

BRIDGES



November 15, 2024

INTERNATIONAL DAY - Thevenet Montessori School

A high point of the Thevenet Montessori School year is International Day, the school's grand potluck dinner and picnic, in celebration of diversity, unity, community, family and peace.

The day proved to be sensational – great weather, wonderful activities for the children, plentiful cuisine from a variety of countries, and a fabulous opening performance of songs by the school children. Even the well-water shut off couldn't dampen the spirits of the TMS School Community gathered together on the Thevenet play yard this October 31st.



- Mary Spanos, Assistant Director of TMS

TAKE ACTION - to Eliminate the Death Penalty

Sr. Diane Dube kindly forwarded information on the Catholic Mobilizing Network, an organization that is working hard to eliminate the death penalty.

She writes, "We are encouraging President Biden at the conclusion of his term in office to take the life-saving action of commuting the sentence of the prisoners on the federal death row. There are 40 people whose lives can be spared. We pray that he will hear the call, and choose to act in the spirit of mercy and justice."



Click here to sign Catholic Mobilizing Network's petition that will go to President Biden: catholicmobilizing.org/biden-petition-2024

TRAVEL UPDATE AND PRAYER FOR HAITI

Because of the FAA ban on flights to Haiti, Sr. Pat Dillon changed her travel plans, looking for alternate routes back to Haiti. If all goes well, she should be able to get back within a few days. Because Pat was in the USA for her birthday (Sept. 29th), and is missing Jackie's birthday (Nov. 14th), plans are for the welcome back to include a joint birthday celebration.

Given the difficult situation in Haiti, we offer this prayer:

A Prayer for the People of Haiti



Out of the depths we cry to You, O God.

We cry to You for our Haitian sisters and brothers.

We thank You for upholding them in their suffering.

Give them continuing strength and comfort.

*Give us love and courage to stand with them and work with them
as they struggle for justice and freedom.*

Keep us committed to the truth and empower us with Your Spirit of love:

A love that always sees possibilities for peace founded on justice;

A love that seeks justice without vengeance and retaliation;

A love that reaches out to enemies, as Jesus taught us.

*We trust in Your continuing mercy as we bring to You our own desire
to be in active solidarity with our Haitian brothers and sisters.*

O Holy Spirit descend on us: we have a mission for Haiti.

Amen

- Author unknown, taken from Milwaukee-Gesu Parish website

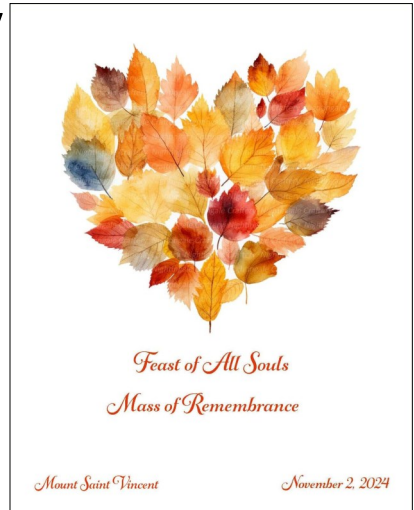
MASS OF REMEMBRANCE - Wellesley Hills, MA

On the Feast of All Souls, November 2, the Marillac Community remembered all of our families, friends, relatives, benefactors, and religious sisters who have gone to God during this past year.

A beautiful arrangement of flowers was slowly brought to the front of the altar as names were mentioned.

The bell choir rang out the memories of souls after each group was mentioned. Below are photos Sr. Esther Plefka, SC took of: Sr. Therese Picard, RJM (left), Kathy Hogan (behind), Sr. Maureen Bruke, SC, Sr. Shirley Leveille, RJM, Sr. Vivian Patenaude, RJM, Sr. Frances Gritte, SC, and Sr. Fatima Viramontes, RJM.

May our loved ones rest in the peace of our loving God!



- Sr. Vivian Patenaude



RJM NOVITIATE CELEBRATES ST. STANISLAUS



Pictured here is Marie-Jo Desir (2nd from left) with some of her novitiate companions, gathered around Sr. Judith Dossa, their Director.

The formation community was celebrating November 13th, the feast of St. Stanislaus, patron of novices. For those of you on Facebook, many JM Novitiate communities from around the world posted photos documenting their celebrations of the day. (Facebook keyword: Congregacion Jesus Maria)



UPDATE ON MIGRANT MINISTRY IN DC/MD



This photo was taken last weekend, when the Guatemalan family with whom RJM's in the MD/DC area have worked celebrated several birthdays. Sr. Rosemary Mangan is with the Mejia family. Arnaldo (at far right) and Christofer (left), father and son, are both marking birthdays.

While we in the region have offered help (tutoring, legal advice, assistance with some medical issues, financial aid), it is their perseverance and hard work that have made the difference in the family coming to the place they now inhabit. Every member has a green card; the father of the family is taking a course in HVAC repair to increase his job opportunities; his wife is continuing English studies for the same reason; the children are doing well in school. The older son is now in junior college, and his sister, with the help of support from Regina graduates, is in honors classes at Seton High School.

As we anticipate the possibility of increasingly harsh and restrictive immigration policies, it's important to see the human face of what is admittedly a complex issue. Here are people who have left a situation of great danger with no desire but to build a life together and offer their children a future. They are already making a contribution to our country. And, as you can see by the wall in back of them, they know how to celebrate!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WITH DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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|-------------|-------------------------|
| December 1 | Natalia Mejía, RJM |
| December 9 | Liz Cornejo, RJM |
| December 16 | Vivian Patenaude, RJM |
| December 17 | Claudette Lapointe, RJM |



PROVINCE OFFICE

- November 26 Mary will be traveling to St. Tim's on Tuesday, the 26th, for visitations in New England that will also include celebrating Thanksgiving there. She will be returning in the latter part of the week of December 1st.
- November 28-29 Provincial Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- December 6 Next *Bridges* published (articles due by Wednesday 12/4 at noon)
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PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Our Accountant, Stephanie Saturni, who is recovering from ear surgery;
- Sr. Helen Scarry, who after several days at Newton/Wellesley Hospital, is being discharged back to rehab;
- Sr. Lucie Jusseaume, as she prepares for upcoming knee surgery on Monday, November 18th;
- Madonna Manor (Sr. Mary Sanchez) 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