



TidBytes –June & July 2022

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

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†Cleo Studt January 22, 1924 to June 14, 2022

†S. Harriett Ping
December 24, 1932 to July 22, 2022

The May 2022 Leadership Team minutes were emailed to the community June 30, and posted online in the monthly mailing folder. To conserve paper, a hard copy is not included in this monthly mailing. If you would like a hard copy sent to you, please contact Kelly Bell.

Des Moines – S. Jeanie Hagedorn

It has been a busy, hot, *and eventful summer* in Iowa! A highlight of June was the CHM General Assembly with many of us finally able to participate in person. After three years of attending virtually because of the pandemic, this year it was a joy to see and spend time with our sisters, associates and staff ... lots of laughter, smiles hugs and “catching up”. The four days were filled with fruitful sharing at both the business meetings and in casual conversations. Meaningful prayer, time for quiet reflection, remembering the past, being open to the future while honestly sharing our hopes, concerns, dreams and commitment, all made for a time of graced bonding and growth *and some* physical fatigue too, though delicious meals, well-timed breaks with snacks, and good sleep at the end of each day had a way of reinvigorating us!

All the preparatory work of the Leadership Team, our facilitator Diane Schlachter, the wonderful staff and planners was evident in both the physical surroundings in the new conference room and in the content of the meetings. The atmosphere was relaxed and flexible as everyone adjusted to a few unexpected shifts during the days. We are so grateful to ALL who enabled the Assembly to happen!

Many of us were glued to our TVs on July 7th to see President Biden present the Presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House to Sister Simone Campbell and 16 other deserving recipients. The stories of each honoree were truly inspiring! Sr. Simone, you will remember, is the former Executive Director of NETWORK, a Catholic Social Justice Lobby that was started 50 years ago in Washington, DC by a small group of Catholic sisters and has continued to grow in numbers and influence. The organization lobbies for fair legislation that promotes the common good. NETWORK became even more publicly visible in recent years when, through the vision of Sr. Simone, they initiated “NUNS ON THE BUS” project. The goal was for a group of about 10-12 women religious from each state to ride a wrap-around bus across the country to raise awareness and advocacy for important social justice issues. At each stop they held town hall meetings, visited sites where positive ministries were happening; they listened, prayed, laughed, cried and encouraged rural and urban people to raise their voices in their struggle for the dignity and rights to which they are entitled. Meetings with legislators and the media brought peoples’ stories to more public attention whether immigration, the importance of voting, fair federal and state budgets, the reality of America’s income gap, etc. Sisters Elaine and Jeanie Hagedorn made several trips with Sr.

Simone and Iowa NOB riders including Sr. Bea Snyder and sisters from other LCWR region 10 congregations. You may recall that *then Vice-President* Joe Biden came to Des Moines in 2014 to join us at the Iowa Capitol for a rally that launched one of the NOB trips across the state. That same trip included a visit to HMC where Simone and her companions enjoyed Humility hospitality and stayed overnight.

At this month's Presidential Medal ceremony the President noted the contribution of women religious in his own life and in their work for social justice, especially for people on the margins. If you missed it, the ceremony can be viewed on YouTube at this link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Uo23f4bHNU>

Sisters Kathleen Henneberry and Justine Denning drove to Des Moines in mid-July to visit sisters at Bishop Drumm and S. Justine's sister Ina. Jeanie and Elaine enjoyed dinner with them in celebration of Kathy's birthday. At the recent funeral for Sister Judith Sheehan, BVM, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick shared memories of their time working together in the DM Catholic Schools Office.

Humility of Mary Center **S. Mary Rehmman**

News just in: **Sr. Harriett Ping** died Friday evening, July 22, at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center. Plans indefinite at press time.

Sisters **Justine Denning, Kathleen Henneberry & Huyen Phan, APB**, visited the sisters at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center, including an overnight. All were delighted with the visits after no in-person contacts because of COVID for so long. The residents appreciated the written messages from the Center as well.

While **Sr. Huyen** stayed with relatives overnight, **Srs. Justine and Kathleen** had a good meal and conversation with **Srs. Elaine**

and Jeanie Hagedorn at Perkins before going to Martina Place for the night.

