

TidBytes – March 2022

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

Leadership Team – S. Lynn Mousel

The Leadership Team attended the LCWR Region 10 meeting on Zoom March 21st, 22nd and 23rd. A theme was “Leading in Times of Transition: The Unknown—A Place of Potential and Possibility.” S. Marcia Eckerman was part of a panel of sisters who shared about various aspects of transitions in our religious communities. The meeting also included the election of a new Region 10 Executive Team, including Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. S. Lynn Mousel will be the new Chair of Region 10, beginning August 1, 2022. She is looking forward to this opportunity to meet and collaborate with a wider circle of women religious in leadership.

Administration – Kelly Bell

S. Rae Elwood: 820 W. Central Park Avenue, Davenport IA 52804; Room 171, extension 171

Lyle Hellyer †

September 11, 1930 - March 15, 2022.

Des Moines – S. Jeanie Hagedorn

For those of us who enjoy sports, March is known as the month of basketball madness. 64 of the best U.S. teams of men and women compete for the national NCAA championship. Like many others Srs. Elaine and Hagedorn filled out their brackets and followed their favorite teams religiously. We especially cheered our Iowa teams, both Cyclones and Hawkeyes, Notre Dame and the teams of Catholic universities. There have been lots of overtimes and upsets this year, some disappointing, others happy surprises, all making for an especially entertaining NCAA. (One evening, Elaine was even heard enthusiastically coaching one of our teams, in the Emergency Room waiting area of Mercy Hospital ~ and had to be reminded by her sister that this was a quiet area!)

March Madness 2022 described not only the NCAA basketball tournament but the situation in the world. The horrific war that is attacking the people of Ukraine, as well as people in other war-torn countries, has touched all of us. The courage of Ukrainians to defend their homeland and their democracy has inspired us. Associate Mary Martin Lane is one of our own who has lived and taught in Ukraine and whose suffering with them is real and deep. The openness and compassion of Poland and other countries welcoming refugees reminds us that we are all one global family. As our minds and hearts try to absorb the tragedy and inhumanity being experienced today in Ukraine, Russia and too many other countries, we stand in solidarity with them. We try to be informed, pray and sacrifice for peace, contact U.S. leadership, contribute to humanitarian relief groups, and try to be voices of hope.

This month we continued appreciating a number of webinars and retreats via Zoom. Des Moines’ Emmaus Retreat Center offered a virtual retreat with musician Fr. Bob Dufford, SJ. Sr. Elaine and Jeanie, Cathy Talarico and Jeanette Kopel also appreciated virtually joining the CHMs in Davenport for the retreat with DM Fr. Tim Fitzgerald. We’ve been enriched by the sisters Exploring Intersections series on social justice issues. With other members of the DM Intentional Eucharistic Community the Hagedorns have participated in a series of video presentations and discussions on the 1619 Project, a historic study of U.S. racism. Finally, Jeanie and Elaine enjoyed a light-hearted evening as guests of the Des Moines Hibernians at their annual St. Patrick’s dinner. Deckerd out in their green the sister-Sisters enjoyed both the Irish entertainment, fun, food and friends, one of their rare in-person social events since COVID.



Humility of Mary Center – S. Mary Rehmann

Sister Marilyn Schierbrock's death was celebrated at BDRC where siblings were able to attend the vigil service on Thursday, March 4. A ministry partner from Iowa City, Fr. Ed Fitzpatrick celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial at the Center on Friday, live-streamed on ZOOM. Burial followed in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Go to the CHM quilt and read about her "square" – a blue denim hand.

Following Sr. Marilyn's vigil service at HMC on Friday night, March 5, a deadly, E-4 tornado blew through Iowa, killing 4 family members near Winterset. Sr. Jude Fitzpatrick said they had plenty of early warning in Des Moines. Associate Mary McCue said they had wind in Iowa City, but only a branch or two down at their place. At HMC at least one sister heeded the warning and went to the designated room on the lower floor, but others stayed in their rooms.

"St. Patrick's Day featured green beer and grasshoppers, with traditional corned beef and cabbage entrée, and Irish soda bread. A small group played bingo in the afternoon on original St. Patrick's Bingo cards, again created by Residential Life Coordinator (RLC), Shelly Seifert. The first prizes to go were packages of Popcorn Charley's green special for the day.

Other March activities were corn-hole toss, using the board brought by Sr. Justine Denning, and a craft activity under the direction of Sr. Nguyet, LHC. With a wash cloth and hand towel, participants created bears and dogs using rubber bands, and glued-on plastic eyes and felt noses and tongues. Some of the cute, little animals appeared on window sills in the dining room.

Associate Diane Schlachter's birthday (April 7) was anticipated while she was at HMC this month. Delicious birthday cake from Hy-Vee was shared with everyone at the noon meal.

"Lilies of the Field" and "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner", both starring Sidney Poitier, who died on January 6, were shown this month by popular demand.

Just a few residents were in the men's "March Madness" pool, with the last game for a quarter-final team being played when "Bytes" copy was due. In the women's tournament, Creighton women were the big winners, having defeated both the Hawkeye and Cyclone women.

Both resident and on-line participants had words of praise for retreat presenter Fr. Tim Fitzpatrick from the Des Moines diocese. Printed handouts with Scripture quotes for each session were appreciated. "Baptism" was the theme with topics including discipleship, transfiguration, and "the art of pondering". Reflection questions invited personal memories associated with the topic. CHMs were reminded that a copy of their baptismal certificate, required for entering, is in their personal file.

Bishop Drumm Center – Pat Rothamel



Mary Routh

Sisters of Humility staff member, Mary Routh, has been making sure that the birds at the Bishop Drumm Retirement Center campus are fed all year long. The residents at Drumm enjoy watching the

birds go to and from the bird feeders outside the windows. In the colder months, Mary and her husband, Rodger add a bit of suet near the feeders for a special treat. Everyone likes to see the birds stay healthy and satisfied. And, as an unintentional bonus, the campus is home to some of the most rotund squirrels in the area.



Squirrel!

Sisters of Humility care coordinators Kim Hall and Jennifer Worley started the “Exercise with Humility” sessions every Wednesday at 11 a.m. outside the Our Lady of Peace Chapel at Bishop Drumm. Within weeks, the group needed more space, and is currently held in the chapel.



Kim Hall

Kim starts the sessions off with some physical movement. Participants choose a task from a toss ‘n talk ball, which includes a wide variety of activities from sweeping or mopping the floor, ice skating gracefully to surfing a big wave.

After a few minutes, Jennifer brings on the trivia to keep the group on their

intellectual toes. Themes for the trivia range from history and holidays to habits. If someone in the group is especially well-versed in the chosen topic, Jennifer may have to call in the ‘Curtis Clause’ in memory of our departed sister, Micheline Curtis, who was the undisputed trivia champion. This clause requires the respondent to count to 5 before answering so others have a chance to answer.

Sister Rosalia Reidel says she likes to be involved, and this group really helps keep members healthy and strong.

When the trivia questions have been answered, Kim brings back the toss ‘n talk ball for more action. And, the group swings into action.

Bishop Drumm resident, Betty Kennedy enjoys the group, too. When asked what was her favorite part, she said “resting.” She received a nod of agreement from several of the others. It seems Kim and Jennifer have achieved their goal.



Sr. Cathleen Real



Sr. Kayleen Heffron



Evelyn, Jennifer Worley, Sr. Joan Sheil