

*A publication for friends of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary*

# the FLAME

**Inside:  
Listening to the  
call of the Spirit**

**Sister Sisters**

Fall/Winter 2023-24

Fall/Winter

2023-2024

Volume 21 Issue 3

The Flame is published three times a year for the Congregation of the Humility of Mary and its 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 poor and powerless people.

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



*Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another*  
(Laudato Si', #42)

Congregation of the  
Humility of Mary  
820 W. Central Park Avenue  
Davenport, IA 52804  
563-323-9466  
sisters@chmiowa.org  
www.chmiowa.org

Editor: Joyce Bieber  
Layout & Design: Shelly Seifert

Reproduction of the Flame in whole or part is prohibited without permission.

Dear Friends,

One summer, a Wisconsin cousin invited her friend to come with her to visit our family in Montana. The friend needed a lot of persuading because she'd be an outsider. Finally, the two were guests of my sister. One evening, Mary mentioned that the woman's name seemed familiar and consulted the family tree. As the process unfolded, the "outsider" discovered that she was actually a cousin of our cousin! These two women had known each other for many years, but only after traveling a thousand miles from home did they discover they were relatives.

This issue of The Flame reminds us about relationships, some that we are very aware of and others that are harder to recognize—but just as real. The cover story about CHMs who are sisters invites us to cherish sibling relationships, easily taken for granted. Sister Jennifer's story points to another strong bond created by responding to the Spirit's call and committing to God as a member of a religious community.

Exploring our shared life in the Source of all Being draws us more deeply into our relationship with God and strengthens our connection to nature, including the human community. Events at The Prairie Retreat encourage us to keep that exploration alive and nourished. Relationships are expressed in our lives, such as examples in the section on "Living Our Faith" and in the generosity of donors.

Our Advent journey is a good time to discover or remind ourselves of our many relationships. Christmas celebrates Jesus taking on human flesh, making it more evident that we are all relatives. May we move into the New Year as one family, united in love and care for each other.

Peace and blessings,

*Sister Johanna Rickl*

# Living Our Faith

The Book of Eternal Life was placed in the Magnificat Chapel at the Humility of Mary Center during a prayer service on Oct. 31. CHMs, including Sister Maggie Bennett (right), devote the month of November to remembering those who have gone on to their eternal rest. Even though November is a particular month of remembrance, Sisters are honored to pray for your loved ones at any time of the year.



Sister Justine Denning (pictured here) and several other CHMs visit regularly via Zoom with sisters in Sister Nuong Bui's community, the Lovers of the Holy Cross (LHC), in Saigon/Ho Chi Minh City. The LHC members are seeking to improve their English through conversation. Sister Nuong has been living at Humility of Mary Center since 2018 and CHMs are happy to assist by meeting on a regular basis to practice conversation.



Community archivist Amy Yuncker-McCoy (left) and Sister Marcia Eckerman spent time working at the polls for the Davenport City and School Board elections in November. CHMs have a long history of encouraging voter participation as a means of amplifying voices that otherwise might be silenced. Volunteering at polling locations ensures that elections run smoothly and efficiently.



Sister Mary Bea Snyder, a dedicated advocate with a lengthy history of assisting immigrants and refugees in the United States, joined forces with Tapestry Farm, a Quad Cities organization, this year to help area refugees. The winter season brings additional expenses, and the fund-raising effort provides a cash boost to area families who are assimilating to a new life. Donations for Sister Mary Bea's ministry are accepted year round.





# Upcoming events at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat

**JAN 5, 12, 19 and 26, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *Deepening our Relationship with God and Others Through our Stories* with Diane M. Millis.

**JAN. 16, 23 and 30, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *Book Study: When Threads Wear Thin* by Patricia Shea, Ph.D. Explore of the reality of the aging process.

**JAN. 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *Come Forth: How can the story of the raising of Lazarus invite us into new life with Father James Martin, SJ.* Learn to 'Let Go' from all that keeps us unfree!

**JAN. 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *Confessions: The Making of a Post-Denominational Priest* with Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox.

