



February 20, 2026

HONORING ST. CLAUDINE THEVENET - Schools in Jean Rabel, Haiti



Our RJM Jean Rabel Team came for a celebration in our house. Madda joined us! Gerald, Sherline, Supreme, Wicko, Marco, Rose, Michels and Modena. The food was on another table! We had a little prayer time, recalling Claudine's first night away from her home when she thought it was a foolish venture.

Each school received a Certificate of excellence for participating in the Quiz, another plaque of Claudine for the winning class, and a copy of the new testament for the individual winners!

There was an inter class quiz competition on the life of Claudine in the schools. In Acadien (right), Teacher Presley is posting the questions as all eagerly look on!



In Colette (left), there was even more excitement, with all crowded into one of the bigger classrooms for the Quiz.

In Cotton school (right), each child received a prayer leaflet with a photo of Claudine.



On the left, preschool children in Diodion enjoy their meal.

Meals in the 7 schools were supplemented with vegetables, normally it is just basic rice and beans. One student in Benito's afternoon school exclaimed, "Could we have this every day?!!"

- The RJM Jean Rabel Team, with the assistance of Max Lovens

ADVOCATING FOR HAITIANS

(adapted from a bulletin of the Quixote Center)

Haitians living under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in the USA were given relief when D.C. Circuit Court Judge Ana Reyes blocked the Department of Homeland Security's attempt to terminate TPS for them. 350,000 Haitians would have faced deportation after February 3rd to a country still filled with threats to their safety. For now, they can continue to live and work legally in the US.



The threat from the administration remains very real, and an appeal has been made. Ordinarily, this would take anywhere from six months to two years, but appeals can be fast-tracked through the Supreme Court's "shadow docket."

We are also following Representative Ayanna Pressley's ongoing discharge petition, which needs 218 signatures in the House of Representatives, and offers another potential pathway toward the safety, stability, and dignity that Haitian families deserve. We invite you to call your Representative to ask them to sign on. You can call the Capitol switchboard at **(202) 224-3121** and ask to be forwarded to the correct office.

Additional Information from Sr. Pat Dillon

Encourage your congressperson to sign the discharge petition cited above. There are now 155 signatures, but 218 are needed. If your congressperson signed, please thank her or him and ask them to encourage their colleagues to sign. Ask your friends and relatives to advocate for the petition with their congresspersons.



Creative Commons photo from www.peoplesdispatch.org

Interesting economic data in an amicus brief signed by the Attorney Generals of 19 states:

- TPS-eligible Haitians contribute 3.4 billion annually to the US economy
- 14.5% of TPS holders are entrepreneurs, compared with 9.3% of the US born workforce
- TPS holders pay taxes "on property having a total value of \$19 billion."
- TPS holders from all countries paid \$3.1 billion in federal taxes and \$2.1 billion in state and local taxes.

*The **alien** who resides with **you** shall be to **you** as the citizen among **you**; **you** shall love the **alien** as yourself, for **you** were **aliens** in the land of Egypt. [Lev. 19:34]*

LENTEN RESOURCES

Bethany Center Hudson Valley is sharing this Lenten reflection on their website: [Lenten reflection](#).

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns' Lenten reflection can be downloaded here: [A Journey Toward Peace](#).



AFJM NEW YORK - Exploring the Growth and Mission of AFJM in 2026

In 2025, Sr. Kathleen Scanlon stepped down from leading the Family of Jesus and Mary group in St. John's-Visitation Parish in the Bronx, NY, after having served as Coordinator since its initiation over 25 years ago! We are very grateful for this service, and the group is truly indebted to Sr. Kathleen for having faithfully and lovingly led this AFJM group.

In December 2025, Kathleen Alonzo accepted the call to be the new Co-Coordinator of the group, soon to be followed by Teresa Krauss, Co-Coordinator, Valerie Andrusco, Secretary and Cathy Hogan, Treasurer. Together, the leadership team will attempt to utilize the talents and gifts of all its members to steer this group in Prayer, Community and Mission.



