

NEWS

Visitation to the United States Province



"Yes, I know what plans I have in mind for you, Yahweh declares, plans for peace, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" Jr. 29, 11

"Individualism of our postmodern and globalized era favors a life-style which weakens the development and stability of personal relationships and distorts family bonds. Pastoral activity needs to bring out more clearly the fact that our relationship with the Father demands and encourages a communion which heals, promotes and reinforces interpersonal bonds. In our world, especially in some countries different forms of war and conflict are re-emerging. Yet we Christians remain steadfast in our intention to respect others, to heal wounds, to build bridges, to strengthen relationships and to "bear one another's burdens" (Ga 6, 2)." EG 67

Sister Monica Joseph, RJM, Superior General, accompanied by Sister Alejandra Diaz, RJM, Councilor, responsible for America, visited the Province of the United States from July 15 to September 1, 2017.

Just before leaving from the General House to go to the United States, on July 13, our dear Mother Cecilia Gaudette, RJM passed away, at the age of 115 years. Belonging to the Province of the United States, we have felt her presence as well as that of Sister Isa Sola RJM in Haiti accompanying us during the Visitation. Let us thank God for their consecration in Jesus and Mary and for their lives given over to God!

The visitation to the Province has been an experience of joy, sisterly affection and communion. We visited each of the communities and we shared their life and mission.

The Province was founded in the year 1877, when Religious of Jesus and Mary from Canada, arrived to the United States and settled in Fall river, Massachusetts.

The Province is present

- In USA: California, Maryland, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island.
- in Haïti : Gros Morne, Jean Rabel and Port au Prince. This year they celebrate 20 years of their arrival to this country.



At present, there are 71 religious, all of perpetual vows, and one Haitian novice, who is now in the Novitiate of America in Mexico, DF.

In the Province there are 13 communities: In the United States: 2 in the West (California) and 9 in the East; they are far from one another due to the extension of the country.

In Haiti, there are 2 communities, also distant from one another, especially because of the condition of the roads and the characteristics of the country

The Provincial Government, named on July 31, 2014 for a period of 4 years is formed by the following Religious: Provincial Superior: Sister Margaret Perron, RJM – Councilors: Sister Rosemary Mangan, RJM, (replaces the Provincial), Sister Rita Ricker, RJM, and Sister Anne Magner, Councilor - Bursar.

Apostolic Mission in:

United States:

2 Apostolic Works: Thévenet Montessori School (Highland Mills) and the Residence Joan of Arc (San Diego).

We share the mission in Washington Middle School, since its foundation, together with two other Institutions: “Society of the Holy Child Jesus” and “National Council of Negro Women”.

We are also committed in the formation of catechists at Diocesan level, the direction of schools, “chaplaincy” in hospitals, spiritual accompaniment, Infirmarys, catechesis, ministers of the Eucharist, pastoral work, social services in dining rooms, with street persons, disabled persons, teaching English to migrants, etc.

The elderly religious have the important mission to pray for the Congregation.

Haiti:

We work in the field of education. We are also committed with themes dealing with food, empowerment of women, workshops of art, agro-afforestation, programs of formation, medical help, accompaniment of the Volunteers from different parts of the world who go to render service and help in this country, etc.

In Port-au-Prince, the laity from the AFJM continue to carry on the workshop of prosthesis or artificial limbs. The group of AFJM is very alive and continues to hold its encounters and to carry on its mission.

Our participation in **UNANIMA** has been led by the Religious of the USA Province. At present they support the Sister who has assumed this responsibility at the level of our Congregation, and she belongs to the Province of Canada.

Quest Volunteers have great importance in the Province. It receives and forms many lay persons of different ages and prepares them for the mission.

We could meet some of the members of the **AFJM** from New York and Port-au-Prince. We shared with them a prayer and their mission.

By means of **some images**, we will try to share some aspects of their life and mission.







Praised forever be Jesus and Mary!