



January 23, 2026

HELLO FROM BETHANY CENTER HUDSON VALLEY

Hello sisters and friends, there's so much to share at Bethany these days!

In hot-off-the-press news, Bethany Center Hudson Valley is an official signatory to an amicus brief supporting a courageous group of young people who are affirming their right to life and health even in the face of the climate crises. I was honored to be asked by the legal organization supporting them, Our Children's Trust, to provide statements from the Catholic magisterium in support of climate justice. This [amicus brief](#), or letter from friends of the court, is specifically a letter from faith organizations affirming that care for God's creation is a moral and reverent religious obligation. I shared with them several texts from our popes and bishops and also an article on energy ethics for which I was the lead author 10 years ago. Let us pray for the victory of these young people in court and for cleaner, healthier days ahead for all of us as we enjoy God's air, water, and soil.

In terms of caring for this beautiful piece of God's soil in Highland Mills, we've had the help of two wonderful Princeton students who offered their time for free as January interns. One of them provided in-depth research on native plants appropriate to our area that nurture pollinators like bees and butterflies. She also spoke with local experts about how to manage the deer populations, which unfortunately cause extensive damage to our forest.

Our other intern has been working with me and the school to imagine a butterfly festival for this coming June 18th. It will feature educational craft activities for children as a fun family time to celebrate the miracle of the butterflies who truly do God's work: so that the land can be fruitful and multiply.

Next **Wednesday 1/28 from 4-5:30pm**, I'm so honored that Sr. Janice Farnham will be featured on our first "Conversations at Bethany" webinar. She will be joined by an award-winning historian of the French Revolution, Dr. Lauren Clay, who is professor of history at Vanderbilt University. I'm excited to learn more about the real world of St. Claudine from these tremendous experts.

However, this isn't just an historical exploration. Our goal is to explore what's at the heart of a courageous vocation, and for friends of Bethany, this means a vocation to care for the earth. **Register for Conversations at Bethany by clicking here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#).**

Finally, I'm delighted to share that [Bethany's website is now live](#). It is also evolving! As always, I love to hear your comments, so please reach out anytime.

- Dr. Erin Lothes, Executive Director



A DREAM COME TRUE - at Washington School for Girls

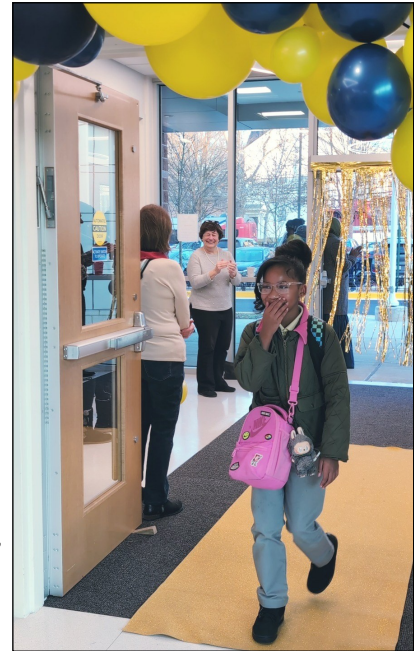
Taken from Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wmsgdc>

We did it! We have officially completed our Building Dreams capital campaign!

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community and the unwavering belief in our girls, we raised over \$15 million to build our stunning new 33,000 square foot home at THEARC (Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus).



Our December 9th ribbon cutting ceremony was pure magic - a celebration of community, perseverance, and the transformative power of believing in our girls. From the speeches that moved us to tears to the joy on our students' faces, every moment reminded us why we do this work.



Our middle schoolers are just moving across the parking lot to our new building - but even though it is a short walk, we have



been feeling a lot of emotions this week. Our wing at THEARC East was home to hundreds of students over the years where we formed core memories with students, beloved teachers, school leaders, and special guests. Above are pictures of moving day! On the right, Dr. Reaves, President of WSG helps with the move.

