



Donors and Sisters are Blessings To Each Other

by Joyce Bieber, CHM Development Director

The Sisters of the Humility of Mary's influence on the life stories of people who interact with them sometimes lies quiet like the humble nature of the CHMs who had great impact in the schools, hospitals, churches and other ministries they served. Occasionally we are reminded of the effect that the congregation had on young lives and the successes that followed, and we are honored to be remembered in bequests and to hear our name in memoirs handed down from one generation to the next. We recently had the privilege of learning more about the lasting impression of CHMs in two remarkable lives.

Frank Klauda

Frank Klauda, a 97-year-old retired electrical engineer living in Rochester, Minnesota, shared an inspiring story. Documented in his autobiography, "Bike for the Body, Flute for the Soul,"

his CHM connection goes back nearly 72 years. Born in Austria, he spent most of his youth in Hungary. He was furthering his engineering education in Munich, Germany and working for Armed Forces Radio Service when he developed friendships with GIs who worked for the station and taught him English.

Admiring the spirit of the Americans, he decided he wanted to immigrate to the U.S. As part of the "Displaced Persons Act" signed by President Truman, Frank could come to the US if he had a job guaranteed for at least nine months. The Congregation of the Humility of Mary, he was told, would promise a job as a janitor at Marcycrest College in Davenport, Iowa.

Frank jumped at the opportunity. He arrived in the US on September 2, 1949. Two CHMs greeted him at the

railroad station. They were, however, expecting a woman who was to be a kitchen employee as they had interpreted his given name, Ferenc, to be a female name. The janitorial position had already been filled.

Nevertheless, Mother Geraldine Upham reassured him that they would not send him back to Europe—work would be found. A few days later, after learning about his engineering background, he was asked to teach mathematics and statistics to freshmen.

Frank shared humorous stories in his book about learning English and discovering the sisters roller skating to a Viennese waltz in the

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*Photo: Left: Mary Louise Wright
Right: Frank Klauda with students at
Marcycrest College in Davenport*

Spring 2021

Volume 19 Issue 1

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 Earth itself.

In whatever you do, don't let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble, and honor others more than yourselves. Don't be interested only in your own life, but care about the lives of others too.

Philippians 2:3-4

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Clockwise from top: Sr. Johanna Rickl, Joyce Bieber, CHM Development Dir., Frank Klauda and Sr. Mary Ann Vogel visit on a Zoom call while discussing Frank's history with the Sisters of Humility. See front page article for more.

Dear Friends and Donors,

Our lives have been blessed in many ways through the connections made with each of you over the years. I am always inspired when you write and recall the sisters you knew as teachers, nurses, co-workers, and/or friends. The stories you share bring back many wonderful memories about each of those sisters. The two stories we share with you in this issue of *The Flame* are great examples of how the action of our sisters had a lifetime influence in the lives of Mary Louise and Frank.

Besides the blessing of your friendship, we are also blessed with your financial gifts that help support our mission to “work for justice within the human family and to care for Earth itself.” For us that includes the work of Humility Homes and Services, Inc., Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat, immigrant needs, the people of Chiapas and Guadalajara, Mexico and through financial assistance to a variety of organizations as listed in this issue of *The Flame*. You are true partners with us in our mission.

I look forward to hearing from you and learning about how some sister(s) touched your life. May God's blessing be with each of you and your loved ones.

Sr. Mary Ann Vogel
CHM President

-Blessings continued from page 1



Frank Klauda on his journey to America.

college gym. He also wrote about the kindness and compassion they exhibited to him as he settled in this foreign country with no connections.

"The Sisters of Humility were wonderful to me. Their devotion and their love of their faith impressed me. They constantly emphasized the power of Love of God. They also told me the importance of community service and support to the needy."

"I put them in the same category as my mom and dad for what they did for my life...I would not be where I am without the Sisters of the Humility of Mary."

Frank met his wife, Barbara, a Marycrest graduate, at a homecoming dance. Together they raised seven children. He left his teaching job at Marycrest after two years to work as an electronic engineer before securing a job with IBM in New York in 1955, the same year he became a United States citizen. He transferred to Rochester, Minnesota after two years and retired from IBM in 1981.

In retirement Frank became a volunteer at the Mayo Clinic. "It was the sisters who taught me the virtues

of helping people and it made me a happier person," he shared in a recent video conversation.

