



March 20, 2026

DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR PEACE

You may recall the announcement some time ago of LCWR's call to religious communities of women for 100 days of Prayer and Fasting for Peace, and our response that we would invite our RJM sisters to take up this challenge on March 30, Claudine's birthday and Monday of Holy Week. The call resonates with us as we watch and read reports of the immense suffering being visited upon innocent victims in so many parts of the world. It impacts personally as we think of Haiti, where our sisters and lay companions serve the mission, the Middle East, where RJM's are living, and where our longtime co-worker, Molly Shakeri, has family members. War creates more refugees, in a world filled with people seeking safety, and the economic fallout is already being felt by millions.



Please join in this day however you can, according to your means and circumstances. Sr. Rosie Nicholson will be sending some resources that you may find helpful. To show you something of the response of other communities, we're listing here the communities taking part in the days before our own March 30th date. The 100 days began on February 18, and will end on June 11.

BRIDGES would welcome a brief description of your "Day" and/or some photos.

Day 33 | Sunday, March 22

*Fifth Sunday of Lent

*UN World Water day

- Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Day 34 | Monday, March 23

- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

Day 35 | Tuesday, March 24

- Medical Mission Sisters
- Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- CLE-JPIC

Day 36 | Wednesday, March 25

*Annunciation of the Lord

- Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
- Sisters of the Holy Cross
- Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio

Day 37 | Thursday, March 26

Day 38 | Friday, March 27

- Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill
- Religious of Mary Immaculate

Day 39 | Saturday, March 28

- Congregation of Jesus (Formally I.B.V.M.)
- Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, New Windsor, NY

Day 40 | Sunday, March 29

*Palm Sunday

- Sisters of the Divine Savior

Day 41 | Monday, March 30

*Monday of Holy Week

*UN International Day of Zero Waste

- [Religious of Jesus and Mary, USA-Haiti Province](#)
- Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Immaculata

NEWS FROM BETHANY CENTER HUDSON VALLEY

The Boy Scouts visit Bethany for trail clearing and honoring the flag

Bethany proudly hosted a troop of New York City Boy Scouts who came to clear our trails on Saturday, March 14. It was a very cold day, but all the snow had melted during a few days of thaw earlier in the week, so armed with rakes, loppers, and a box full of hard hats, eight boys, two parents, and Scoutmaster Del Rosario fortified themselves with coffee, juice, and donuts and headed down our trails. After their opening orientation, a moment of reverence, song, and some explanation by me about invasive vines and how we've been working to restore the forest, they got to work restoring the trails. Progress was made all the way from the main path to where a small creek disrupts further advance. Later, after grace, pizza, and reflection on Leadership and Service, the Boy Scouts offered Bethany the service of retiring our wind-shredded flag with honor and dignity.



Sister Teresita offered a beautiful blessing and prayer for the boys. For the leader of the project; it was his final step to becoming an Eagle Scout. And for me, it was the first step toward what I hope is a lot more Scout-sponsored trail clearing ahead!

That same day, Kathleen Alonzo brought a large group of young adults to reflect with her on our shared faith and spirituality through The Alpha Project. Three Confirmation student from Sacred Heart also came to assist, so it was a great day for seeing fresh faces at Bethany.

Sister Forest supports Sister Water

Erin Lothes and Anne Wibiralske attended the Waterspirit Gala on March 14th and enjoyed amazing speakers, great conversation, and an inspiring night with fellow advocates for our common home. Bethany was an official sponsor of the event, and it was great to see our name in the program and read aloud with thanks by the Waterspirit Executive Director, raising visibility of Bethany among a very like-minded community of eco-spiritual advocates.

Reflecting on Lent with the Ignatian Community

Each day of Lent is a blessed opportunity to ponder our journey with God. I was offered the challenging invitation of struggling with this upcoming Sunday's readings for a series of reflections that the Ignatian Solidarity Network is sponsoring. You can sign up [here](#) and read my reflection when it is published on Sunday March 22. The theme is "Stubborn Hope," and that seems a fitting theme for Bethany, where our care for the forests brings others into contemplation of God, where the school nurtures young children, and where our just-budding programs with young adults are springing up.

- Dr. Erin Lothes, Executive Director

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SR. MARY BERCHMANS!



The sisters of the USA-Haiti Province send their **"HAPPY BIRTHDAY"** greetings to you for your birthday at the Generalate in Rome on Sunday, March 29th.

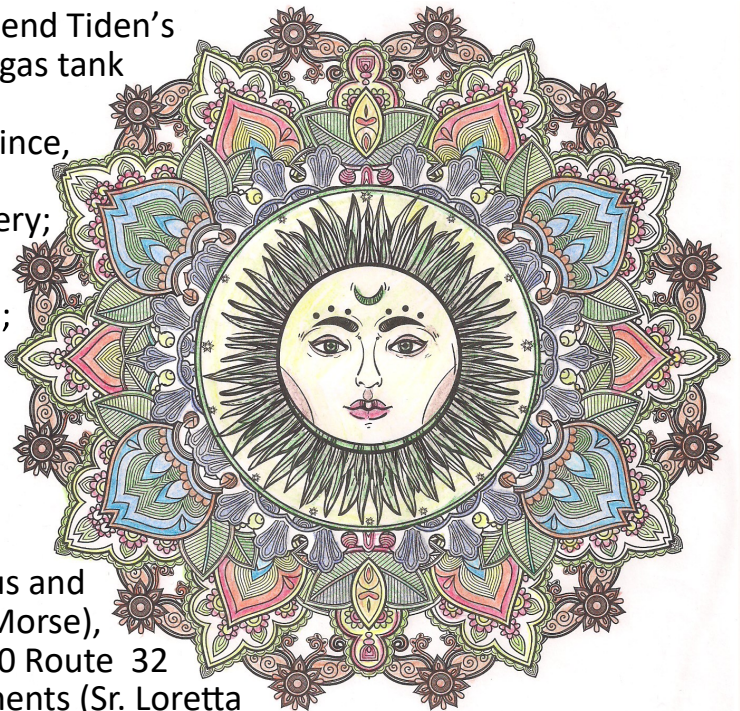
PROVINCE OFFICE

April 2 Next *Bridges* published a day early (articles due by noon Tuesday 3/31)

April 3 Office closed for Good Friday

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR...

- Sr. Pauline Ayotte who is recovering from knee replacement surgery;
- Michele Higgins, the sister of Sr. Pat Dillon, who had to be hospitalized again and is now waiting for enough strength to continue her treatment;
- Davidson Toule, our Haiti driver and friend Tiden's nephew, was seriously burned when a gas tank exploded. Davidson is in the *Doctor's Without Borders* Hospital in Port-au-Prince, where he's getting the best burn care available and we pray for his full recovery;
- 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 sisters there; Patricia Jones (a dear friend of several RJMs); Edward Stolba (brother of Sr. Janet Stolba);
- New York RJM - North: Convent of Jesus and Mary (Srs. Stella Herrera and Teresita Morse), Thevenet House (Sr. Norene Costa), 250 Route 32 (Sr. Joan Faraone) and Hawkins Apartments (Sr. Loretta Knapp) as this week's community for special prayer.



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

Praised Forever Be Jesus and Mary