

Bridges

October 2, 2026

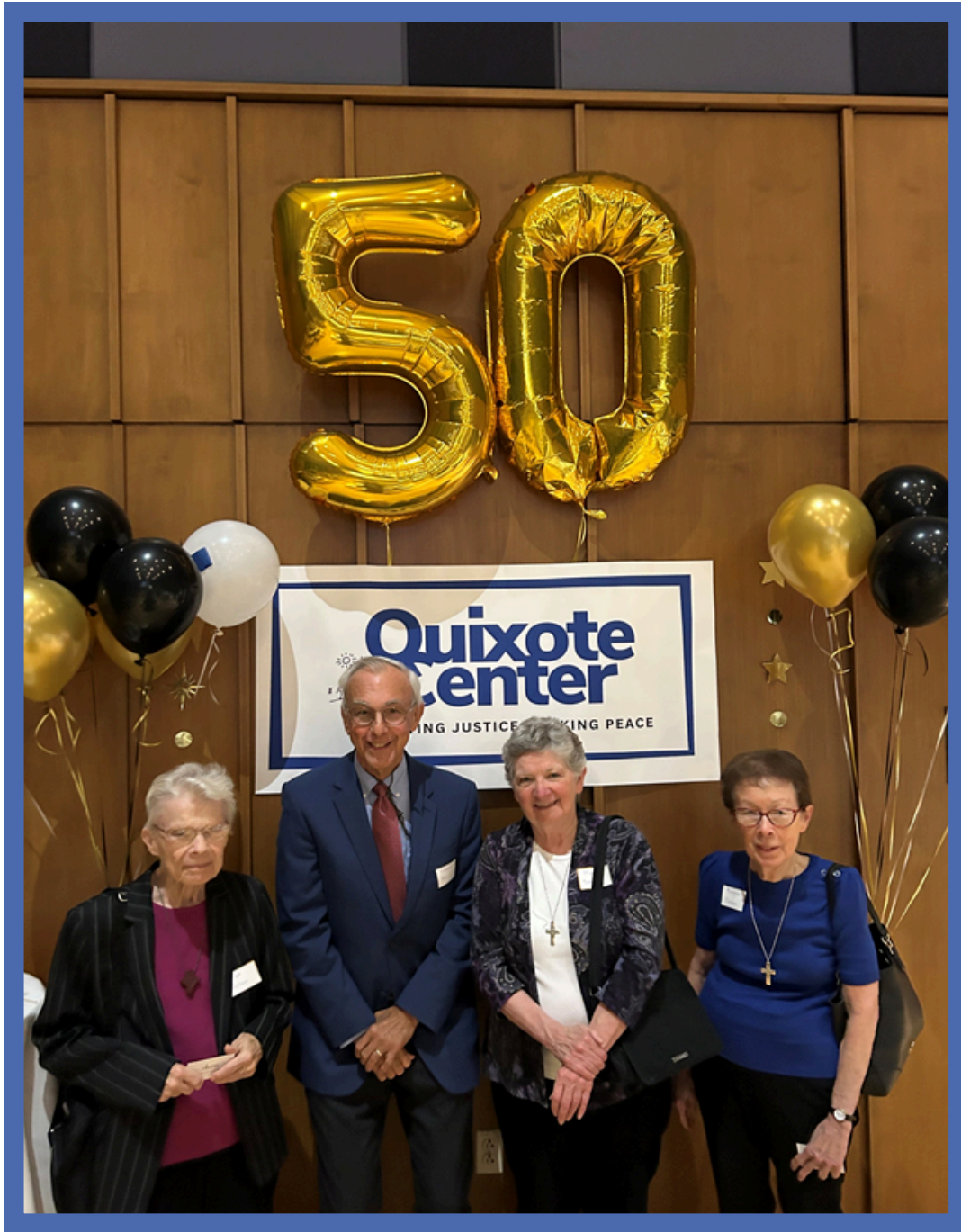


St. Frances De Chantal Back to School

Depicted are the 1st and 2nd graders first week of school.



Quixote Center Gala



Attending the gala are, l. to r.: Sr. Pat Dillon,
Mr. Tom Kroc, Srs. Mary Bourdon and Marge
Perron.

Tom Kroc is an active member of his
Baltimore parish, which twins with a parish in
Haiti.

More than 100 people gathered in Silver Spring, MD on September 19 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Quixote Center. Operating as a social justice organization dedicated to “empowering people to become artisans of their own destiny” this center has included in its work the support of projects in Gros Morne since 1999. Most recently, work to help internally displaced persons has been added to earlier projects in re-forestation and agriculture. And currently, Quixote Center has spearheaded efforts to interrupt the illegal gun trade that is sending weapons to Haiti’s gangs, organizing the visit to congressional offices described in the accompanying article.

Rosemary Mangan, RJM

To Silence the Guns in Haiti--Stop Their Export from the USA



Pictured in order: Kim Lamberty, Executive Director of the Quixote Center. Samantha Bevins, staff member for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY); Diandra Garcia, Social Justice representative for NY Sisters of Charity; Sr. Pat Dillon, RJM; and Souzen Joseph, Independent Haitian Journalist.

