

Bridges

October 23, 2026



CELEBRATING OUR SISTERS



The afternoon of Saturday, October 19, found most members of the USA-Haiti Province focused on four of their sisters, as we gathered via Zoom for a virtual jubilee celebration. Jubilarians **Shirley Leveille, Jacqueline Crepeau, Norene Costa, and Loretta Knapp** joined the Zoom from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York to receive the greetings of RJM's from as far away as California and Haiti. While there could be no hugs, we were very much together!

After an opening hymn and reading, Sr. Mary Bourdon presented each jubilarian in turn, noting highlights of her years in ministry, together with her choice of a Scripture text that held special meaning. The jubilarians shared some of their own memories, and Srs. Lucie Jusseaume, Diane Dube, Rosemary Mangan and Pat Brito offered personal memories and tributes to the “fabulous four.”

A technical problem prevented Shirley from sharing during the Zoom, but we learned afterwards that she had planned to speak about the other members of her group, those with whom she made first vows. Because this remembrance has always been a part of our in-person jubilee gatherings, we are happy to name here the profession group of 1956:

Srs. Yvonne Marie Pigeon; Mary Leonard Haché; Estelle Gravel; Lorraine Charpentier; Rose Marie Kavanaugh; Catherine Durkin; Anne Egan. We remember as well the other members of the 1961 group: Lorraine Ayotte; Lorraine Blanchette; and Antoinette.

Our closing hymn at Saturday's gathering said it well:

*For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Friends on earth, and friends above,....*

.....

Lord of all to thee we raise this our grateful hymn of praise!

N.B. The ‘jubilee sheet’ of each jubilarian, as well as Saturday’s program, is attached to this issue of BRIDGES.

Jean Rabel Back to School



Schools are open, and over 250 sponsored pupils and students are attending preschool up to “Philo”. The new preschoolers are gradually adapting to a new environment. Those with older sisters or brothers are already oriented, as they listen at home to the songs learned at school. It is not as easy for the others; there are tears! However, the teachers are wonderful in the way they mother them and introduce them to the colourful educational toys and other activities.



20 sponsored students are attending a teacher training college here in Jean Rabel, while more are attending university in PdePaix. The good news is that 9 students from last year graduated last July and all have been successful in getting employment. One teacher is still receiving support as he comes from an extremely impoverished background and is the sole provider for his Mother and family.

His Mother is so proud...she never had the opportunity of going to school.

All this is possible because of your prayer and financial support.

A BIG “MESI ANPIL”... thank you... from all those whose lives are changing.

With your valuable help, you are helping to create a more positive and hopeful future for all Haitian families.

Jean Rabel Team

Celebrating the end of the Season of Creation with Thevenet Montessori School



It's been a beautiful week at Bethany and the entire campus shared two special events.

First, there was a blessing of the stuffed animals. I was able to visit every class with my family's own special stuffy, Froggy. Gathered in a circle, the children listened to my brief sharing about blessings being words of gratitude, well wishes, and love for something or someone we cared about. We talked about all those we care about: the creatures of the world, our pets, our stuffies, our families, friends, and teachers. Then we all rubbed our hands together to warm up our "blessing hands" and said a big thank-you to bless our stuffies.

I moved from class to class, and it was a lot of fun.

Thursday was International Day, and Bethany had a table. We featured posters from our Hildegarde event and last year's Butterfly Festival, and shared new suggestions on how to "leave the leaves" so caterpillars and other insects have homes throughout the winter.

**Erin Lothes, Executive Director of
Bethany Center Hudson Valley**

Update from Bethany Center



This picture is from the Monroe-Woodbury service visit. Sicile Naddeo-Jergji and Erin Lothes are standing with the teacher, the Woodbury Climate Task Force leaders, and two student officers.

On Tuesday, October 14th, Erin and Sicile attended a meeting of the Interact Club, Monroe-Woodbury High School's service club, to propose two projects: a clean-up of Bethany's forest and trails, and nature-themed art-making for the center. The students responded with real enthusiasm, and we look forward to welcoming them to campus in the coming months!"

Sicile Naddeo-Gjergji

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

Continuing Prayers For:

- Adeline Rose, whose grandfather is a parishioner at St. Joseph's in Yonkers. She is experiencing serious medical complications.
- Patti Stolba, the sister-in-law of Janet Stolba
- Sr. Teresita Morse's niece, Jennifer Morse Meisenkothen
- Friends of Mary Ann (Angello) Berdoo, Mike Reskey and Dr. Dee Tomeo
- For Colleen Pusateri, who is the daughter of Lorrie Kenney, niece of Sr. Eugenia Castonguay

Message from Janet Stolba

On behalf of my family, thank you very much for your prayer for my brother Edward. He fought a tough battle with CMML, a rare form of leukemia, for over two years. Since there was no further known treatment, he agreed to enter a clinical trial, but it proved too much for his already compromised heart. He was always aware of the support of your prayer.

His ashes will be buried in the Stolba plot in Cambridge, MA, the city in which he was born 79 years ago. At this time, I have no further information.

Thank you again, with all my heart,
Janet

Praised forever be Jesus and Mary