Seated left: Anna Smith, Julia Haas, Eileen McCarthy, Alba Sanchez; Standing left: Teresa Krauss, Valerie Andrusco, Wilhelm Ronda, Sr. Kathleen Scanlon, RJM, Ann McCormack, Noreen Mastrangelo, Sr. Barbara Linen, HHCJ, Kathleen Alonzo. Not shown are: Laura Ronda and Katherine Hogan.

In line with our mission of reaching out and letting others know "How good God is", we have sponsored three Alpha Groups, an English Adult, a Spanish Adult, and have just begun a Youth Alpha. Alpha is an ecumenical evangelization program which lasts approximately eight weeks and includes a retreat day or weekend. Each week, the participants are greeted with love, acceptance and hospitality. They are served a meal,

see a very professional faith video and participate in a discussion about it. This welcoming and engaging atmosphere enable participants grow into a deeper relationship with Jesus and with each other by the end of the program.

Another work that many in the group have been involved in for well over ten years, was the Flea Market. This allowed the group to raise money for the RJM Mission in Haiti. Unfortunately, the location of the Flea Market is no longer available, so the group is looking into other ways to raise money for Haiti.

Upcoming events include a Lenten Retreat at Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers in Ossining led by Johann Vento in March, a parish-wide presentation about St. Claudine and recommitment ceremony with invited guest speaker, Sr. Rosemary Mangan, provincial secretary in April and a prayer service and picnic at Bethany Spirituality Center with Sr. Teresita Morse, in June.

It is our hope that the AFJM in the Bronx continues to thrive as a vibrant community dedicated to nurturing faith, community and mission, offering new opportunities for members to engage in charitable works and deepen their spiritual lives. The group remains committed to fostering a sense of belonging and compassion among its members, thus furthering the love of Jesus and Mary.

- Kathleen Alonzo, Co-Coordinator

INSTALLATION OF ARCHBISHOP RONALD HICKS

Below is Sr. Teresita Morse greeting newly installed Archbishop Ronald Hicks in St. Patrick's Cathedral on February 6.

Teresita serves as the Associate to the Vicar for Religious, Sr. Joan Curtin, CND.

Sr. Pat Dillon was present in the Cathedral for a special Vesper Service that took place the evening before.



INTERVIEW ON EWTN TELEVISION

Dr. Erin Lothes, Executive Director of the Bethany Center Hudson Valley, was recently interviewed by EWTN Global Catholic Television Network.

Erin spoke on the roll-back of the Environmental Protection Agency's "Endangerment Finding" on greenhouse gases. Click here to view the clip at around the 3-1/2 minute mark: [link](#).

Catholic Theologian on Endangerment Finding

EWTN News Nightly featuring Erin Lothes discussing the Endangerment Finding.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WITH MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 26 Mary Crépeau, RJM

March 28 Anne Magner, RJM

March 31 Alice Ouimette, RJM



NEWS FROM THE AFRICAN NOVICIATE

Sr. Judith Dossa, Novice Director from the Province of Africa, has sent us some news of our Haitian novices and photos from the novitiate community.

Sr. Roodjina Andy Joseph began novitiate on September 15th, joining 6 other first year novices. Their program has included inter-novitiate classes with other communities, in house sessions, and all that comes with participation in community life. They began their long retreat on February 8th, in a setting that includes novices from other communities, and the retreat will conclude on March 12th.



Sr. Marie-Jo Désir is presently engaged in a 3-month apostolic experience with our sisters in Nigeria, a setting that features English as the dominant language.

Enjoy these photos: Roodjina above in the community garden and below on the swing. In the group photo, Roodjina is second from the left and Marie-Jo is 3rd.



Please keep Marie-Jo and Roodjina in your prayers.

UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION

Sr. Antoinette Jacques' new address was listed in *News Notes* incorreced as MA instead of RI. Her new address is:

Saint Antoine Residence,
10 Rhodes Avenue, Room 213A
North Smithfield, **RI** 02896

To reach Sr. Antoinette by phone, call the receptionist at 401-767-3500, ask for Unit 2B and they may be able to run a phone to her.