"I owe a special gratitude to Sister Rita Mary (English professor) and Sister Mary Lois (History professor) for their friendship and spiritual guidance," he wrote in his book referring to Srs. Bradley and Eberdt respectively. In conversation, Frank compared the relationships he had with the sisters to his bond with his parents. "I put them in the same category as my mom and dad for what they did for my life," he said. "I would not be where I am without the Sisters of the Humility of Mary."

Mary Louise Wright

The story of another long-time friend of CHM surfaced when Mary Louise Wright died at age 92 in February 2020. Following her death, CHM received a bequest valued at more than \$1.6 million. It is one of the largest bequests ever received by the congregation. COVID-19 has prevented the sisters from meeting personally with family members; however, thanks to technology, we were able to enjoy an online video conversation with Mary Lou's nephew, Jim Wright, who lives in Chicago. He also forwarded a scrapbook which documents the time that Mary Lou spent with the CHMs.

Mary Lou grew up on a farm near Webster, Iowa. She attended Ottumwa Heights Academy for 12th grade, graduating in 1945. She continued at Ottumwa Heights Junior College. After completing her college education at St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota, she returned to teach at Ottumwa Heights Academy and College before embarking on a career that took her to high schools and colleges around the U.S.

Her independent and determined nature is evidenced by her

experiences in obtaining a pilot's license and participating in flying adventures across the United States. She returned to the family farm to begin a second career managing the farming operations. Throughout her life she was involved in numerous organizations and was active in local Catholic parishes.

Jim speculates that Mary Lou's initial relationship with the sisters was prompted by cousins who were CHMs. The meticulously organized and preserved scrapbook includes notes from sisters and classmates, programs and mementos from school events, and newspaper articles chronicling the years she was affiliated with Ottumwa Heights. It is obvious that she cherished this time in her life.

Jim describes Mary Lou as a very organized and competent person who lived a simple but full life with a large extended family and many life-long friendships. He recalls that she was very devoted to her church and farm and ecologically-minded. "The fact that she included the

-Blessings continued on page 4



Mary Louise Wright with a group of students during her long career teaching biology and physical education.

-Blessings continued from page 3



CHM Sisters Mary Ann Vogel and Johanna Rickl page through the scrap book of Mary Louise Wright.

congregation in her will with such a substantial bequest surely indicates that she was influenced by the sisters.”

CHMs are planning to use some of the proceeds from Mary Lou’s bequest to remodel the Humility of Mary Center to include a meeting space that can be used by the sisters for gatherings and also as a space for civic and spiritual gatherings for the community. Additionally, funds will be used to support important ministries.

These relationships demonstrate that the bonds we have established through our ministries have been a blessing to not only those we have served, but also to the CHMs as we continue our legacy.



Four sisters residing at Humility of Mary Center, who are members of the Lovers of the Holy Cross based in Vietnam, celebrated with CHM Sisters the Lunar New Year with traditional Vietnamese customs, food and dance.

CHM Charitable Contributions in 2020

Ballet Project for All Saints School Students
 Bread for the World
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 Catholic Mobilizing Network
 Catholic Peace Ministry
 Catholic Relief Services
 Community Foundation of Louisa County
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 Funding for Asylum Seekers
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 New Ways Ministry
 Oblate School of Theology
 “Oh Mercy” Documentary
 One Human Family
 Pax Christi International
 Peaslee Neighborhood Center
 QC Community Foundation
 QC Interfaith
 Religious Formation Conference
 Riverbend Foodbank
 SHARE El Salvador
 Sisters of St. Francis - Water Project
 United with Migrants, Inc.
 Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual

Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat Memorial Garden

by Sr. Johanna Rickl, CHM Vice President



Memorial Gardens provide long-lasting tributes to loved ones who have passed away as well as offering a place for the survivors to remember and heal from the loss. Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat has an open space beyond the labyrinth that has been blessed to become such a garden. As a way of honoring the commitment to preserve natural beauty, the OLPR Memorial Garden is made up of stones engraved with the name, birth and death dates of the person being memorialized.

The stones are placed in a spiral around a native Bur Oak Tree, a symbol of long life and deep roots. The open space is encircled by the Stations of the Cross with the tree in the center.

The Prairie Retreat is itself made holy by the Creator. That sacredness is enhanced by the love and attention of participants and volunteers who have come to be renewed, healed and inspired to serve others. Anyone desiring to memorialize a deceased loved one may contact the director of Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat at 563-374-1092 and share the story of the loved one's connection to The Prairie. A donation of at least \$500 will cover the cost of the stone as well as support the operations of the retreat center. The stones are placed in the order in which the gift is received.

