



Félicitations, Marie Jo Désir, RJM!



Pictured here with Sr. Jacqueline Picard (l), is Sr. Marie Jo Désir, who made her First Profession on the morning of August 8th. Jackie made the journey to Yaoundé, Cameroun to join the celebration, and bring the loving wishes and prayers of the USA-Haiti Province to the newly professed.

God grant you many years, Marie Jo!

Three Months in Gros Morne

To give us all a sense of the impact of the gang violence on daily life in Haiti, we asked Sr. Pat Dillon to share on the recent visit of herself and Sr. Jacqueline Picard to Gros Morne and Jean Rabel. Her comments are given below.

In Gros Morne, the yearlong "normal" for townspeople is that heavy police presence is keeping the gang (embedded north of town) from raiding town and randomly killing people. However, small merchants, the women who sit in the sun all day selling toothpaste or tomato paste or whatever, barely make any profit because the bandits collect tolls on people and merchandise enroute to town.

The countrywide population of 12 million includes 1.5 million people who are living internally displaced in partly-destroyed schools and open air camps around Port-au-Prince or squeezed in with relatives. Locally the Quixote Center is helping Fr. Zacharie provide assistance to three hundred of these displaced families and summer camp for 125 of their children. (see photo)

Jackie and I appreciate that our province leadership OKed our returning to Gros Morne for three months to transition our ministries to more Haitian-led leadership. We pray for the time when the Haitian government can free our town and the country from gang control so Haitians can live normal lives and RJMs and our Haiti-Quest volunteers can return to Gros Morne.

On May 18, our driver and I made a seven-hour trip to visit with Sr. Rose Kelly in the Northwest.



Children enjoying the shaded land near the JM house.

We took the longer route to avoid gang checkpoints, but since it was Flag Day we met up with many colorful parades of varying lengths. In addition to talking, sharing meals and enjoying new amenities, likw hot water in the shower, we made a trip to the local beach before a torrential downpour.

On a very personal note, part of my experience helped me to appreciate the health services provided by Alma Mater Hospital (HAM). Thanks to Sisters Jackie and Brittany, HAM has a new outpatient wing where staff can provide more dignified and professional care.

While I spent one Sunday afternoon in the emergency room hooked up on IV, I was picturing Brittany up under the roof rafters counting nails and measuring the distance between the beams. At home, I received IV antibiotics from nurse Jackie too. As it is, I have lost some weight so I might not be here if it wasn't for the TLC. This experience too makes me grateful that donors to our Haiti fund have made it possible for us to help some of the many people who come to us with their medical needs. Fr. Zacharie now has a parish committee which has taken responsibility for continuing this help.

The one photo I am including has children from the displaced families playing in the forest/garden right outside my bedroom window. I was so overjoyed to hear and see the children playing in a space that thirty years ago was a barren mountainside. In 2000 Sr. Noella Bouti, RJM came with three lovely young women from Regina (Saskatchewan) Canada as volunteers for summer camp. When Sr. Noella returned to Canada, she secured a \$15,000 grant from the Rancolli Foundation which was used to lay out the contour ditches, rock walls, vetiver, water collection pits, bamboo, and other interventions that have preserved the mountainside, protected our house, Jean 23 High School and the town of Gros Morne below--down to Fonibo where all the excess water flows because of the contours of the land. The forest/gardens have many visitors, but that day I was delighted that the children from displaced families were able to enjoy the forest.

When we can return to Gros Morne, much of the administration of our ministries will be in the hands of our Haitian partners, but it is essential that we continue our financial support. I know Sr. Mary Bourdon and the rest of us who are trying to fundraise would appreciate any ideas or names of potential donors.

Pat Dillon, RJM

Leadership Team Meets in Washington, DC

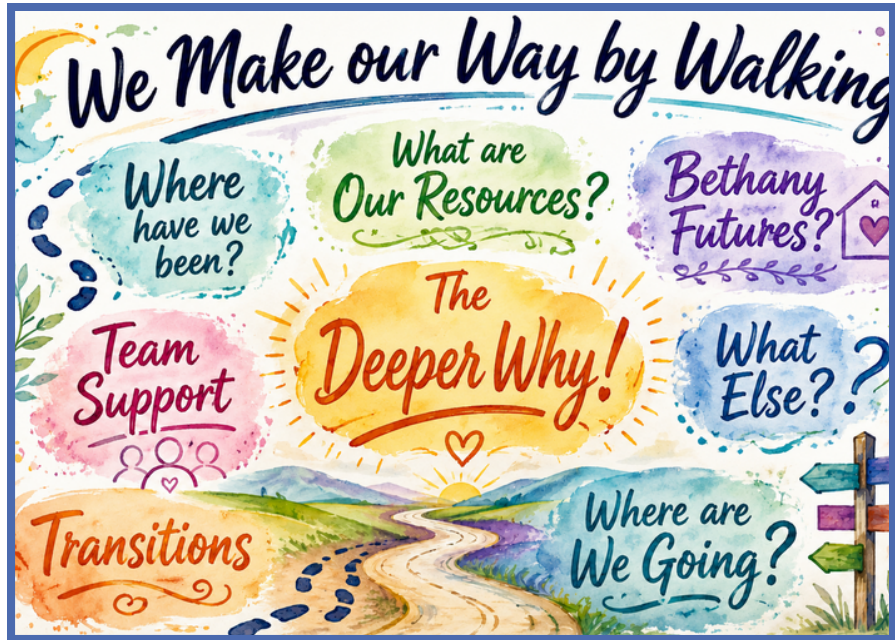
With members in California, New York and Washington, DC, the province Leadership Team ordinarily works together via Zoom or by phone calls. However, summer brings an opportunity for in-person time together, and that time came this year from August 5th through 7th.