Sr. Kathleen Scanlon now has a room number. Her new address is:

Marian Woods
152 Ridge Road, Room **218**
Hartsdale, NY 10530

PROVINCE OFFICE

March 6 Next *Bridges* published (articles due by noon Wednesday 3/4)

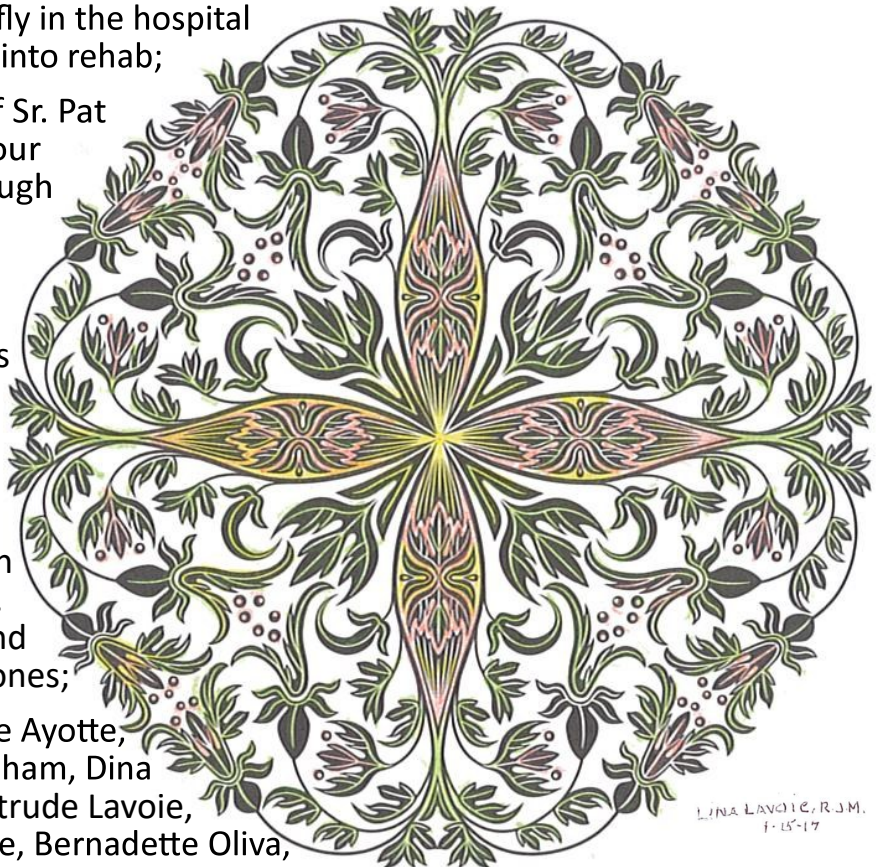
If you are unable to submit stories and photos for *Bridges* by email and need to text or WhatsApp to my cellphone (202-658-9219), you are welcome to do so. But an email letting me know is very helpful, since I seldom use WhatsApp.

MESSAGES OF THANKS

Lauren Amoto, a friend of Sr. Pat Dillon's sister, Michele Higgins, sends a message that she is very much better and she thanks everyone for their prayers.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Sr. Janet Stolba, who was briefly in the hospital and who has now transferred into rehab;
- Michele Higgins, the sister of Sr. Pat Dillon, who thanks you for your prayers! Michele is well enough to start chemotherapy;
- Continuing prayers: for the safety and security of the people of Haiti and our sisters there; Patricia Jones (a dear friend of several RJMs); and Edward Stolba (brother of Sr. Janet Stolba);
- The repose of the soul of Lynn Ryerse, the sister-in-law of Sr. Pat Ryerse, who died 2/13, and for the comfort of her loved ones;
- Marillac Residence (Srs. Pauline Ayotte, Claire Dandeneau, Janice Farnham, Dina Garcia, Lucie Jusseaume, Gertrude Lavoie, Priscilla Lemire, Shirley Leveille, Bernadette Oliva, Vivian Patenaude, Therese Picard, and Fatima Viramontes) and Elizabeth Seton Residence (Srs. Agnes Bell and Mariam Norick), as this week's communities for special prayer.



LINA LAVOIE, R.J.M.
7-15-17

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

Praised Forever Be Jesus and Mary