Arrangements may also be made for a prayer/memorial service to be held when the stone is ready to be placed. Whenever possible, the event is scheduled for the convenience of the family or friends who wish to participate. The most recent stone to be placed was held in conjunction with the reunion of the Don Judge family. A memorial stone is ready to be placed for Sister Kathleen Tomlonovic, CHM, at a date to be determined.

Once The Prairie is reopened to the public, visitors are welcome to come for a visit to the OLPR Memorial Garden.

We thank all who participated in our 2020 Giving Tuesday fundraiser seeking donations for additional solar panels for our new maintenance building, the "Sunrise Shop." The campaign was a success. Our shop will run on clean energy!

Upcoming Prairie Retreats

Apr 20, Online: Circle of Life Series: Spring 10:00am-11:30am

The seasons of the year have been spiritual lessons for our lives. In this retreat we will spend time reflecting on the Spring Season. \$20

Apr 21, Online: Practical Mindfulness: Pockets of Peace in a Pandemic World 9:00am-12:00pm

This is a retreat for people who think they can't practice mindfulness (hint: it isn't meditation). Learn ways to be present in the moment to create a better relationship with yourself. \$20

Apr 27, Free Online: Ecumenical Prayer Service: Earth Day 7:00pm-8:30pm

We will gather with fellow Christians to pray for Earth, for this is Earth Day Month. We will take time to bring to mind the people, the animals, plants, insects and all living creatures.

May 6, Free Online: Parents and Guardians Telling their Story of Covid-19 6:30pm-8:00pm

We invite parents to share their thoughts on what has changed and what has been lost because of Covid-19.

Please visit our website calendar at www.theprairieretreat.org where you can register for these and other online offerings and future in-person retreats. Or call 563-336-8414 for more information.



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Father Bob Harness and Prairie Retreat Director Sr. Margaret Kruse, OSF bless the new Sunrise Shop and the ground it sits on at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat.

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Sr. Joan LeBeau, a resident at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center, enjoys a furry friend visit!

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 Christine Merrick
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 Donna Moulton
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 Eveleen Muehlethaler

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 Tomas Munoz
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 Sr. Molly Munoz, CHM
 Veronica Munyon*
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 Joyce Murphey
 Bernadette Murphy
 Elena Murphy



Kendra and Tammy are two of many essential staff at Humilty of Mary Center.

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 Marilyn Murphy
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 Bonnie Murray
 Robert and Connie Mutel
 Arlene Myers
 Mary Nagel
 John and Rita Nagle
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 Alicia Owens*
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 Fr. Michael Pakula
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Sr. Johanna Rickl, Sr. Lynn Mousel, Rep. Dave Loebsack and CHM Associate Roberta Shadensack. The CHM women presented Rep. Loebsack an award from NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice for scoring 100% on the NETWORK voting record.

Mary Sauers
Irene Saunders
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 Sharon Williams
 Rick and Lisa Willows
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 David and Jean Wolski
 Margaret and Cecelia Wong
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 Kathleen Yochum
 Janice Young
 Nancy Youngbauer
 Francis and Frances Zeller
 Rick and Ginny Zeller
 Angela Zenti
 William and Mary Kay Zeter
 Mary Kathleen Zimmerman
 Dorothy Zwick

This spring issue of *The Flame* contains a listing of friends who have made contributions to the Congregation of the Humility of Mary from January 1 through December 31, 2020. Every effort has been made to provide a complete and accurate listing. If there are errors, omissions, or questions, please contact the development office at 563-336-8401.

Thank you for your
generosity and support.

The Congregation of the Humility of Mary is grateful for the donations received in honor and memory of loved ones between October and December 2020.

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Sr. Miriam Anstey, CHM

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Donor: Grace Moore

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Donor: Claudia Scharf

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John Macksey

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Con-E Osmers

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Sr. Dolores Schuh, CHM

-In memory of continued

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Donor: Fr. Walter Helms

Clara M. Shelangoski

Donor: Connie Shelangoski

Marjorie Shovlain

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St. Theresa's from 1954-62

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Donor: Dr. Ronald Rehmann

Sr. Carla Takes, CHM

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Earl Takes

Donor: Lee Ann O'Keefe

Sr. Maribeth Takes, CHM

Donor: Lee Ann O'Keefe

Sr. JoAnne Talarico, CHM

Donor: Frances Stefani

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Donor: Dixie Thompson

Those who are dying alone

during the pandemic

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Lisa Mullins

Maryellen Neal

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Donor: Darlene Tursi

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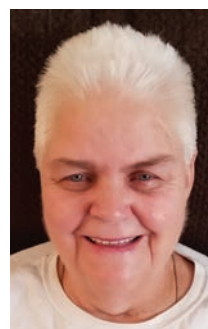
Companions on the Journey

The CHM Sisters and their associates need one another because true companions make possible the growth of the other. These companions who come from different perspectives in life make it possible to do together what neither of them could do alone. Sisters and associates must raise their voices together—each in their own world—where the gospel is seldom heard.