Members addressed issues involving the Province Response to the Calls of GC 38, met with advisers to review province finances, and worked with consultants from Plante Moran to continue work for the project for an ecological education center on the Bethany campus.

Srs. Rosie and Pat left on Friday afternoon with plans for visits in New York and New England before Rosie returns to California.



Pictured in their meeting room at the Stuart Center in Washington are (l. to r.) Srs. Mary Bourdon and Pat Brito, Ms. Anna Sklut and Sr. Mary Pellegrini, OP of Plante Moran, and Srs. Rosemary Mangan and Rosie Nicholson.



Cover of binder used in leadership team meeting.

Retreat at Bethany



Attendees of the retreat at Bethany.

On Saturday, May 30th, 2026, members of the AFJM from the Bronx attended a one-day retreat at Bethany in Highland Mills, NY. The inspiring retreat was led by Sr Teresita Morse, RJM, and entitled "Woman in the Wind," which covered the Stations of Mary's life according to Luke.

The group was also given the opportunity to tour the beautiful estate and lakefront property. The following members were in attendance: Kathleen Alonzo, Valerie Andrusco, Julia Haas, Cathy Hogan, Teresa Krauss, Sr Barbara Linen, SHCJ, Noreen Mastrangelo, Eileen McCarthy, Ann McCormack, Sr Kathleen Scanlon, RJM.

We were pleased to welcome two new members: Maria Guzman and Lourdes Foley. We were also very happy to have Sr Loretta Knapp, RJM, and Sr Noreen Costa, RJM, both join us during our lunch break. The entire day was filled with prayer, meditation, and companionship.

Prepared by Valerie
Andrusco, Secretary

CORRECTIONS: Directory and Remembrance Book

“Once an English teacher, always a good proof reader!”

Thanks to the eagle eyes of Srs. Mary and Jacqueline Crepeau, we can correct two errors in our recently published Remembrance Book and Directory.

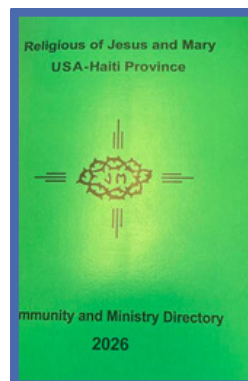
Remembrance Book: Sr. Thédule Desnoyers’ day of death is listed twice: the correct day is July 30, 1982.

Directory: The room #'s of 5 sisters at Marillac were inadvertently omitted. They are given here:

Srs. Shirley Leveille (319); Bernadette Oliva (301); Vivian Patenaude (217); Therese Picard (216); Fatima Viramonts (312).

Sr. Mariam Norick, who is in ESR, is in Room 1-D1.

Many thanks, Jackie and Mary! Clearly, you haven’t lost your touch!



Quixote Center Leads Coalition Opposing Rule Changes that Would Increase the Flow of U.S. Weapons to Haiti, Mexico and across Latin America

Quixote Center and six partner organizations have submitted four petitions to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) urging the agency to reject proposed rule changes that would weaken oversight of firearms and increase the illicit flow of U.S. weapons to Haiti, Mexico, and across Latin America. Illegal weapons trafficking arms cartels and fuels violence, leading to poverty and forced migration.

Sr. Pat Dillon writes: *In 2015, while I was traveling on the national highway, someone threw a large rock that almost broke the car windshield. Today it's automatic weapons. The illegal arms trade has made gangs better armed than the police. Gang violence, whether in Haiti or other Latin American countries, drives people to leave their own country. Thanks to everyone who signed the petition and/or made comments to the AFT.*

Please Pray For...

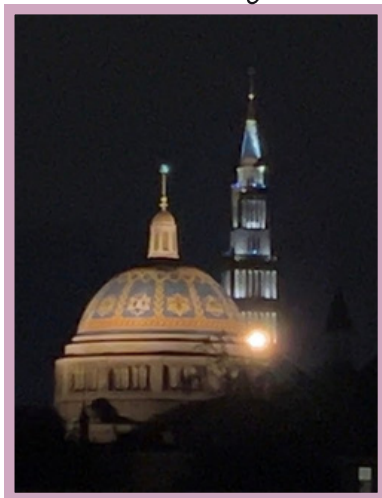


Image Courtesy of MaggieMae Dethlefsen

- Sr. Teresita Morse’s niece Jennifer Morse Meisenkothen, who is battling ovarian cancer
- 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
- Please continue to pray for Colleen Pusateri, who, after waiting years for a kidney transplant, successfully received a pig’s kidney—only the second successful one in the world so far. Colleen is the daughter of Lorrie Kenney, niece of Sr Eugenia Castanguay
- Please pray for St. Jill Weber, RSM, who has previously done work in Haiti. She has had an unexpected medical emergency and is in critical condition.

Praised forever be Jesus and Mary