

Parishioner Profiles



Marie LaRoche. Jessica, Equai, Jr.,
Julia, Equai, Sr., and Jennifer Downing

Marie LaRoche came to America from Haiti almost 50 years ago. She first lived in New Rochelle, and moved to Bridgeport 35 years ago where she attended St. Ambrose Church until it closed in 2012, and came to Holy Name of Jesus Church.

Marie's daughter, **Jennifer**, married Equai, Sr., in 2007 at St. Ambrose Church, where Jessica was baptized in 2009. Jennifer graduated from Southern CT State University with a Bachelor's Of Science in Social Work. The family also started attending HNOJ in 2012. They moved to Georgia in 2013 and returned to our area last August for Equai's work.

Jennifer is a Behavioral Health Admissions Coordinator. Jessica, Julia and Equai, Jr. attend St. James School, but come to Faith Formation at Holy Name of Jesus.

"I am glad that my Mother Marie and my younger sister continued to be parishioners at the Holy Name of Jesus Church Community," Jennifer said. "My children, husband and I are so grateful that we are in a Church Community that provides wonderful guidance and where we are nurtured, educated and continue to grow spiritually, emotionally, and mentally."



Antoinette Modugno grew up in Bridgeport, attended St. Ambrose School, Notre Dame Girls H.S., Southern CT (undergrad) and U.B. (Masters in Counseling). In 18 years of ministries with L'arche in Mobile, Alabama, working with the homeless in rural North Carolina, and L'Arche of Greater Washington D.C., she provided services to adults with intellectual challenges. She was an Associate with the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes. Her favorite saint is St. Francis.

A parishioner for almost 6 years, Antoinette says, "People don't realize how great volunteering at Holy Name is." Her first experience was baking poppyseed and nut rolls with the Guild of the Mother of Jesus. And then came the Tag Sale. And then before Covid, the Choir, and during Covid, she took parishioners temperatures. And then onto our Martha's Ministry (which cleans the church) and the Lord's Kitchen. And then she starting passing a basket for collections at mass, marched in the Memorial Day parade and helps with our 100 Year Anniversary celebrations.

"If you want to make friends, feel fulfilled, have fun, have of sense of belonging, and serve God, then volunteer at Holy Name of Jesus," she says.