



February 21, 2025

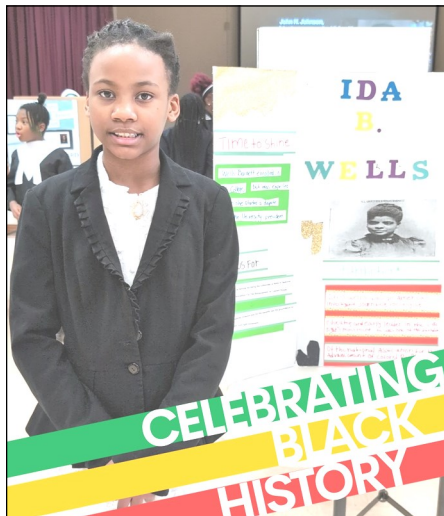
## ***BLACK HISTORY MONTH - at Washington School for Girls***

Washington School for Girls recent held their annual “Blacks in Wax Museum” celebrating Black History and present-day history makers such as these remarkable women:



**Ketanji Brown Jackson:** the first Black woman to be confirmed as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, bringing her extensive legal experience and a fresh perspective to the nation's highest court.

**Ida B. Wells:** A fearless journalist and activist, who exposed the horrors of lynching in the United States through her groundbreaking investigative reporting in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, risking her life to advocate for justice.



**Lena Horne:** Known for her sultry voice and striking beauty, Lena Horne broke barriers as a Black entertainer in Hollywood during the 1940s, using her platform to challenge racial stereotypes and advocate for civil rights.



**Fannie Lou Hamer (below left):** A former sharecropper turned civil rights icon, who captivated the nation with her powerful testimony at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, demanding voting rights for African Americans despite facing violence and intimidation.

**Josephine Baker (right):** A dazzling performer who took Paris by storm in the 1920s, who not only redefined entertainment with her iconic banana-skirt dance but also spied for the French Resistance during World War II and later fought for civil rights in the U.S.



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## WASHINGTON DC ARCHDIOCESE - Celebrates Its Jubilarians

Their jubilee year had just begun, when two "Diamonds" were invited to celebrate with other religious in the Washington Archdiocese on February 9.

Jubilarians **Margaret Perron** and **Eileen Reid** joined other men and women religious marking 25, 40, 50, 60 and 70 years of profession for the liturgy presided over by Cardinal Wilton Gregory.



Unlike other years, when the celebration took place at the Pastoral Center, St. Bernard's Parish Church in Riverdale, MD was the site of the gathering.

The jubilarians and their community members (Srs. Mary Bourdon, Rosemary Mangan and Janet Stolba represented the RJM) joined St. Bernard's parishioners at the 10am Mass. The parish includes a large Portuguese-speaking community, and the prayers alternated between English and Portuguese. Each jubilarian received a copy of *Dilexit Nos*, the Encyclical of Pope Francis on the Sacred Heart.

Coming next: the province jubilee celebration!  
Date TBA.

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## THANK YOU - Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory

In January of this year, Pope Francis announced that he was accepting the resignation of Washington, DC's Cardinal Wilton Gregory, and appointing Cardinal Robert W. McElroy as his replacement.

Cardinal Gregory, who has served in Washington since 2019, was the first African-American to be made a Cardinal.

Cardinal McElroy comes to Washington after 10 years in San Diego, where our sisters greatly appreciated his leadership in the ministry to immigrants and in promoting synodality. He will be installed on March 11 in a ceremony at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

The Religious of Jesus and Mary



offer heartfelt thanks to  
**Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory**  
for his pastoral care and leadership

The message above appeared in the latest issue of the archdiocesan paper, The Catholic Standard.

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## **PILGRIMAGES OF HOPE FOR CREATION**

*The information below was taken from a flyer from Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation*

Walking with others is a simple and prayerful way to witness to our values and commitments, while celebrating the goodness of God's Creation.

Join *Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation* in a celebration of the Jubilee Year, the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, and the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Creatures*..."

Make your own "pilgrimage" this Jubilee Year  
from: **September 1 - October 4**



Examples of local "pilgrimages" could include:

- ❖ a Rosary walk on parish grounds or garden stroll to reflect on beauty and resilience;
- ❖ going out on a clear night to gaze at the moon and reflect on its timeless presence;
- ❖ set up a bird feeder or birdhouse visible from a window or outdoor seating area where birds can feed and the return of migratory birds witnessed, symbolizing renewal;
- ❖ a short outdoor visit to experience seasonal changes - like feeling a cool breeze;
- ❖ an indoor meditation centered on a potted plant, bowl of river stones or flowers;
- ❖ a slideshow narrated tour of a forest, mountain or coastal trail projected on a screen, with ambient sounds like waves or rustling leaves.

Sign up to learn more at: <https://catholicpilgrimsofhope.org/>.

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## **ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

You'll want to read the article attached to *Bridges*, written by Sr. Marge Perron who attended a recent conference hosted by *Alliance to End Human Trafficking*. Sr. Marge has been invited to serve on the board of the Alliance. At the conference, "Evelyn" spoke about being sent from Cameroon at age 8, to live with her mother's cousin. Once in the U.S., Evelyn cooked, cleaned and looked after the cousin's children, in a situation somewhat reminiscent of the stories we've heard of the restavek children in Haiti.

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## **LCWR Letter - February 2025**

In February, many LCWR members participated in conversations about how to respond to government orders and policies that are impacting the lives of people here and abroad. Attached to *Bridges* is an LCWR statement which urges religious women to be informed, listen carefully to all voices, and engage in discernment that leads to wise and gospel-based responses.

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## **VIDEO - Migration, Refugee Resettlement and Mass Deportation**

If you missed the Georgetown University Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life's February 12<sup>th</sup> Livestream, click below to view:

[Migration, Refugee Resettlement, and Mass Deportation: Moral, Human, and Policy Choices](#)

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## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WITH MARCH BIRTHDAYS**



March 7     Valle Chías González-Blanch

March 19   Middia Doute, RJM

March 26   Mary Crépeau, RJM

March 28   Anne Magner, RJM

March 31   Alice Ouimette, RJM

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## **PROVINCE OFFICE**

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

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## **PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...**

- Sr. Michelle Authier, who continues her recovery at Madonna Manor;
- Jayson Nichols, step-brother of former-RJM Cheryl Nichols. Over 6 months of chemo has not shrunk the colorectal tumor, so Jayson and his surgeon are weighing surgery;
- Frank Higgins, the brother-in-law of Sr. Pat Dillon, who recently had a toe removed and complicated surgery on his legs. Frank is diabetic and the family is asking for prayers for his healing;
- The novices in Yaoundé, Cameroun, including our own Marie-Jo Desir, who recently started their 30-day retreat;
- Yvette Rondeau, a former-RJM, who is in physical therapy at Cabrini of Westchester;
- Continuing prayers for: Edward Stolba, the brother of Sr. Janet Stolba; Carmen Silva, the sister of Sr. Bernadette Oliva; and Maggie Zamora, the sister of Sr. Dina Garcia;
- Members of the Province currently abroad: Sr. Middia Doute in Madrid, Spain; Sr. Brittany Galvin in Granada, Spain; and Sr. Marie-Jo Desir in Yaounde, Cameroon, as this week's sisters 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**