**JAN. 20, 27 and FEB. 3, and 10, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *Speak with the Earth and It Will Teach You: A Field Guide to the Bible* with Rev. Daniel Cooperrider.

**FEB. 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *A Breath of Fresh Air: The lessons of Imbolc for the in-between times* with Rev. Joseph Michael. Explore the lessons of the Imbolc tradition for navigating ambiguity in our spiritual lives.

**FEB. 6, 13 and 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *Book Study: Black Like Me* with Pastor Rogers Kirk. Gain a greater understanding of life as an African American!

**FEB. 7, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *Creating Spaces for Women in the Catholic Church – Book Discussion and Reflection* with Lisa Cathelyn, M.Div.

**FEB. 9, 5:00-9:00 p.m.** *The Power of a Praying Partnership* with Mary Potter Kenyon and Nick Portzen. Learn how to center your marriage more firmly on God.

**FEB. 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *The Lotus & The Rose: A Conversation Between Tibetan Buddhism & Mystical Christianity* with Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox.

**FEB. 18-24, 3:00-4:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *Finding God in All Things: An Introduction to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius* with Meg Foreman, Spiritual Director (MA, Ministry).

**FEB. 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** *Pathways to the Divine - Metropolitan Community Church* with Rev. Rich Hendricks, 2930 W. Locust, Davenport. ONLINE option available.

**FEB. 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *John of the Cross and Dark Night: Contemplative Promise and Possibility* with Laurie Cassidy, Ph.D.

**MARCH 1-3. Friday, 4:00 p.m. -Sunday, 11:00 a.m.** *Lenten Retreat* with Jenny Chadima. Experience a renewal of joy and gladness found in God's presence.

**MARCH 8, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** *Create your own basket* with Tracy Welch.

**MARCH 16, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** *Act of Power: Let's Create and Plan Yours* with Kathleen Collins. Commit yourself to yourself.

**MARCH 17, 1:00-5:00 p.m.** *Becoming Your Authentic Self and Living the Life You Desire* with Deena Nehring. Create the life you desire and are meant to live!

**MARCH 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** *Pathways to the Divine - TBD.*

**MARCH 20, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** *The Way of Love* with Sister Kathleen Sadler. Learn how to practice love and peacemaking in your life.

**MARCH 21, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *Sheer Joy: Conversations with Thomas Aquinas on Creation Spirituality* with Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox.

**MARCH 27, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** *Pause and Refresh* with Pat Shea. Listen to the whispers of your spirit.

**MARCH 28, 6:00-9:00 p.m.** *Paint Your Prayer.* Simply Inspired by Brenda Linville. Choose your favorite spiritual quote and paint!

**MARCH 29, 2:00-3:30 p.m.** *Stations of the Cross* with area actors. Be a witness to the last day of Jesus Christ.

**APRIL 3, 10:00 a.m.** *Mass on The Prairie.*

**APRIL 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** *Pathways to the Divine - TBD.*

**APRIL 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** ONLINE ONLY: *Prayer, a Radical Response to Life* with Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox.

**APRIL 19-21, Friday, 3:00 p.m. - Sunday, 11:00 a.m.** *Spring Weekend Writing Retreat* with Jodie Toohey.

**APRIL 24, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** *Spring Flowers and Migratory Birds Walk with Kurt Kreiter.*

**APRIL 26, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** *Mindful Methods for Staying Calm and Finding Happiness in the Midst of Chaos with Teresa Pangan, Ph. D, RDN.*

**APRIL 27, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** *Chakradance: A Sacred Movement Practice for Your Soul with Lindsay R. Bodenhofer. Embody your true essence and activate your life force.*

**APRIL 27, 1:30-4:30 p.m.** *Pathways to Peace: 20 Visualizations to Enhance Your Yoga Practice with Dianne Willging. Integrate guided meditation and yoga to improve your overall health.*

**MAY 1, 10:00 a.m.** *Mass on The Prairie.*

**MAY 4, 1:00-4:00 p.m.** *World Labyrinth Day with Carrie Mahoney.*

**MAY 5-10, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-Friday, 9:00 a.m.** *Catching the Thread of our Lives - Silent directed retreat with Marie Thompson, Spiritual Director. Daily spiritual direction.*