Sisters **Maggie Bennett, Roberta Brich, Justine Denning, Kathleen Henneberry, Joann Kuebrich, Huyen Phan, Catherine Linnenkamp, and Lillian Stevens** enjoyed a beautiful luncheon cruise on the Celebration Belle. All appreciated the plans made by Resident Life Coordinator (RLC) **Shelly Seifert** who organized and attended the outing.

HMC residents look forward to **Srs. Marian Smith** moving to the Center on July 27, and **Irene Munoz** on August 3. There will be a farewell potluck event at noon on July 27 at the K of C Hall for Sr. Irene. Her departure will conclude 145 years that the Humilities lived and ministered in Ottumwa. Led by **Mother Mary of the Angels**, seven sisters agreed to staff a school for boys in the rectory of St. Mary's church, at the invitation of Fr. John Kreckel in 1877. They quickly moved into a large house on Court Street and began nursing people in their homes. Leaders of Ottumwa soon asked them to house male residents who were being evacuated from a county nursing home, because of unsafe conditions, until other arrangements were made for them. The sisters established or served at other significant institutions including St. Joseph Hospital and School of Nursing, Walsh High School, three parish grade schools, Ottumwa Heights Academy for commuting and resident girls, and Ottumwa Heights College, a 2-year accredited college with a focus on teacher education. In addition to **Sr. Irene, Srs. Mary St. John Ven Horst, Donna Donovan, Suzanne Wickenkamp and Kayleen Heffron** were among the last CHMs to minister in Ottumwa.

In addition to assorted squirrels, a doe and fawn, chipmunks and birds, **a fox** seems to roam the Center campus. It showed up on a motion camera near the front door of the Center. It is reported to look "unhealthy" so word is to avoid contact with it.

The classic “**To Kill a Mockingbird**” was enjoyed by residents, shown on the 60th anniversary of the movie’s first showing. Most of us could easily identify with the history of racism during those and following years.

Sr. Lynn Mousel showed the video, “Embracing Age: Lessons in Aging Well from Religious Sisters” featuring research by **Dr. Anna Corwin**. Her work focuses on “aging and well-being” and included actually living with a group of sisters for more than six months. Among her findings: 1) whereas the prevailing social value is maintaining “independence and agency” with age, sisters have chosen to live “interdependently”; instead of “maintaining productivity” with age, sisters focus on “being good” instead of “being busy”.

Humility Day, July 17, was celebrated with “wine and cheese” before a beautiful roast beef dinner. We have had leaf lettuce, cucumbers, and zucchini from OLPR gardens but no sweet corn yet – from the store. It takes too much room, plus too many hungry deer, to grow at OLPR.

Bishop Drumm Center

July Birthdays! We celebrated S Dorothy Chevalier's 86th birthday which is July 16th and her friend, Norma Hagge's 90th birthday which is July 15th with a birthday greeting card and a few candy treats for everyone in the Neighborhood! S Joan Sheil will have her 88th Birthday on July 28th this year. Thanks for all your prayers and well wishes.

Humility of Mary Celebration: On Sunday, July 17th, we celebrated Humility of Mary Day at the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Bishop Drumm. After communion, Barb Gross, read parts of S Jeanie Hagedorn's reflection for the 150th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Sisters of Humility in America. Fr. Bede started an applause after reading Jeanie's reflection.

On Friday, July 22, 2022, S Harriett Ping left her earthly home at 7:07 p.m. in the presence and care of our RN nurse, Cherry and S. Elsy.

When she was not able to speak, she stretched her arm out for Cherry to hold her hand and S. Elsy held her other hand until she took her last breath. There was support and peace in her last moments.

At the entrance to Our Lady of Peace Chapel, there were special CHM pictures displayed on the wall by our Mary statue. Across from that was a Humility display Board with the question, “What is Humility?” There were pictures of CHM sisters from present day and the past with postcard style quotes regarding humility that drew attention!?



Jennifer Worley’s grandson, Colson Richard Kruckenberg, born Friday, July 8 - just under 7 lbs and 19 inches. Colson was welcomed home by big sister (Maren), Dad (John), and Mom (Jessica - Jennifer’s daughter). Thanks to everyone for their prayers!