Our town, Gros Morne, was attacked by the Kokorat San Ras gang on Monday, Sept. 28 with at least 11 people killed north of town. Our local police fought back, but the UN-backed Gang Suppression Force (GSF) had returned to their base in Gonaives. Many residents slept in the Catholic Church yard that night, but now families are fleeing from town.

This horrible retaliation has occurred in towns and villages in rural Haiti as well as in and around the capital, Port-au-Prince. This is why the USA-Haiti Province is one of 22 organizations working with the Quixote Center to Silence the Guns in Haiti by disrupting the illegal trafficking of high-caliber guns and ammunition from the United States to Haiti.

On September 29th and 30th, Sr. Pat Dillon and Cheryl Nichols (companion in mission and former RJM) participated in the Stop the Arms Trafficking Advocacy days spearheaded by the Quixote Center. Tuesday, we had a congressional briefing at the Senate Visitors Center with over a hundred in attendance, seventy of whom were staffers for Senators and Representatives. A number of advocates also participated virtually. On Wednesday, we had individual meetings in congressional offices, with some advocates participating virtually.

The Message: Co-sponsor the ARMAS Act to disrupt the illegal trafficking of automatic weapons and bullets to Haiti, Mexico, and other parts of the Caribbean. Haiti does not manufacture guns or bullets; they are trafficked/exported illegally, mostly from the USA. Sr. Pat and Diandra Garcia met with staff from Congressman George Latimer's office, whose district includes our Ellison Avenue community. Rep. Latimer has not co-sponsored the ARMAS Act yet and needs to hear from more constituents. Later, Kim Lamberty, with Diandra, Sr. Pat, and Souzen Joseph, an independent journalist originally from Haiti, met with staff for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who also has not sponsored the ARMAS Act yet. Souzen Joseph emphasized how the trafficking so terribly impacts women and children, whose needs have been a concern of Senator Gillibrand. Cheryl Nichols was virtually part of a meeting with staff for Congressman Glenn Ivey of Maryland. In all, 35 Congressional offices were visited.

For more info about what YOU can do, please visit the Quixote Center Email [Sign-Up Page](#). We are still working too to reinstate Temporary Protected Status for Haitians who lost it in July. Cheryl (301-575-4272) and I (914-514-6176) would love to hear from [YOU](#) and plan together.

Pat Dillon, RJM



Pictured in order: Diandra Garcia, Jessica Merritt, staff member for Congressman George Latimer, and Sr. Pat Dillon.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees: All are Sacred



On Sept. 27 we had an interreligious procession, multi-cultural prayer at Balboa Park in San Diego. Prior to this event, our Bishop Pham and Bishop Felipe invited leaders of all different faith groups in San Diego to gather together for a meal at the Diocese. From this meal sharing and synodal conversation, the theme All Are Sacred emerged. It was enriching to hear the Jewish rabbi, Muslim men and women, Bishops of different Christian faiths, and Bishop Pham each express the core of their lived faith - deeply knowing our one loving God who invites each of us to love one another. Each had 5 minutes to speak prior to leading the procession of about 8,000 participants. A very positive spirit of deep faith, hope, and community was felt within the group as we shared with one another.



Rosie Nicholson

God at the Detention Center

“When I said, ‘My foot is slipping’ your unfailing love, Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy” Psalm 94: 10-19 (NIV)

I met Lorena, from Colombia, who shared with me how God had become so real in her prayer and how particular Scripture passages spoke directly to her heart and soul. The Spirit was touching her heart with tenderness, forgiveness and mercy.

She was finding deep consolation in knowing that during the darkest time in her life she was not alone and God loved her unconditionally, knew her, heard her and cared for her. She even said that she did not regret being at the detention center because it was there, amid her suffering and experience of the cross, that she had met God.

Juan, from Guatemala, speaks so beautifully about God. Sometimes I have tears in my eyes, as I witness what God is doing in Juan’s life. Juan has been transformed by the love of God, and he is dedicating his life, this time at the detention center, to do good, to help others, to share words of compassion, hope and strength, to let others know God’s goodness not only through his words but through his actions and care.

I am so grateful to God whose love and closeness manifest in the lives of the needy and vulnerable. The Lord journeys with them and strengthens their faith and their spirit amid hurtful and challenging circumstances at the detention center. Thank you, Lord, for your compassion and faithfulness. Your children find hope and refuge in you!

Sandra Salazar, RJM

Parccseq program



Greetings from Jean Rabel!

The Parccseq program from Digicel Foundation, an Irish foundation, has introduced a whole new mentality in this isolated part of Haiti.

The Northwest Department of Haiti is one of the most vulnerable and poorest regions in the country. The Digicel Foundation has invested significantly in education, including building schools and training teachers.

PARCCSEQ is the latest program to make an impact in the region, recently celebrating the graduation of three schools in the Jean Rabel area: Doux Jésus of Colette, St. Michel in Cotton, and Grann Lizon in Acadien.

The program takes place over a two-year period and works not only with school staff and the wider school community, but also with parents and local community leaders.

