

TidBytes – September 2020

CHM internal community news to CHM sisters, associates, and staff

From Des Moines – Sr. Jeanie Hagedorn

The month of September has continued to be filled with webinars, virtual events and retreats as we prepare for elections. A major commitment for Srs. Elaine and Jeanie Hagedorn has been preparing with NETWORK (a Catholic Social Justice Lobby in Washington, DC) for the upcoming “Nuns on the Bus VIRTUAL Tour” across 16 states. The focus of this tour will be “Who We Elect Matters”! “Our goal is to highlight the most pressing issues in our nation ... and to help participants prepare to vote for the common good on Election Day.” We are urged to remember that Catholics and all voters must be multi-issue voters as Pope Francis reminds us. The tour on Zoom begins September 23 and continues until October 23rd. There will be Town Halls, site visits, videos made by some former “bus riders”, opportunities for sharing, and, talks by Sr. Simone Campbell. To see the schedule, learn more and to register for one or many events go to www.nunsonthebus.org/2020virtualevents. We invite you to especially note the “bus stop” for a Town Hall in Des Moines on Monday Sept. 28 at 7:00 pm (CDT). Sisters Jeanie and Elaine will be facilitators at this Town Hall. Dubuque will be featured on Saturday Oct. 3rd at 3:00 pm (CDT). As we near the most important election in our lifetime please be sure to VOTE and if you plan to vote by mail get your request in right away!

Sister Simone Campbell also had a Zoom presentation for the Catholic Peace Ministry before the start of the Nuns on the Bus Virtual Tour. Sr. Elaine, a member of the CPM Board arranged for the event, gave the opening prayer and introduced Sr. Simone. A number of CHMs and Associates participated in the evening. Feedback was very positive!

Prayers are requested for many relatives and friends endangered by the fires in the West and the hurricanes and floods in the South and East! For all people affected by the pandemic, the racial unrest and political division in our country, we hold you in our thoughts and prayers!

From S. Kathryn O’Meara

Will begin a study of Therese of Avila with a women's study group at the parish (however, I'll be doing my study in-home!). Did go with family for brother-in-law's birthday to a restaurant with outdoor seating. The weather cooperated! Doing exercises with a group 6 ft. apart twice weekly and then on my own the other 5 days. Scrabble group going weekly. Working with a group figuring out how to have Bingo 6 ft. apart and with masks.

From S. Mary Rehmann

Movies this month: “Harriett Tubman” and “Malcom X” were part of an educational series, “Black Movies, American Lives” recommended by Sr. Lynn Mousel. “Becoming”, based on the book by Michelle Obama, tracked her book tour and life “post White House.

Regular ZOOM conversations with CHMs and associates have begun at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. “Unmuting oneself” is a necessary skill for participants. On Thursday, September 24, Sr. Mary Ann Vogel led the community discussion about committing to and moving ahead on the facilities plan for Humility of Mary Center.

Following the temporary “relocations” due to the elevator servicing, Srs. Regina Mary Cratty and Lillian Stevens live now in the East Wing of HMC. Srs. Pat Heidenry and Cathleen Real are in the West Wing.

“Iowa Press” on Iowa PBS hosts debates between candidates for congressional offices in this year’s elections. The hour-long debates can be viewed online following the live event. The program has been a staple for Iowa news for more than 35 years and has received many awards. Look for similar opportunities in your own locations.

The virtual “Nuns on the Bus” tour includes “stops” for site visits and Town Halls in Des Moines and Dubuque this month. Links are found at www.NETWORK.org.

Janet White, food service director, was sited on a recent Sunday at the Center. She continues long-term recuperation from breaks in her arm. In her absence, Kendra Syler has been in charge.

The 30-year anniversary of CHMs’ involvement in ministering to homeless persons in the Quad Cities was initiated with a ribbon-cutting at a residence on Columbia Street, the first property to be donated for this purpose. The HHSI Board and staff are engaged in strategic planning. Board members will participate in a retreat on October 16 and 17. October 18 is the “virtual Jazz Brunch” that will include “virtual” live events, pre-recorded appearances, and surprises. The purposes for the “Fund a Cause” donations, usually made “at the tables”, will be a truck for moving furniture and other housekeeping items, and a generator. The latter is on many “wish-lists” following power outages due to water and/or wind in recent years.

Sr. Mary Rehmann participated in the annual meeting of the Intercommunity Legal Conference over the Labor Day weekend, this year entirely virtual. Over 40 sisters, priests, brothers and former such, who claim ministries in law, participated. Next year is the 40th anniversary of the organization and will include both in-person, in Adrian, MI, if possible, and virtual participation. Like Sr. Mary, a good number of “former regulars” have not traveled to attend in recent years.

Reflections from a Jubilarian

60 years ago today, September 8, 1960, at the age of 18, I entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary. Mother and Daddy, Johanna Rickl and I traveled by passenger train, the Olympian Hiawatha from Harlowton, MT via Chicago to Ottumwa, Iowa. Today I’m 78 years young. At that time there were 420 Sisters. Today there are 65 of us. We were the class of 33 postulants.

Change is the only constant. We changed our habit(s). So many changes on our planet, in the universe, in the church: landing on the moon, Jonas Salk and the polio vaccine, wars continue, I guess no change there, climate change. Pope Pius XII, Pope John XXIII, 1963 Vatican II Council, Latin to the vernacular Pope Francis, progress for women in society and the church, black lives matter, coronavirus, internet, refugees worldwide, landing on the moon, smart phones, zoom meetings, mining exploration, name changed from Kathleen Selma to Sister Edward Mary and back to Kathleen Selma, continued advances in medicine, technology and science, but no more passenger trains out of Harlowton or . . . Some things never change: the sun and moon, the sound of birds, especially magpies, love between family members, friends and community and pursuit of the next best thing.

Kathleen Hanley, CHM

Directory Revisions

S Dorothy Ann Chevalier: BDRC Room #328

S Ramona Kaalberg: No phone, no email

S Barbara Kopel: BDRC Room #327, 515-276-6236, No longer uses cell phone

S Mary Hilary Veith: No phone

Connie Millard: 11 Cambridge Court, Ottumwa IA 52501-3763