**MAY 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** *Mother's Day Event at Olathea Creek Vineyard and Winery, along with Flaherty's Irish Candy Company. Buy an experience - not another trinket!*

**MAY 15, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** *These Pretzels are Making Me Thirsty with Tracy Singleton. Gain a renewed sense of hope and motivation, armed with the understanding that your actions create ripple effects of change.*

**MAY 16, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** *Dare to Care: Balancing Care Giving and Self-Care with Chris McCormick Pries ARNP, Putting a name to our experiences and emotions and having an opportunity to share with others experiencing similar challenges allows us to recognize and strengthen the skills we have to face adversity and build resilience.*

**May 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** *ONLINE ONLY: Natural Grace: Dialogues on Creation, Darkness and the Soul in Spirituality and Science with Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox.*

**MAY 17, Noon-5:00 p.m.** *People of Faith are Power Hungry by Mayra Hernandez. Are you serious about creating justice in our community?*

**MAY 18, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** *Seeing the true-self through the practice of living in the present moment: the second stage of life with Dennis Eastin. Explore different ways to engage the second stage of life's journey with the teachings of Father Richard Rohr and other mystic teachers throughout the ages.*

**MAY 20, 11:00 a.m.-Noon** *ONLINE ONLY: Facebook Live: UN World Bee Day. See the six hives of bees currently living at The Prairie with Bob "The Bee Man" Roe*

**MAY 20, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** *Pathways to the Divine - Antiochian Orthodox with Fr. Jared Johnson, St. Nicholas The Wonderworker Orthodox Church, 2841 N. Brady, Davenport. ONLINE option available.*

**MAY 22, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** *Living in Gratitude through Qigong with Carolyn Krafka. Learn Qigong active exercises and meditations that will clear or prevent energy blocks.*

**JUNE 1, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** *Practicing the Art of Compassion and Forgiveness with Marcia Flory.*

**JUNE 2, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** *National Cancer Survivor Day. Retreat for anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer, whether currently undergoing treatment or not.*

**JUNE 4, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** *Culinary Herbs: How to Grow Them and Use Them with Deb Monroe.*

**JUNE 5, 10:00 a.m.** *Mass on The Prairie.*

**JUNE 15, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** *The Sacred Medicine Wheel with Kathleen Collins. Learn the ancient and useful tool for looking at the four areas of your life, defining where any concerns may be and how to better heal them.*

**JUNE 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** *Pathways to the Divine - The Episcopal Church with Rev. Christopher Potter. Location: 121 W. 12th St., Davenport. ONLINE option available.*

**JUNE 21, 6:00-9:00 p.m.** *Summer Solstice and Sound Labyrinth Walk with Carrie Mahoney.*

**JUNE 26, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** *Pause and Refresh with Pat Shea. Listen to the whispers of your spirit.*



2664 145th Avenue,  
Wheatland, IA 52777

Website: [theprairieretreat.org](http://theprairieretreat.org) Facebook: Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat  
Phone: 563-374-1092 E-mail: [olpretreat@chmiowa.org](mailto:olpretreat@chmiowa.org)  
To sign up for a retreat, go to [theprairieretreat.org](http://theprairieretreat.org)  
Click retreat calendar for an entire listing of retreats.

*Ask about our scholarship opportunities.*

# CHM novice Sister Jennifer Hager has an inspiring story of resilience

Sister Jennifer Hager has embarked on the second phase, the novitiate, of the initial formation process for vowed membership within the CHM community. Jennifer is the first sister to enter the CHM novitiate in almost 20 years. The journey bringing the novice and CHM together began many years ago and has taken a path with turns and twists for both Jennifer and the Congregation.



*Jennifer restocks the McAnthony Window in the prayer center at St. Anthony's Church, a task she has been doing this since its inception in 2020. Jennifer collects the prayers that the McAnthony Window patrons write. They are then emailed out to an online prayer group.*

joined the Path to Academics, Community and Employment (P.A.C.E.) program at National Louis University in Chicago, which provides students with career preparation, independent living skills coaching, academic courses and social development. Jennifer thrived in the program; however, during this time, she experienced the loss of both of her parents.