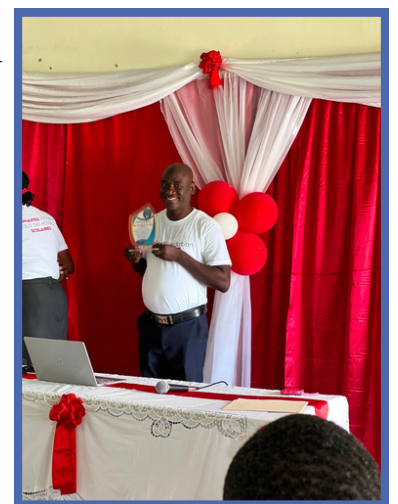
It has been demonstrated that the maintenance and continued functioning of a school can be placed in the hands of the people themselves, empowering communities to take ownership of their schools and their futures.

The program has also created opportunities for families to improve their financial well-being. Many families previously had to travel great distances to purchase even the most basic supplies. Now, they can access these necessities right in their own communities.

Children are also beginning to learn the importance of saving money. At the graduation ceremony, one pupil proudly shared that she had saved 800 gourdes—something that would have been unimaginable before the program. For families who had long struggled with debt, this represents a remarkable change.

Much credit is due to the two outstanding PARCCSEQ program trainers, Arnolet Predelus and Dieudonne. Everyone was amazed by their dedication and commitment. Despite the many challenges they faced—including heavy rain, “non-roads,” rivers to cross, accidents, and even the lack of restaurants along the way—these two men never failed to show up for our meetings and training sessions. They encouraged the participants and provided an inspiring example of dedication to the entire community.

May the PARCCSEQ program continue to grow, bringing hope, opportunity, and sustainability to other school communities throughout Haiti.



Rose Kelly, RJM

WSG Response to RJM Donation



Beth Reaves,
President of WSG,
recently sent the
letter given below,
acknowledging the
continuing support
given to the school
by RJM and sharing
plans on how the gift
will be used.

The Legacy, Continued

Your gift toward the new building is already at work in the daily life of WSG's students — and its impact reaches directly into the same spirit that moved Claudine Thévenet to open the world to girls who had been denied it. That spirit lives on, concretely, in this area of the building.

The Space

This space of the new building houses WSG's Social Studies and Spanish classrooms, where our girls study the world — and learn to speak to it — before they ever leave it: its geography, its histories, its peoples, its languages. Girls Go Global carries that coursework beyond the classroom wall, sending our students abroad to England to encounter, firsthand, the world Claudine Thévenet insisted they were entitled to see. Naming this space ties together where our girls learn about the world and where they are prepared to go into it — the full arc of Thévenet's charism, still in motion in Wards 7 and 8 today.

In Recognition

In recognition of your gift, WSG is honored to dedicate this space in honor of Claudine Thevenet and the RJMs — a lasting, daily marker of the Sisters' place in the education and horizon of every girl who studies and departs from it.

Dr. Beth Reaves, President of WSG

CALLS of General Chapter 38: Province Response



When the delegates of RJM General Chapter gathered in 2025 to ask the question, “What are the next steps the Spirit is inviting us to take?” they found inspiration in the text of Micah 6:8: “Act justly; love tenderly, walk humbly....” Fueled by those commands, the Chapter called on the Congregation to promote peace and justice, to experience the transformation of a synodal way of living and serving, and to foster a culture of care. They asked sisters from each area of the 31 countries in which we serve to carry these out in the way most suited to the needs and resources of their setting.

In the USA-Haiti province, provincial chapter delegates responded by prioritizing our mission in Haiti, our service to immigrants and refugees, care for our common home, especially through the initiative at Bethany, emphasizing our “way of proceeding” as that of synodality and collaboration with partners in mission. To support these commitments, the delegates further agreed to create opportunities for sharing on the ‘CALLS,’ together exploring possibilities and prayerfully evaluating our response.

Sr. Rosemary Nicholson has sent out a helpful excerpt from the Pope Francis document, *For a Synodal Church*, together with a resource for following the process of synodal sharing. She and Sr. Pat Brito will be arranging a series of Zoom sessions that will provide opportunities to explore and support our response to the Calls. Personal reflections of individual province members on the Calls will appear regularly in BRIDGES, as well as recommendations on relevant books, articles, films, webinars or podcasts. Contributions welcome!

Rosemary Mangan, RJM

Prayers For:



Image Courtesy of Unsplash

- Laurie Labrie, niece of Sr. Vivian Patenaude, who has just started chemo treatments for lung and lymph node cancer
- Adeline Rose, whose grandfather is a parishioner at St. Joseph’s in Yonkers. She is experiencing serious medical complications.

Continuing Prayers For:

- Patti Stolba, the sister-in-law of Janet Stolba
- Mike Reskey during this difficult time. He is a friend of Mary Ann Berdoe, a former RJM.
- Sr. Teresita Morse’s niece, Jennifer Morse Meisenkothen
- A friend of Mary Ann (Augello) Berdoe, Dr. Dee Tomeo
- Edward Stolba, brother of Sr. Janet Stolba
- For Colleen Pusateri, who is the daughter of Lorrie Kenney, niece of Sr. Eugenia Castonguay

Praised forever be Jesus and Mary