



Honoring the Stranger Among Us

by CHM Sisters

The Congregation of the Humility of Mary, based in Davenport, Iowa, is calling upon concerned citizens to advocate for immigration policies that continue to promote the United States as a beacon of hope for our diverse, global community.

The Gospel, as well as the CHM mission, mandates that we care for the least among us. As women of faith, CHMs feel called to speak publicly and act fearlessly in support of refugees forced to migrate from their home countries and/or immigrants seeking safety and a new life in these United States. To make our point, we have issued this statement on support for refugees and immigrants:

“As a community of women religious who were welcomed to the United

States as immigrants we, Congregation of the Humility of Mary, support refugees and immigrants from all countries. For more than 150 years, we have ministered alongside refugees, immigrants and migrants.

“As citizens of the United States, we recognize that our diverse cultures and nationalities are an integral part of our heritage and the foundation of our democracy. As members of the human family, we echo Pope Francis who reminds us that, ‘migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet’s resources which are meant to be equitably shared by all.’

“In response to the recent refugee ban, increased deportations, and

anti-immigrant sentiments, we, Congregation of the Humility of Mary, commit ourselves to act with others on behalf of refugees, immigrants, and migrants by:

- deepening our awareness and understanding of policies and legislation which affect them;
- using our resources to help meet their needs for shelter, education, healthcare, protection, mentoring, and advocacy;
- calling on elected officials to enact comprehensive legislation and humane immigration policies that promote: a path to citizenship, the rights of migrant children, family unification, protection from unjust and inhumane detention and treatment of undocumented workers and other persons, control

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Photo: CHM sisters attended a “No Hate” rally in Davenport, IA, handing out “Kindness” signs to old friends and new. Sr. Mary Ann Vogel is at far left, with Sr. Lynn Mousel in front, and Sr. Johanna Rickl at far right.

Fall 2017

Volume 15 Issue 3

The Flame is published three times a year for the Congregation of the Humility of Mary and friends.

Our Mission: We, the members of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary, call one another to live the Gospel with simplicity and joy following the example of Mary.

Like our founders, we strive to be attentive to the call of the Spirit in the signs of our times, especially the needs of the poor and the powerless.

We commit ourselves as individuals and as a congregation to work for justice within the human family and to care for the earth itself.

Continue to love each other as sisters and brothers. Don't neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

-Hebrews 13: 1-2

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CHM sisters gathered for a farewell breakfast at Humility of Mary Center with the 2017 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award winner, Dr. Widad Akreyi. Front row l-r: Srs. Cecelia Vandenberg, Lynn Mousel, Caridad Inda and Barb Kopel. 2nd row l-r: Srs. Kathleen Tomlonovic, Joan Marie Schuster, Dr. Akreyi, Srs. Cathleen Real and Claudellen Pentecost (in pink). Back row l-r: Srs. Constance Pailliotet, Miriam Ehrhardt, Catherine Linnenkamp, Mary Rehmann, Lillian Stevens, Kathleen Henneberry, Rachel Beeson, Joann Kuebrich, Mary Bea Snyder, Pat Heidenry and Mary Ann Vogel. See back page for more about the award.

Dear Friends,

In Luke, chapter 10, a scholar asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus replied, "You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." The scholar then asked, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied with the good Samaritan story in which a man was beaten, robbed and left to die. A priest and a Levite each passed by and did nothing. A Samaritan, traveling through, came to the aid of the victim. When Jesus asked which of these was neighbor to the robbers' victim, the scholar answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus then said, "Go and do likewise." Notice that there is never any mention of race, gender, religion, or any other divisive category in describing a neighbor. Let us all "Go and do likewise." The CHM mission statement says we "commit ourselves to work for justice within the human family." In other words, to be good neighbors. It is why we proclaim the statement in support of refugees and immigrants that is published in this issue of *the Flame*.

We also recognize our many donors whose support in the care of our sisters and in our ministries, is greatly appreciated. Our mission of working for justice within the human family is seen at work in our housing and shelter programs for people experiencing homelessness and in the various ways our sisters work with and serve people in need. Several stories are shared in this issue of *the Flame*. Our mission also includes taking care of our Earth, our home, and this is especially taking place at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat. This beautiful rural setting is the perfect place to get away to the quiet for time of solitude and contemplation and to experience nature and the cosmic walk.