She made a life for herself in Chicago, working as an assistant manager of a pet store—and she was engaged to be married. She says she kept feeling she was being drawn elsewhere. “There is something else I need to do,” she recalls thinking. With support from a mentor, she began looking at religious orders and even made plans to begin the discernment process with one before serious illness sidelined her for several years. She spent four years in a nursing home following a surgical complication, relearning to eat, walk and speak.

After a few years, she was well enough to move to Davenport, Iowa, to be close to her brother Charlie. She found a faith community at St. Anthony's Church and began volunteering there. The idea of becoming a religious sister resurfaced.

Like many religious orders, the Congregation of the Humility of Mary has grappled with the challenge of continuing to serve the needs of people against the backdrop of declining membership. In 2016, there was debate about whether the congregation would be open to new members at the CHM general assembly. Sister Johanna Rickl, CHM president, recalls, “We ultimately decided that while we would not actively seek new vowed members, we would be willing to receive people who, as we say, are knocking at the door and be ready to talk with them and accompany them in a discernment process. If both they and we believe that the spirit of God is calling us to this mutual journeying, we will go forward together.”

Sister Lynn Mousel was working as a child psychiatrist in Great Falls, Mont., and agreed to return to the Motherhouse in Davenport, Iowa, to take on the role of coordinator of membership development. “I was hoping we would continue to have new members. I felt this attraction toward formation. I thought my background in psychiatry might be helpful in accompanying someone through the process,” she says. Sister Lynn knew that people considering religious life have varied backgrounds and life experiences. “Religious life isn't about having a certain college degree. It's more about how you live your life and how you are with others.”

Jennifer's life has included a fair share of challenges which she has worked hard to overcome. She grew up with loving parents who supported her through what she describes as “learning differences.” Following her high school graduation, Jennifer

*While the initial formation process involves at least three years before the*



CHMs and guests join in a song of celebration at Sister Jennifer's "Welcoming Into the Novitiate" ceremony.

CHM Associates Co-Leader Roberta Shadensack met Jennifer at St. Anthony's and directed her to Sister Lynn. "I just felt it right away when I walked into Humility of Mary Center," says Jennifer of the connection she experienced with CHM.



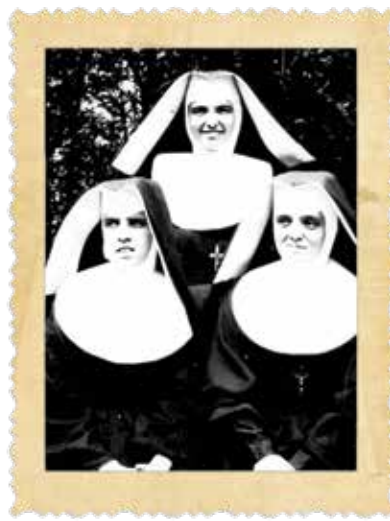
Sister Lynn shared the CHM associate option with Jennifer as a way for her to get to know the community and learn more about the order's charism while she was discerning. "During this time, we made sure that we could have an individualized formation program that would be a good fit for her as we would do for anyone interested in religious life," she says. After two years as an associate, Jennifer was ready to enter the affiliate phase, and CHM was prepared to journey with her. "She already had a volunteering background and was very connected with the Catholic Church. Jennifer is a caring and compassionate person who has overcome many obstacles and wants to share her gifts with others."

The affiliate and novitiate phases provide a unique opportunity for individuals to integrate into the Congregation's spirit and assess their readiness for a life dedicated to religious service. During her time as a novice, Jennifer will live in community, sharing experiences that will allow her to learn from those who have experienced the CHM journey and, in turn, share her personal history with them. "She brings her gifts to the community, and the community, on the other hand, offers the gifts that we have," explains Sister Johanna.

