

Religious Of Jesus and Mary USA-Haiti Province

Bridges

June 19, 2026



Saint Frances de Chantel- Schools Out!



8th graders proudly displaying their new high school name.



Kindergarteners moving up ceremony.

This June, 42 kindergarteners and 26 eighth-grade students celebrated important milestones as they prepared to move on to the next chapters of their academic journeys. The kindergarteners proudly completed their first year of school and looked forward to beginning first grade, while the eighth-grade students reflected on their years of growth and prepared to enter high school. As they move forward, we celebrate their accomplishments and the dedication of their families, teachers, and school communities who supported them along the way. We wish all of our students continued success as they take on new experiences and opportunities ahead.

Sr. Pat Brito, RJM

Jean Rabel Environmental Project



Children working in the gardens.

Great progress has been made in the environmental project. The school gardens are producing carrots, peppers, plantains, eggplants, some tomatoes, etc. Some vegetables are sold, and the proceeds go into the school fund.

Tree saplings are planted both in the school grounds and in the houses of the pupils. 90 per cent of what has already been planted in the last couple of years has survived and are growing. Last year the members of the school garden clubs asked if they could have a hen each! 48 pupils have got training in looking after their charge! Chicks are born, eggs produced, some grown chicks sold, and money enters the school fund.

Through advertising, a greater appreciation of local degradable baskets is gradually replacing the use of plastic bags. There has been a very successful development at a recent festival in serving food from their local “gourde” container and ordinary plates and spoons, eliminating the use of styrofoam food containers.

Little by little, we hope for change!

Rjm Jean Rabel Team

Updates from Marillac

On Wednesday, June 3, the Marillac Community had the joy of welcoming Molly Shakeri. Molly came with the goodies shown, and we were able to catch up on her news and see photos of her new home CT.

Vivian, RJM



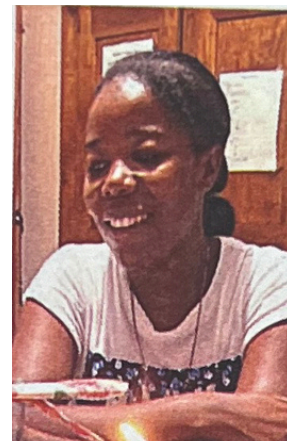
Marillac residents with Molly and the treats shared.

Marie-Jo Désir to make First Profession

We are happy to announce that our General Government has approved the request of our Haitian novice, Marie-Jo Désir, to make First Profession.

Marie-Jo will join her companions in the African Novitiate on August 8 in making Temporary Vows for 5 years. Together with them, under the direction of Sr. Judith Dossa, Novice Director, she has undertaken studies both in-house and with the Yaoundé inter-community program, made the full Spiritual Exercises of 30 days, and had apostolic experiences both in Cameroun and Nigeria, where she was in an English-speaking setting.

We are delighted to welcome her as a professed member of the USA-Haiti Province, as we continue to pray that peace and security will come to her troubled homeland.



Depicted is Marie-Jo Désir, NJM.

Please Pray For...



Image Courtesy of MaggieMae Dethlefsen

- Continued prayers for a friend of Mary Ann (Augello) Berdoe, Dr. Dee Tomeo, who is suffering from paralysis after back surgery.
- Edward Stolba, brother of Sr. Janet Stolba, who requests prayers
- Michele Higgins, the sister of Sr. Pat Dillon
- All the innocent victims of violence in the Middle East and around the world
- Continuing prayers: for the safety and security of the people of Haiti and our mission teams there
- Please remember in your prayers Fred Ryerse, who died on June 16th after a short illness. Fred is the older brother of Sr. Patricia Ryerse and the eldest of five siblings. Please keep Pat and the family in your prayers. R.I.P.
- Prayers are requested for Brenda Mejia, a member of the family originally from Guatemala, whom RJM's in the DC/Maryland area befriended and worked with. Brenda is undergoing medical tests for a suspected case of lymphoma. She recently gave birth to her 4th child, a healthy baby boy who is now almost 3 months old.
- We also pray for the needs of our RJM sisters, family, and friends

We invite you to join us in deepening our journey of repair as we consider how our faith is calling us to look anew at the legacy we have inherited and imagine a healing, just future. With Patty Krawec's book *Becoming Kin* as our guide, we'll gather for 3 discussion sessions on June 29th, July 13th, and July 27th, and end with a live conversation / Q&A with the author and her son, naturalist and arboriculturist Ben Krawec on August 10th. All sessions will be on Monday from 3-4:15pm ET / 2-3:15pm CT / 1-2:15pm MT / 12-1:15pm PT.

Whether your community has been deepening into decolonization for years or is new to the journey, *Becoming Kin* offers a compassionate, spiritually-grounded space in which to continue the conversation. By tracing where bonds were broken in the past, Patty Krawec calls us to "unforget" our history and use the eyes of kinship to imagine something different. What would it look like to remember that we are all related? How might we become better relatives to the land and to one another?

We start on Monday June 29th to discuss the Introduction and Chapters 1-3 (p. 7-78). Consider purchasing *Becoming Kin* at your local bookstore or at an Indigenous or Black-owned bookstore!

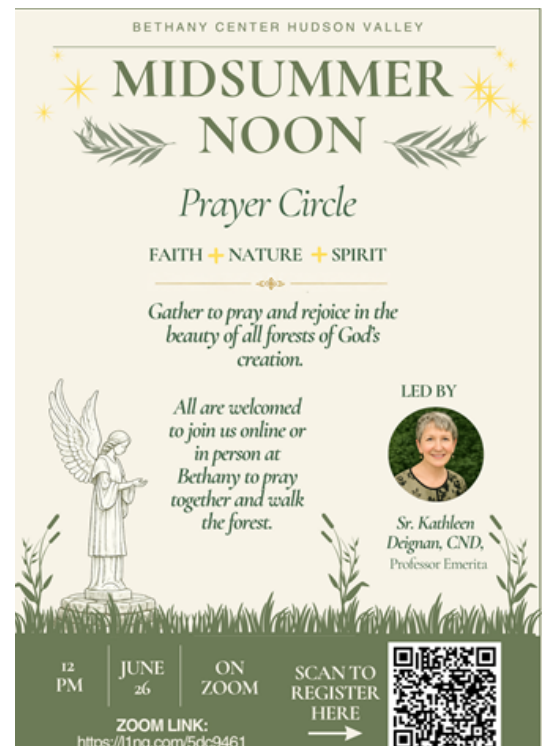
If you are part of a woman religious community and would like to share this offering, you can send community members this registration link: actionnetwork.org/forms/becoming-kin.

As always, we're here to answer any questions and we look forward to connecting with you soon!

With care,
The Land Justice Futures Team



Please join us for Midsummer Noon Prayer Circle led by Sr. Kathleen Deignan. You can join and register here:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/MaSn960mSFmKOKfPmnkKBQ#/registration>



Praised forever be Jesus and Mary