



TidBytes – April 2022

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

Farewell from Maintenance Coordinator Kris Brutsche

I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful memories I have made during the 16 years I have been working at the Center.

It's been a great pleasure working with each of you, and the thought of leaving is very bittersweet. As much as I'm excited about retiring (and so is my grandson, Breckon), I will genuinely miss seeing and spending time with each of you.

Administration – Kelly Bell

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†Sr. Mary Hilary Veith
June 26, 1925 – April 20, 2022

Des Moines – S. Jeanie Hagedorn

The Des Moines area had an opportunity this month to hear Presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham speak at Drake University's Knapp Center. Meacham's lecture examined the present moment in American politics and life by "looking back at critical times in U.S. history when hope overcame division and fear." Meacham, in his usual professional style interspersed with humorous stories and anecdotes, was frequently applauded by the receptive audience including the Hagedorn

sisters. His clear historical perspective as well as his challenge to be involved in political life, left Meacham's listeners with hope for democracy, but only IF citizens accept the *challenge* to make our voices heard in addressing the critical issues of *our time*.

The DM Intentional Eucharist Community is blessed with the opportunity, twice a month during the Legislative Session, to hear updates from one of our members, a well-informed lobbyist at the Iowa Capitol. Srs. Elaine and Jeanie join other interested members after our services to hear about proposed legislation and action (or inaction) at the State Capitol. We also try to tune in to virtual updates from our local State Representative. Sr. Cathy Talarico offered good comments and questions at the latest virtual event.

The DM Faith Committee for Peace planned the annual Palm Sunday Procession (with live donkeys, banners and signs) and an ecumenical prayer service for peace. The event started 20 years ago, and each year changes to a different location around the city of Des Moines. This year the focus was on Ukraine and Russia and all the countries fighting horrific wars and/or dealing with their aftereffects. Sr. Elaine remains active in the work of this committee (as a "less active member" Sr. Jeanie shouts words of encouragement!) Associate Barbara Rouse also joined the 150 participants on a windy but clear Palm Sunday.

A virtual "Walking with Jesus in Holy Week", offered by the CSJ's "The Well", and the Triduum services at our parish church were both rich experiences for the Hagedorns ... however the Easter Vigil held a new challenge this year. Since Sr. Elaine (with her COPD challenge) needed to take her oxygen to

church with her, we had concerns about the risk of an explosion during the congregation's Holy Saturday candle-lighting. Her sister suggested a solution: the two joined the small group (with no candles) in the Cry Room!

Humility of Mary Center S. Mary Rehmman

I am remembering dear **Sister Mary Hilary Veith**, my classmate, and a most loving and funny person. She died on April 20 after a long period of special care at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center. Her Mass of Christian Burial, and burial, will be in Ottumwa on April 27, where she ministered to people "who could not be out and about" themselves. These were persons in nursing homes or hospitals, homebound, or in jails or prisons. She transcribed hundreds of documents and books into braille for the Iowa Department of the Blind for 28 years. For some she communicated through sign language. She is being seen and heard by many of these friends in heaven, now without need for translation.

Residents were surprised and happy to welcome **Sr. Rae Elwood** who continues her recovery after a long time at Manor Care. She continues to make progress with help from therapists who are familiar to some of us.

Humility of Mary Center started Holy Week by "opening up" from some COVID restrictions on masks, social distancing (now more than 2 at a table in the dining room, and 2 in the elevator), receiving visitors, and offering overnight hospitality.

Holy Week was special with **Fr. Steve Ebel** leading us on Good Friday. **Fr. Robert McAleer** celebrated on Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil Saturday evening. We sang hymns and Alleluias, with organ accompaniment by **Sr. Maggie Bennett**, and Holy Communion under both species. After

Mass some enjoyed conversation in the dining room. On Easter Sunday morning **Fr. Drake Shafer** celebrated and read Pope Francis' Easter homily. Sr. Maggie has "retired" so the search is on for an organist. We are glad to have **Joan Smith** play in the meantime.

Easter Sunday brunch featured mimosas with choice of orange or cranberry juice, cheese and crackers appetizers, a baked spinach and egg dish, scrambled eggs and bacon, beautiful fruit and vegetable trays, special chocolate-filled braided pastry, and a colorful Easter bunny cake. Each resident received a cute little white rabbit with a candy-filled plastic Easter egg, courtesy of **Sr. Nguyet Cau, LHC**, and helpers (?). It was made from a white washcloth, tiny rubber band, plastic eyes, red felt nose and a little cotton-tail made from another very, very tiny rubber band. You would have to see it to believe it!

Residents and visitors admired the large, framed, "heavenly glistening" picture of a cross on display in the Community room in recent weeks. It was crafted by **Sr. Lillian Stevens** using the "diamond dots" technique. She glued individual "dots" with a stylus, 100 dots/sq. in., on the picture of the large cross, done in blues and shades of "cream and white". She said it was to stay there until Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24.

Scheduled April activities were the dice game, corn-hole toss and Wednesday movies. Some played Yahtzee on Easter afternoon. Some sisters and associates share Scripture reflections after Sunday Mass. Others recite the rosary publicly for our country, persons suffering throughout the world, especially the people of Ukraine, world peace, and other intentions before evening prayer.

The community welcomed **Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ**, for overnights when she was awarded the 2022 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award by the Diocese of Davenport

on April 21. She was recognized for “providing direct humanitarian aid to immigrants at our southern border.” Hospitality was also offered to **Omar Gomez**, a young man from Denver who was riding a bike from there to Washington, D.C. to raise awareness about immigration.

Bishop Drumm Center – Pat Rothamel

Prior to the CoVid-19 shutdown, the retired Sisters of Humility living at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center held a prayer service called vespers every Monday through Friday afternoon. The sisters took turns leading the service and it was held prior to dinner. When the dining rooms were closed and group meeting were restricted, to their individual rooms.

As we looked forward to a “new normal,” it was clear that the all the residents at Bishop Drumm had really missed the connections they had had with others. The sisters were unable to lead group prayers such as Vespers, but it was clear they longed for that feeling of community. CHM associate began a weekly memorial prayer service in which the sisters would pray for and share stories of the sisters who had died during that week. The group has been getting together for a few months now, and the sisters enjoy celebrating their deceased sisters with respect and humorous stories.

On April 11, the sisters honored seven sisters: Sister Ann (St. Ann) Leahy, Sister Veronica McAndrews, Sister Mary Concepta McCune, Sister Mary Amata Yackshaw, Sister Mary St. Joseph Sherwood, Sister Mary Kathleen Kresbach and Sister Mary Victorine Hogan. Five of the seven sisters honored had lived at Bishop Drumm. Four of the sisters have died within the past 12 years. Many memories were shared.



Associate Barbara Gross



Sr. Cathleen Real



Sr. Joan LeBeau



Sr. Harriett Ping



Sr. Jeanette Kopel



Sr. Dorothy Ann Chevalier