Jennifer will engage in a program of study, prayer, reflection and a diverse range of encounters designed to prepare her for full membership in the congregation. This phase will involve volunteer work related to social justice and environmental care, both core priorities of the community. Sister Lynn, as formation director, is journeying with Jennifer during the process which includes involvement in an inter-congregational novitiate based in Chicago, allowing her to interact with novices entering different orders around the United States. While the initial formation process involves at least three years before the profession of vows, integration and renewal is a lifelong commitment.

Sister Jennifer is excited about what the next few years will bring and is strengthened by all she has accomplished. "I think my mom and dad would be really proud," she says.

*the profession of vows, integration and renewal is a lifelong commitment.*



# *A Divine Bond*

## The unique journey of Catholic sisters and bi

At one time, it was not uncommon for multiple members of a Catholic family to enter religious life. In fact, a historical tally reveals that 33 sets of biological siblings joined and remained in the Congregation of the Humility of Mary. Sisters Marilyn Jean (“Jeanie”) and Elaine Hagedorn are one example of biological sisters by birth and religious Sisters by vocation, exemplifying the harmonious fusion of family ties and religious commitment.

Sister Jeanie and Sister Elaine’s journey into religious life began independently, each feeling the call to dedicate her life to God. The siblings were the youngest and oldest of three daughters raised by a devout Catholic mother, Grace, and father, Lester, who was baptized Lutheran. Neither parent had personally known any “nuns” and were initially apprehensive when Jeanie, the youngest and the first to leave home, chose to enter the convent in 1956 at age 17.

“My call to religious life was difficult for my parents to understand and accept,” Jeanie says. Her parents imagined she would live “behind convent walls” and never come home again. That all changed, she says, when her parents visited the CHM Motherhouse in Ottumwa, Iowa, on the first visiting Sunday. “They saw how happy I was.” From then on, their fears relieved, they were very supportive of her choice. At the same time, Elaine was also exploring the call to religious life. She had volunteered at Christ Child Home in Des Moines while attending St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines, and knew she

wanted to serve God and others. A trip to Chicago with Catholic Students for Catholic Action reinforced this desire. Already having the experience of one daughter entering the convent, Lester and Grace were now more comfortable with Elaine’s decision.

Elaine wanted to join an order that would allow her to do social work rather than teach, and she took her time selecting a religious community. She learned that CHM would accommodate her career aspirations and was encouraged by Jeanie’s contentment. “Jeanie’s experience with the Humilities convinced me this community would be right for me, too.” In 1957, she joined Jeanie in Ottumwa—eight days before the fire destroyed the entire Ottumwa Heights complex.

The day of the fire, the postulants, including Elaine, were sent to Davenport, Iowa. The novices, including Jeanie, stayed in Ottumwa to help get the long-vacant Bachelor Officer Quarters (BOQ) at Ottumwa Airbase livable for CHMs to inhabit for the next few years. Jeanie recalls the compassion Mother Magdalen Wilmes personally showed the Hagedorn sisters as, during the trauma of the fire, they said their goodbyes. In this moment, she knew “the spirit of this community was indeed where God was calling me,” she says. Seven weeks later, Elaine and her classmates returned to Ottumwa for a joyful reunion.

After Profession of Vows the siblings were assigned to educational ministry in various cities for many years. Despite Elaine’s

preference for social work she became an effective teacher and principal. When she was able to move into her preferred ministry she served as a Pastoral Minister and Director of Religious Education at Visitation parish in Des Moines for 20 years.

For over 30 years Jeanie enjoyed teaching young children in Catholic schools, teaching English classes for immigrant adults and coordinating Religious Education (RE) programs for parishes and the diocese. As Visitation parish saw a significant increase in the immigrant population, Jeanie and Elaine agreed to share ministry in the parish. Elaine would be free for full-time pastoral ministry and Jeanie would assume RE Director responsibilities. Working together in a parish situation went remarkably smoothly as the team supported one another for another ten years.

“People say they don’t know how we lived and worked together all these years. Our family was always close and lived simply. We grew up in a small house where we three girls shared a bedroom. We shared everything. That is how we were raised. Our vocation was kind of a continuation of that lifestyle though in community our circle expanded, including intercommunity living and ministry,” explains Jeanie.