Find out more at www.chmiowa.org.



The Congregation of the Humility of Mary held a masked and socially distanced welcoming ceremony outdoors and on Zoom for four new associates in August 2020. Welcome to you all!



KC Barnes



Linda Maag



Jennifer Hager



Laurie Gibson

CHM Magnificat Society

Membership in the Magnificat Society is granted to each friend who makes a will provision/planned gift for the Congregation of the Humility of Mary as part of his or her estate planning. To learn more about the benefits of becoming a member contact:

Joyce Bieber

CHM Development Director

563-336-8401 or jbieber@chmiowa.org

Susan Alden	Dick Inman
Eleanor Anstey	Shiela Kielly
Justin Beeson	Betty and William Klodt
Maddy Beran	Jerri Leinen Moeller
Mildred Carlson	Gayle Lovejoy
Lenore Clark	Kathleen and Glenn Medhus
Kathleen Collins	Evalee Mickey
Renee Cooley	Dr. Jon and Shirley Jon Miller
Sherrill Custer	Benita Moore
Mary Alice Daly	Jane O'Donnell
Angie DePaepe	Barbara Pierzynski
Donna Dobbels	John and Kathy Prochaska
Kathleen Dooley	Francis and Sandra Raucci
Eunice Fong	Margaret Real
Rosemary Fraune	Donna Riedel
Linda Frear-Eli	Janet Rossmiller-Dolan
Jim Freeman	Gary and Rose Marie Schmedding
Mary Gauthier	Jonella and Richard Schwaller
Annabelle Gergely Keith	Sarah Sedgwick
Frank Klauda	Joseph Simons
Raymond P. German	Billie Smith-Uitermarkt
Nancy Graham	Dr. Richard Thiede
Fr. Robert Harness	Kenneth Vandersnick
Dr. Lyle Hellyer	Carol Vogel
Rosemary Hendricks	Janet Walther
Msgr. Francis Henricksen	Sue Witte
Mary Hittner	

Hunger Challenge



Sr. Judy Herold, SSND, with CHM Srs. Bea Snyder, Claudellen Pentecost, Johanna Rickl and Mary Ann Vogel volunteer to package boxes of food for the River Bend Foodbank.

In celebration of Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14, Sisters of the Humility of Mary joined with other congregations across the country in a collaborative effort to serve persons in need and bring much needed awareness to the current increase in food insecurity and underlying causes, such as the pandemic, poverty, unemployment, and inconsistent access to healthy food.

The Humility Sisters already are involved in many efforts and organizations aimed at alleviating and ending hunger and poverty. Their commitment to affordable housing, for example, includes advocacy efforts. Housing is the underpinning for people to survive and thrive.

CHM sisters are rising to the hunger challenge in their areas directing funds to local foodbanks and meal sites and volunteering.

Our neighbors are hurting! Let's step up to help meet their need!

Resting in Heavenly Peace

Sister Karen Macksey, CHM
April 12, 1926 -
October 7, 2020

Loving tributes to our departed sisters can be found in "Sister Stories" at www.chmiowa.org



humility
HOMES & SERVICES



Join Catholic Sisters for a yearlong, monthly conversation series "Exploring Intersections: Catholic Sisters on Racism, Migration and Climate." Each month, panelists will explore a social issue and how it intersects with racism, migration and climate in a thought-provoking and engaging conversation.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 10, 2021: Gender Equity
April 14, 2021: Care of Creation
May 12, 2021: Migration
June 9, 2021: Racial Justice
July 14, 2021: Ending Human Trafficking
August 11, 2021: Eliminating Gun Violence
September 8, 2021: Economic Justice

October 13, 2021: Food Security
November 10, 2021: Restorative Justice
December 8, 2021: Affordable Housing
January 12, 2022: Education Justice
February 9, 2022: Equitable Access to Healthcare
March 9, 2022: Navigating the Road Ahead