You our donors, our friends, former students, former members, and family members of our sisters, are all more than neighbors; you are part of our family. This being the month of Thanksgiving, we wish you all a wonderful holiday and we send our prayers and a big thank you for all you do for us.

Sister Mary Ann Vogel, CHM President

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of our borders through compassionate initiatives, and equal access to the U.S. refugee resettlement program regardless of ethnic and religious background.

“We, Congregation of the Humility of Mary, join with others in prayer as we call upon concerned citizens to advocate for immigration policies that continue to promote the United States as a beacon of hope for our diverse, global community.”

“We understand that enforcement of law is part of any immigration policy,” the sisters emphasized. “However, the present policy of involving state and local law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of federal immigration law, such as in the ‘Secure Communities’ program, is not achieving that goal. True security lies in building relationships and respecting human rights and only true, comprehensive, compassionate immigration reform can deal with the crisis in our nation.”

For many years the Congregation of the Humility of Mary has been involved in activities surrounding these issues. Visit www.chmiowa.org/service for links to our current endeavors such as those highlighted in this issue of *The Flame*.

DACA

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Sister Irene Muñoz, CHM, along with other Hispanic women leaders, initiated a DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) Vigil event in Ottumwa, IA on September 24, 2017. Many youth involved spoke eloquently about their dreams and fears. CHM Srs. Kayleen Heffron and Donna Donovan were also in attendance.

“The public was invited to participate in showing support for young people who are being threatened with deportation to countries they have never known,” said Sr. Irene. “Many DACA youth are productive, taxpayers and in college studying. They were brought to the United States as children. Supporters believe it is wrong to force DACA youth to leave the only country they have ever known.”

The gathered crowd was asked to contact their legislators to encourage them to continue the DACA program. Holding lighted candles, everyone sang the closing song, *We Shall Overcome*.



Sr. Molly Muñoz, CHM, (in pink), a Hispanic Pastoral Minister in Colorado, works with migrant farmers and their families.



In September the Iowa Poet Laureate, Mary Swander, brought her play “VANG” about Midwest immigrant farmers, to a capacity crowd at Humility of Mary Center.



l-r: CHM Srs. Greta Fitzgerald and Catherine Linnenkamp promoted “Kindness” at a Davenport movie theatre lobby.

Honor and Remember

The Congregation of the Humility of Mary is grateful for the donations received in memory or honor of loved ones between June 1 and September 30, 2017. CHMs remember these individuals in our daily prayers and Masses.

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Sr. Kathleen Henneberry at right with a new friend at the Davenport "No Hate" rally.

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CHM Associates Pat Knopick and Jan Pullella showed support at an immigration rally in Davenport.

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Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc.

...because our community cares



Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat



**Humility of Mary
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9th Annual

CHM Holiday Gift Swap


Saturday, Dec. 2 - 2:00-4:00 p.m.
820 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport
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Why buy new stuff? Reduce, reuse and recycle while shopping!

You are invited to bring new or gently used items that are perfect for RE-GIFTING ... then shop the swap for that perfect gift for one or more on your list.

Before the swapping begins, enjoy a short presentation on consumer choices and care of Earth.

Leftover gift swap items will be donated to Humility of Mary Housing and Humility of Mary Shelter programs.



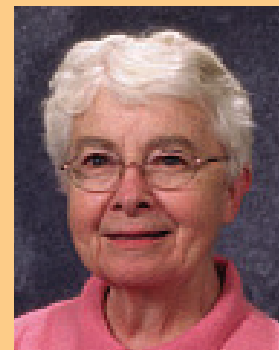
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Resting in Heavenly Peace



Mary Ruth Morris, CHM
 November 10, 1921-
 September 2, 2017



Elizabeth Anne Schneider, CHM
 August 18, 1928-
 October 2, 2017

Loving tributes to our departed sisters can be found at
www.chmiowa.org in the news section.

Family Stories

by Kathleen Storms, SSND, Director, *Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat*

Each year Our Lady of the Prairie creates program offerings on a timely or inspirational theme. 2017's theme was **The Gift of Abundance**. In 2018, our focus will be **The Blessings and Challenges of Family**. We take our lead this year from Pope Francis.

“The Lord’s presence dwells in real and concrete families with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes.”

