want to let her go, but was helpless. What lies in store for her daughter....hunger, violence, prostitution, abuse?

Micheline is ready to cry, but cannot dwell on this scene. Her second daughter is a restavek with another family nearby.

Her other 3 children, two in school and the youngest, a 2 yr old boy, are in her care. She tries to provide for them, by washing clothes for other people, and sometimes selling some sweets and crackers in the marketplace.



How vulnerable can one be..... as a mother.....a daughter.....a woman....a child?  
God have mercy!

- Sr. Rose Kelly

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### **THANK YOU - from Sr. Kathleen Scanlon**

I was sorry to miss attending our Province Jubilee celebration on October 12<sup>th</sup>. My sixty years as an RJM is in this quote, ***"I am forever grateful, always grateful, and abundantly blessed."*** I felt your presence in your prayers, messages, cards and gifts that were delivered, on that very day, by Janet and Rosemary, on their trip back to D.C. (Even the corsages made it to NY!) Thank you one and all!!

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO WSG!

The RJMs wish to congratulate the Washington School for Girls on the \$3.5 million grant they have just been awarded by the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation.

\$1 million of the grant will go to student scholarships and \$2.5 million will create a state-of-the-art 32,000 square foot facility that will unify the school's two existing campuses. A copy of the announcement is attached to the *Bridges* email.



## JOIN PRAYERS FOR US ELECTIONS

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns shares these opportunities to pray for a peaceful voting process bringing the U.S. and our world closer to God's kingdom of justice and peace:

**The Leadership Conference of Women Religious** invites you to 24 hours of contemplative prayer throughout election day. There will be no presentations or comments during the virtual gathering. Join women religious around the world as they **pray in silence**.

November 4-6

Opens Monday, 12:00 AM ET - Closes Wednesday, 11:59 PM ET

Virtual Zoom Meeting at [bit.ly/VirtualPrayerRM](https://bit.ly/VirtualPrayerRM)

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Justice and Peace is offering a **Novena for Faithful Citizenship**, a nine-day prayer program around the U.S. elections.

November 1-9, to be used at any time.

[Click here to download the nine-day program](#)

## RJMS MOURN THE PASSING OF MARJORIE GALVIN

Marjorie Galvin, the grandmother of Sr. Brittany Galvin and faithful donor to the Haiti Mission, died October 18<sup>th</sup>.



You may recall, that Marjorie updated the Jesus-Mary School library in Gros Morne, Haiti, giving it a Dr. Seuss theme, new bookcases, well over 200 books in French and Creole, and even a book sign-out system and library cards for the children. R.I.P.



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## PROVINCE OFFICE

November 15    Next *Bridges* published (articles due by Wednesday 11/13 at noon)

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### PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Sr. Helen Scarry, who is at the Elizabeth Seton Residence for short-term rehabilitation following hospitalization for a fall;
- Sr. Christine Carrigg, who has returned to the Ellison Avenue Community, following hospitalization for a fall;
- Sr. Lucie Jusseaume, as she prepares for upcoming knee surgery on Monday, November 18th;
- The election of the presidential candidate of God's heart, with no election interference, no fraudulent voting, with an accurate vote count, so the outcome is clear and peacefully accepted by all;
- The repose of the soul of Marjorie Galvin, the grandmother of Sr. Brittany Galvin, and for the comfort of her loved ones;
- The Marillac Residence (Srs. Claire Dandeneau, Dina Garcia, Janice Farnham, Lucie Jusseaume, Priscilla Lemire, Gertrude Lavoie, Shirley Leveille, Bernadette Oliva, Vivian Patenaude, Therese Picard, Helen Scarry, and Fatima Viramontes) and the Elizabeth Seton Residence (Srs. Agnes Bell and Mariam Norick) 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**