



April 4, 2025

## PROVINCIAL CHAPTER HELD IN ATTLEBORO, MA



The first session of the USA-Haiti Provincial Chapter took place on March 27-30. 18 delegates and one observer gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette in Attleboro, MA for the gathering facilitated by Sr. Carole Shinnick, SSND (on right).

This first session precedes the General Chapter of the Congregation, scheduled to take place from October 15 to November 15 in Rome. In addition to approving reports and proposals to be sent from the province, the chapter members elected two delegates to represent the province in Rome: Srs.

Rosemary Mangan and Margaret Perron.

Sr. Mary Bourdon will also go as an ex-officio delegate, and Sr. Rosemary Nicholson is the substitute.



More on the chapter will be coming, but for now, enjoy these photos of our gathering!

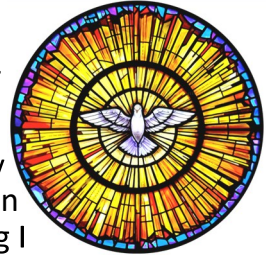
- Sr. Rosemary Mangan



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## THE PRAYER I TURN TO

We are continuing our series of *The Prayer I Turn To*, with an additional prayer from Sr. Janice Farnham.



Ever since I was small, music has been a precious part of my life. It is a daily need and sustenance, especially when I take time to be with God, or listen to the music of nature, of the Scriptures, of God's silence. The first song I learned at four was a hymn my Dad taught me, "Abide With Me." I still hold it very dear, especially now that "fast falls the eventide" describes this phase of my life-journey.

But more than anything, funnily, it's old love songs that have opened my heart and invited me to new depths of intimacy with the Lord. About twenty years ago, at a conference on the Exercises at Fairfield University, I was walking to a session, feeling tired and resistant to going. Somewhere within me, I heard a voice sing lines from "Annie's Song," of John Denver:

***Come, let me love you, let me give myself to you;  
let me drown in your laughter, let me die in your arms.  
Let me lie down beside you, let me always be with you;  
Come, let me love you – come love me again."***

It was as if Jesus was singing this to me, and inviting me to sing it to him. I was overwhelmed, wondering "where did this come from, and why"? But I realize now that it's at the very heart of the Gospel, and of God's amazing creation, begun and sustained by Love. I think it's what Claudine heard in her broken heart as she came down from her Calvary Hill. Isn't it what God



is always trying to tell us, one way or another? Yes, this secular song has become a daily invitation to "be with him, and follow wherever he leads." And to learn what it means to join that song and dance, with another favorite prayer:

Let me. . . let you . . . love me. . . That's the prayer my heart sings!

- Sr. Janice Farnham

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## ESCAPE FROM PORT-AU-PRINCE

This bus has taken two days to arrive in Jean Rabel from Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

As the gangs enter more areas in PAP, people are fleeing to the provinces, with all the possessions they can bring with them....mattresses, furniture, phones, computers, clothes. Buses full of people and gear are arriving regularly to Jean Rabel. There is no official number of how many have come, but it is evident in the increase in youngsters that are opting for the IT courses, or those simply walking the streets.

- The Jean Rabel Team









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## PROVINCE OFFICE

April 17      Next *Bridges* published (articles due early - by Tuesday 4/15 at noon)

April 18      Provincial Office closed for Good Friday

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### PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Sr. Helen Scarry and a number of those on her floor at the Elizabeth Seaton Residence, as they recover from the Flu;
- The repose of the soul of Fernand Lavoie, the last living brother of Sr. Gertrude Lavoie and her sister Denise, and comfort his loved ones;
- Continuing prayers for: Frank Higgins, the brother-in-law of Sr. Pat Dillon, Edward Stolba, the brother of Sr. Janet Stolba; Jayson Nichols, step-brother of former-RJM Cheryl Nichols; Carmen Silva, the sister of Sr. Bernadette Oliva; and Maggie Zamora, the sister of Sr. Dina Garcia;
- The Elizabeth Seton and Marillac Residences (Srs. Agnes Bell, Claire Dandeneau, Janice Farnham, Dina Garcia, Lucie Jusseaume, Gertrude Lavoie, Priscilla Lemire, Shirley Leveille, Mariam Norick, Bernadette Oliva, Vivan Patenaude, Therese Picard, Helen Scarry, and Fatima Viramontes) 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**