A special memory was in 1963 when, after 29 years of marriage, their dad was baptized a Catholic. Soon after, the



*Photos, from left: Sisters Marilyn Jean and Elaine Hagedorn; one of four sets of three, Sisters Ambrosia, Mercedes and Loyola Stoy; Sisters Irene and Molly Muñoz; Sisters Catherine and JoAnne Talarico; and Sisters Barbara and Jeanette Kopel.*

# ological siblings

Sisters' parents celebrated their anniversary Mass with their mom finally able to receive the Nuptial Blessing she could not receive at their wedding. Mother Nicholas Scheetz, realizing the significance of both occasions, granted the sisters permission to travel home to be with the family.

Both Elaine and Jeanie have been very active members of the CHM community for over 65 years, serving on committees, planning and participating in assemblies and being contacts for CHM Associates. Jeanie served on the Leadership Team for five years and as Peace and Justice Coordinator.

When asked about their personality differences, they laugh. Elaine explains, "We're not exactly alike. Jeanie is creative and more reflective." Jeanie describes Elaine as "a very compassionate 'people person'—thoughtful, generous, with a wonderful sense of humor." The two were also very supportive and close to their biological sister, Mary Jo Reed, who chose married life. "She was such a gift!" says Jeanie. The experiences shared as biological sisters, including the death of both parents and Mary Jo, have only deepened their bond as "sister Sisters."

In retirement the sisters remain active with peace and justice groups, Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community, friends and relatives. Gone are their days of rallies, marches and road trips with "Nuns on the Bus." "We are not physically able to do as much now," says Jeanie, "but we try to keep informed about world and church affairs, to share resources and political action alerts and especially to spend time in prayer. God has been so good to us!" Elaine nods in agreement. The example of their parents and the words of Micah (6:8) continue to inspire the sisters to "Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with their God."

**Throughout CHM's history there have been 33 sets of sibling sisters, including four sibling sets of three, that entered and stayed in the order. There were also many others who entered but ended up leaving CHM. In addition to the siblings listed, there were numerous cousin and aunt-niece relationships. \*Indicates sister is living.**

Sr. Bernard Ackerman 1870-1946  
Sr. Elizabeth Ackerman 1876-1961

Sr. Mary of the Angels Carroll 1891-1921  
Sr. Rita Carroll 1880-1956

Sr. Bernadette Cherpeski 1901-1927  
Sr. Catherine Cherpeski 1890-1977

Sr. Rose Marie Connell 1896-1927  
Sr. Carmelita Connell 1886-1983

Sr. Loretto Dimke 1894-1968  
Sr. Rose Dimke 1897-1975

Sr. Fidelis Doyle 1893-1956  
Sr. Rose Doyle 1898-1991

Sr. Clarice Eberdt 1909-1996  
Sr. Kathleen Eberdt 1913-2005

Sr. Consuela Flaherty 1886-1953  
Sr. Bridget Flaherty 1884-1964  
Sr. Anne Flaherty 1887-1968

Sr. Miriam Therese Foley 1914-2008  
Sr. Corrine Foley 1920-2015

Sr. Louise Geiger 1912-1990  
Sr. Barbara Mary Geiger 1908-1999  
Sr. Toni Geiger 1917-2006

