

## **TidBytes – July 2021**

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

### **Bishop Drumm Center**

Sister Micheline was our reporter for the Bishop Drumm Center. Please let me know if anyone from BDRC or the Johnston/Des Moines area would like to take over for her. Maybe more than one CHM, associate or staff member would like to work together and share this opportunity!

~Kelly

### **Des Moines – S. Jeanie Hagedorn**

Des Moines Sisters and Associates have been joining the rest of the CHMs via Zoom at the wake services and funerals of our Sisters Ramona Kaalberg and Micheline Curtis. Their deaths obviously impact all of us especially their families, the sisters at Bishop Drumm, their classmates and friends. It is especially at times like this that we appreciate the importance of the Internet so we can be present at least virtually with the rest of the community! Wake services were held at Bishop Drumm for both of the sisters and attended by the residents and staff. A wake service was also held at the funeral home for Sr. Ramona. Many Des Moines friends including former Religious Education Directors, the New Hope prayer group, and parishioners from St. Anthony's spoke highly of their gratitude and admiration for the life and generous, gentle service of Ramona through her many years in this diocese. Father Tim Fitzgerald led the beautiful vigil service. Srs. Justine, Jude, Elaine, Sue, Cathy and Jeanie represented the CHMs.

Likewise, those of us outside of Davenport have been grateful to be able to participate via Zoom at recent CHM Gatherings e.g. the ones for future planning and discernment of future leadership, the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Associates, and the LCWR Region X Exploring Intersections series. All of these have been very fruitful and enjoyable opportunities. "Seeing" each other, sharing memories of the past, learning more about current congregational and global challenges, and discerning how all of this can help us respond to the needs of our times as we look to the future. We have learned this past year that even difficult challenges can hold unexpected graces e.g. ZOOM!

The SPARK has been an interesting and appreciated addition to our TidBytes each month, enabling all of us to learn more about our associates and feel like we know them better. Thanks for the effort you put into these pages!

Srs. Elaine and Jeanie Hagedorn enjoyed one of their first group outings at a family reunion at Littlefield Lake in western Iowa on 3rd of July. Like other years, our maternal (Pardee) cousins came from about 8 states and were thrilled to see each other after three years. Since we had just buried a relative eight days before, the usual 80+ were not all able to come to Iowa again. But the 40 who did, made up in enthusiasm for the others who were with us in spirit! (The gathering was outside and all were vaccinated!)

### **Humility of Mary Center – S. Mary Rehmann**

Busy days, and reflective ones, as we celebrated the lives of Sisters Ramona Kaalberg and Micheline Curtis, who died a week apart on July 3 and 10. We really can't be sorry for either as each had a very full and beautiful life. There were dozens of entries on the notice of Sr. Micheline's death on the Montini HS Facebook page – "favorite teacher, she was 'a hoot', instilled sense of justice in us, loved her Hawkeyes, 'heaven got a good one', put up with our 'class clowns.'" Lovely cards were received from persons who knew Sr. Ramona as a teacher, member of the New Hope community, especially members of the Saturday morning Scripture-sharing group, and other appreciative friends. We especially welcomed ZOOM-sharing from two HM sisters following her live-streamed vigil.

Summer in Davenport has been very "Iowa". We are lucky to have had rain when needed, temps in 80s and 90s, and humid days. Beautiful sugar-snap peas and broccoli from the gardens on the salad table. Colorful zinnias reaching bench-height and sweet peas in St. Joseph Court. Monarchs at all stages of development.

Election/Direction-setting process saw us "ZOOM – ing" for 2 days of thoughtful consideration of directions, then "inviting" CHMs to leadership roles, and a day of prayerful consideration of the process.

Over 30 Associates attended the Celebration of 50 Years of the Associates relationship with the community on July 17. Visitors came from Arizona, Missouri and Texas, as well as Iowa, of course. A slide show reminded us of the sister and lay directors of the program, perhaps the first of its kind in the country. All enjoyed the fresh Iowa sweet corn on the menu.

Sr. Catherine Linnenkamp in back from Bishop Drumm, on a walker with a "platform" for her left forearm on which her wrist was broken. Sr. Regina Mary Cratty is in the hospital and Sr. Luz Maria Orozco is in Pittsburgh.

Olympic Games are followed throughout the Center and comments are heard about gymnastics, skateboard, volleyball and swimming competitions.

**Sr. Nuong Bui**, one of four Vietnamese sisters living at the Center, completed the LPN program at Clinton Community College and will continue her studies at St. Ambrose University this fall. As a Sister of the Lovers of the Holy Cross, she will return to Vietnam to serve the poor with her sisters there.

### **Administration – Kelly Bell**

Sister Ramona Kaalberg, CHM, February 16, 1938–July 3, 2021

<https://www.chmiowa.org/about/sister-stories/view/163>

Sister Micheline Curtis, CHM, December 10, 1937–July 10, 2021

<https://www.chmiowa.org/about/sister-stories/view/123>