

TidBytes – November 2021

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

Des Moines – S. Jeanie Hagedorn

Looking over the calendar from last month, even last year, the news seems so similar. We continue to live, day by day, limited or at least influenced by the pandemic, aging bodies, polarization in our Church, nation and world, natural disasters, and violence which, in turn, cause further grief and migration, disrupting families and communities. We continue to pray and work for justice and the healing of our world. AND we choose to live in hope and faith.

Like so many, Elaine and I have experienced the deaths of more loved ones this month, some by tragic accident, some by a gradual surrendering of their earthly bodies. Some a blessing with time to say goodbyes and keep vigil; some coming far too quickly without that time and opportunity. Whether close family members, CHM community, special friends, or acquaintances, each of our goodbyes these two years have been another experience, and reminder, of the transitory reality of this life. AND of the gift of loving relationships.

As Jesus wept over his friend Lazarus he also wept over the city of Jerusalem. In his beautiful series *Biblical Meditations for Ordinary Time*, Carroll Stuhlmueller, CP reminds us that “Tears are not only a sign of great sorrow. They equally signify great love.” Perhaps this Thanksgiving, as we weep for those we loved who are no longer with us physically (or mentally), we can give thanks for their lives of selfless love that enriched our *own* lives and our *world*. Perhaps this Thanksgiving, as we gather in person or in spirit, around a table blessed with so many gifts of food and friends, we can pray that our table is *big enough* to welcome *all* people. May our table be big enough for the diversity of other opinions, lifestyles, races, genders, cultures, political views, theologies or religious beliefs (and even our human quirks!). What greater response of gratitude could we offer Jesus (whose tears, like our own, were shed because of great *love*) than to be united with *all* of his, and our, sisters and brothers. May it be so, now and into eternity. HAPPY Thanksgiving!

Humility of Mary Center – S. Mary Rehmman

BIG OMISSION LAST MONTH: KUDOS TO SHELLY SEIFERT for arranging and hosting the trip to OLPR for the Memorial Walk event there. Your editor has been forgiven, thankfully.

SHELLY has been creative on November’s calendar with:

- **Happy Hours on Friday afternoons with wine & Margaritas**, assorted cheese & crackers, & fruit. Staff are invited. **Mike Duffy and Chris Austin** assist.
- **Thanksgiving “Picture Bingo”** with every picture on every card so no waiting to place a “cover”. Despite many of us playing, Sr. **Claudellen** kept winning!!
- **Crafts or maybe Karaoke** among selections.

Mary Rueter took us on a wonderful tour through the Amazon river with stories about her numerous trips on conveyances from canoes to modern tour boats with gourmet meals. A friend of Shelly’s, she may return for another travelogue.

Halloween on Sunday was the occasion of a generous brunch that we all like. The table featured a watermelon, carved “pumpkin style”, with chunks of melon spilling out of its mouth.

College basketball season has begun with followers of the Iowa Hawkeyes, Iowa State Cyclones, and West Virginia Mountaineers among residents.

With **Judy Herold’s** departure, **Sr. Catherine Linnenkamp** has joined the card players, **Srs. Caridad Inda & Joan Marie Schuster**, after supper on week-nights.

Residents and Staff lined up for COVID-19 booster shots on November 15, arranged for by Supportive Living Staff.

“Game Day” returned this month with just one table of “Right, left, center”. “Once monthly” frequency was recommended.

HMC residents suggested Christmas gifts to be given by generous friends from The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Davenport. Gifts ideas at low, medium and high values are invited. Some sisters request “gift cards” and donate them to Humility of Mary Housing or other charities of choice. The **Sisters of Humility** staffed the parish school, along with **Redemptorist priests**, for many decades. Many CHMs finished their college degrees from Marycrest while teaching there.

Members of the Special Representative Assembly voted this month on the minutes of the meeting to elect leadership held in September. Taking office on January 1, 2022, will be **President Sr. Johanna Rickl, Vice-President Sr. Marcia Eckerman, and Cabinet members Srs. Lynn Mousel, Mary Bea Snyder and Mary Ann Vogel**. Installation will be at 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 12, followed by brunch.

Bishop Drumm Center – Barb Gross & Jennifer Worley

Here is a pic of S Rosalia as she celebrates her 98th birthday! We had cake and ice cream cups, and S Johanna and S Sue joined in the festivities. S Rosalia thanks everyone for the cards and birthday blessings!

*S Nancy Schwieters had a visit with her niece, Michelle and her husband, Tony, on Sunday, November 7th.

*CHM Sisters and Staff at BDRC had their COVID booster shot on Tuesday, November 16th

*The birds are not neglected at BDRC now! Mary Routh takes care of getting the bird seed and putting it in the Sisters' bird feeders. At the same time, our beloved squirrels can be the dominant feeders! Mary had a clever plan!?! 🤔 She bought a few more feeders that have a special screen that protects the food from the squirrels. Our Sisters are now most grateful to see the birds' food supply last much longer!!!