Sr. George Gorman 1884-1932  
Sr. Alfreda Gorman 1890-1982

Sr. Michael Goulding 1907-1942  
Sr. Anne Goulding 1910-1990

Sr. Elaine Hagedorn\*  
Sr. Marilyn Jean Hagedorn\*

Sr. Agnes Hannan 1886-1969  
Sr. Aloysius Hannan 1891-1982

Sr. Stephen Hanson 1896-1978  
Sr. Josita Hanson 1900-1987

Sr. Barbara Kopel 1939-2021  
Sr. Jeanette Kopel\*

Sr. Agatha Lafferty 1865-1908  
Sr. Xavier Lafferty 1868-1914

Sr. Alice Marie Leahy 1924-1982  
Sr. Ann Leahy 1927-2013

Sr. M. Clement Linehan 1911-1995  
Sr. Mathias Linehan 1909-2002

Sr. Immaculate Lynch 1867-1943  
Sr. Henrietta Lynch 1877-1962

Sr. Patricia Mullen 1879-1927  
Sr. Michael Mullen 1888-1938

Sr. Irene Muñoz\*  
Sr. Maria Luisa Muñoz\*

Sr. Mary Richard Murphy 1895-1977  
Sr. Catherine Marie Murphy 1902-1995

Sr. Dolores Norman 1880-1928  
Sr. Margaret Mary Norman 1883-1950

Sr. Ana Maria Orozco 1926-2014  
Sr. Luz Maria Orozco 1933-2021

Sr. Blanche Ruppenkamp 1898-1959  
Sr. Callista Ruppenkamp 1900-1968

Sr. Gonzaga Schwartz 1872-1962  
Sr. Eugene Schwartz 1885-1969

Sr. Ambrosia Stoy 1883-1918  
Sr. Mercedes Stoy 1885-1960  
Sr. Loyola Stoy 1890-1968

Sr. Carla Takes 1925-2019  
Sr. Maribeth Takes 1927-2020

Sr. Catherine Talarico\*  
Sr. JoAnne Talarico 1936-2019

Sr. St. John Ven Horst 1908-1996  
Sr. Marie Ven Horst 1916-2015

Sr. Margaret Walsh 1897-1942  
Sr. Antoinette Walsh 1884-1965  
Sr. Louise Walsh 1893-1972

Sr. Josephine Zeiher 1874-1934  
Sr. Teresita Zeiher 1895-1974



# Water project brings hope to villagers

*By Sister Mary Rehmann, CHM*

Villagers in Kumwambu, in rural, western Tanzania, now have clean water for themselves and their animals through a project organized by Sister Candida Massabo, a Tanzanian sister who lived at Humility of Mary Center in Davenport, Iowa, while earning her BA in psychology from St. Ambrose University. The Congregation of the Humility of Mary gave Sister Candida, a member of Sisters of Maria Goretti, a down payment for the project as a graduation gift in 2015. Jennifer Blair, the International Student Advisor at St. Ambrose when Sister Candida arrived on campus in 2010, became a friend and was instrumental in helping move the project forward. Rotary clubs in eastern Iowa and Rotary International built two wells

and a water distribution system in Kumwambu, about five miles from the town of Kibondo. The village has homes with adjacent landholdings where cassava, corn, beans, millet, sorghum and bananas are grown. Livestock include goats, sheep, cattle and chickens. The large village is about 16 square kilometers (2.5 miles in each direction), with about 6,300 people; 40 percent are children 15 and under. Families consume most food grown themselves, and many have small businesses, too. The clay soil supports a small brick industry there.

In 2015, Jennifer and her husband visited Kumwambu, where Sister Candida's family hosted them. They saw where water was sourced from

two springs that fed into streams at opposite ends of the village. Water for drinking and cooking was taken from the springs, and the streams were used for washing clothes and watering livestock. People, primarily girls and women, had to walk up to an hour to get to a spring, hauling 5-gallon buckets or jugs. The rainy season made the walk treacherous and very strenuous.

After seeing the water system and layout, Jennifer and Sister Candida started conversations with Rotarians of the Iowa City AM Rotary Club and District 6000, comprised of about 65 clubs in the southern half of Iowa. The project is funded by a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation

of Rotary International. The majority of funds are raised by clubs in the international partner country, and the project is managed by a club in the host country. For this project, the Iowa clubs are the international partners, and Bukoba Rotary, the closest club to the village, is the host partner. It is a six-hour trip by car from Bukoba to Kumwambu.

Surveys were conducted to determine the best place to drill, and the drilling company made two boreholes more than 100 meters (about 300 feet) underground, reaching a clean, reliable supply of groundwater. A solar-powered system pumps the water into a 60,000-liter (about 16,000 gallons) brick storage tank on the hill above the village. Water flows by gravity through a pipe system to five

distribution stations, or “dips” in the village. After agonizing delays, the work concluded in early summer 2023, and clean water began flowing to the five distribution points in the village.