-*The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis

After three years of consultation across the globe, Pope Francis issued an apostolic exhortation on the family in 2016. His was not a nostalgic look at what families used to be, but a description of the blessings and struggles of today's family. *The Joy of Love* affirms the Church's teaching that stable families are the building blocks of a healthy society, where children learn to love, respect and interact with others. At the same time, the text warns against idealizing the many challenges facing family life, urging Catholics to care for, rather than condemn, all those whose lives do not reflect the teaching of the Church.

We provide a broad sweep of spiritual practices that enhance family life. Our monthly *Come to the Quiet* days offer peaceful time to deepen our relationship with God. *Lectio Divina* programs will break open the Word of God

through book study with a family or community collaboration theme. *Visio Divina* (seeing the Divine through images) will show us the joy of love through film stories of intergenerational healing, life and death issues faced by families.

There will be day-long workshops on writing family memoirs; addressing addiction in families; resolving disputes within and between families; family praying, playing and singing together.

Retreat weekends will be a blessing for walking the labyrinth, using nature and art as spiritual practices, detoxing from digital addictions and for men preparing for Advent.

Week-long opportunities for retreat include: centering prayer, icon writing, interpreting scripture from a feminist perspective, and experiencing Earth as the first revelation of God.

Special events in 2018 will bring two internationally known presenters. Father J. Michael Joncas, composer of “On Eagle’s Wings” will do an evening and weekend retreat on music in liturgy; Paula D’Arcy, author of *When the Red Bird Sings* will focus on finding our way home by the way we ponder the mysteries of life. Register early for these events.

These are just a few highlights of the year ahead. For your own copy of the 2018 calendar, email us at olpretreat@gmail.com or find the calendar and much more at chmiowa.org/retreat. While there, sign up for our monthly e-news, and then look for us on Facebook!



A Retreat Just for Men Christmas in the View of St. Francis

December 1 – December 3

Fri, 5:00pm – Sun, 11:00am

Father Michael Schaab

The season of Advent prepares us for the celebration of Christmas and Epiphany, feasts that were especially important to St. Francis of Assisi. In the spirit of St. Francis, we'll reflect on this season to discover how the incarnation of Christ reveals who God is and who we are called to be, not just on December 25th but every day of the year. The peaceful beauty of the winter prairie is hard to describe. Homecooked meals with locally sourced ingredients are most delicious. Fee: \$125 limited space.

For more info and to register on-line

www.chmiowa.org
or call 563-336-8414

2017 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award



2017 Pacem in Terris award winner
Dr. Widad Akreyi

since 1964, in commemoration of the 1963 encyclical letter *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth) of Pope John XXIII. It is awarded “to honor a person for their achievements in peace and justice, not only in their country but in the world.”

The award was begun in 1963 by the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council of the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa. Since 1976, the award has been presented each year by the Quad Cities Pacem in Terris Coalition. Co-sponsors of the award were the Diocese of Davenport, The Catholic Messenger, St. Ambrose University, The Presidential Center for Faith and Learning at Augustana College, Churches United of the Quad City Area, Islamic Center of Quad Cities, Quad Cities Interfaith, Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities, Muslim Community of the Quad Cities, Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Sisters of St. Benedict (Rock Island, IL), Sisters of St. Francis (Dubuque, IA), and Sisters of St. Francis (Clinton, IA).

The 2017 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom award winner is Dr. Widad Akreyi, a health expert, author and human rights activist of Kurdish ancestry who cofounded the human rights organization, *Defend International*. The award was presented to Dr. Akreyi on October 22nd by Bishop Thomas Zinkula in Christ the King Chapel on the campus of St. Ambrose University.

Born in Aqrah, Kurdistan region, Iraq, in 1969, she fled with her family to Mosul five years later to avoid the Iraqi government’s offensive against Kurds. Violations of human rights that occurred during that and other offensives are believed to have shaped her life. She is said to be the first young woman of Middle Eastern descent to engage in advocacy efforts related to illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, gender based violence, disarmament and international security.

Additionally, Nora Dvorak, was honored with the first “One Among Us Justice Award” for her selfless dedication to the dignity of all persons in the Quad City area. Nora has devoted her life to helping those in need, both through work and volunteerism.



l-r: “One Among Us Justice Award” winner
Nora Dvorak and Sr. Cathleen Real, CHM