The elementary students and teachers will be taking a much larger leap of faith: moving on from our cozy school house at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (below) into the hustle and bustle of the THEARC community. WSG spent almost 12 years at OLPH. It was where our first 3rd grade class started, where so many field days and special events took place, and where the entire Parish community has surrounded our girls with love and care. Several pastors, including Father Cornelius, have welcome us, celebrated us, and prayed for us. We will miss so much about being here every day, even as we are excited for a new chapter.

OLPH will still be our spiritual home - so it's not goodbye, it's "See ya later!"



FUN AND LEARNING - at Thevenet Montessori School

Taken from Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565441234083>



Exploring Antarctica! The children have been learning all about Antarctica and the amazing animals that live on and near this icy continent.



Our children have been hard at work with new practical life lessons, building snowmen during this winter season! Through these hands-on activities, they are developing coordination, concentration, and independence - all while embracing the joy of winter.

Here on the right, our Montessori students have been practicing pre-handwriting skills using push pins and metal insets! These activities help strengthen fine motor control, focus, and the hand movements needed for writing.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WITH FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



February 2 Sandra Salazar, RJM
February 7 Rosemary Nicholson, RJM
February 10 Priscilla Lemire, RJM

BIDDING FAREWELL TO OUR SISTERS

We were happy to welcome sisters, family and friends to the Stuart Center in Washington, DC for the celebration of the Mass of the Resurrection for Sr. Eileen Reid. A copy of the Mass program is attached to this issue of BRIDGES.

The service for Sr. Christine Carrigg will take place at Cabrini of Westchester in Dobbs Ferry, NY, on Friday, January 23rd, at 1:30pm.

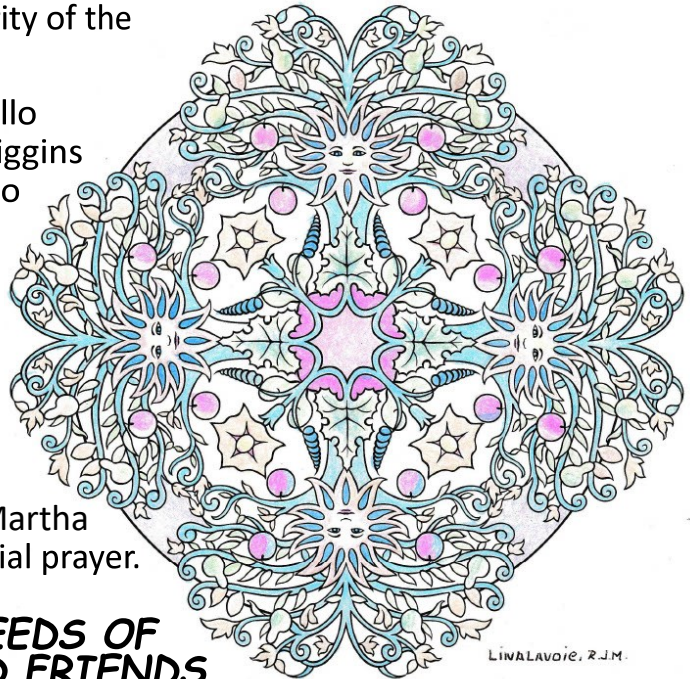
Both sisters will be laid to rest in the Bethany Cemetery at a date to be determined.

PROVINCE OFFICE

February 6 Next *Bridges* published (articles due by noon Wednesday 2/4)

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Continuing prayers for the safety and security of the people of Haiti and our sisters there;
- Continuing prayers for: Mary and Al Vitiello (supporters of the Haiti fund); Michele Higgins (the sister of Sr. Pat Dillon); Dr. Dee Tomeo (a friend of Mary Ann Augello Berdoe); Patricia Jones (a dear friend of several RJMs); Denise Schneider (a missionary to Haiti and friend of the RJMs there; Edward Stolba (brother of Sr. Janet Stolba);
- La Casa de Esperanza (Srs. Natalia Mejia, Rosie Nicholson, Sandra Salazar, and Rosa Mejia) and St. Paul's Senior Services (Sr. Martha Torres), as this week's communities for special prayer.



WE ALSO PRAY FOR ALL THE NEEDS OF OUR RJM SISTERS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS.

LINA Lavoie, R.J.M.

Praised Forever Be Jesus and Mary