Village members provided all the labor, including making and laying the bricks for the storage tank. Some were trained to maintain the system, and all villagers were instructed in good hygiene practices.

The total cost was just over \$140,000. About \$87,000 was provided by Iowa partner clubs and others interested in the project. The balance of funds came from The Rotary Foundation. In total, 36 individuals, organizations, and Rotary clubs contributed to the project, making it one of the most

collaborative grants in the history of the Iowa City AM club and the District 6000.

Life is very different now for villagers with a faster, safer and more hygienic system for getting water. Clothes are washed in homes, in clean water. Girls no longer have to spend hours fetching water, meaning they may attend school. Women, too, are freed for other tasks, such as projects to increase the family income. Because the water is cleaner, water-borne illnesses are reduced in both people and livestock. These improvements in quality of life were previously unimaginable.

Looking ahead, the next project is a school for children who are unable to afford school fees, spearheaded by Sister Candida. Land has been acquired for the project near Kibondo, and work will progress as funds are raised. The hope is that girls, in particular, will be able to attend this school.

While funds were raised in the states, and work involved both Rotary groups and The Rotary Foundation, the village members themselves did much of the work. They are responsible for continuing oversight of the components and maintenance of access points necessary to keep the system operating successfully.

Sister Candida and Jennifer look forward to visiting Kumwambu in the summer of 2024. They feel honored to celebrate with the people who made this project a reality!

*Photos (top left) Kumwambu villagers celebrate fresh, clean water delivered for the first time to one of the five “dips” where it is collected for use by the people and their animals; (bottom left): Girls and women, who previously spent hours each day getting water from the distant stream and carrying the heavy buckets to the village, now have time to attend school, if available, and engage in projects to add income to better their daily lives.*





# *In loving memory . . .*

## **Sister Rosalia Riedel**

Sister Rosalia Riedel, CHM, died on October 31, 2023, at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston, Iowa. Rosalia Louise Riedel was born November 23, 1923, in Milford, Ohio, to Dr. Ferdinand and Rosalia (Riehle) Riedel. She entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1945 and professed vows in 1948 as Sister Mary Andrew.

Sister earned an AA degree in Elementary Education from Ottumwa Heights College, Ottumwa, Iowa, and a BA degree from Marycrest College, Davenport, Iowa. Decades later, she attended Scott Community College in Davenport, graduating as a Certified Nurse Aide in 1994.

Sister Rosalia began teaching in 1948 in Centerville, Iowa, then at St. Leo's, Lewistown, Mont., Lourdes Memorial, Bettendorf, Iowa, St. Pius X, Rock Island, Ill., St. Mary's, Albia, Iowa, St. Theresa's, Des Moines, Iowa, St. Mary's, Oskaloosa, Iowa, and Sacred Heart and St. Patrick's in Ottumwa. She served in evolving positions at the Center for Aging Services, Inc. (CASI) in Davenport.

In retirement, Sister remained active, serving as a volunteer in the CHM archives at the Humility of Mary Center in Davenport, for CASI, and at the Pleasant Street Convent.



### **Associate Dorothy Figueras**

**Oct. 16, 1938  
to  
Feb. 8, 2023**

### **Associate Carolleen Marrs**

**Oct. 29, 1939  
to  
Sept. 16, 2023**



## **Visit 'Sister Stories' for CHM updates**

At one time or another, we have all benefited from the nurturing and attentiveness of another. Perhaps it was someone who believed in you or someone who gave you a helping hand. The person you are today is a direct result of that influence. For many of you, that person was a CHM Sister who planted seeds of caring, faith and hope. Each

Sister of the Humility of Mary is unique in her personality, talents and ministries.

Our website has a special section called "Sister Stories" devoted to updates and tributes for our currently serving and deceased sisters. We invite you to visit [chmiowa.org](http://chmiowa.org) to learn more about the sisters who have impacted your life.

# COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Photos: (top row, from left) Sister Rosie Restelli prepares the Advent wreath while Sisters Kathleen Henneberry and Roberta Brich look on; Sister Regina Mary Cratty (center) receives a warm welcome from Sisters Nancy Schwieters and Sue Sellers (standing) as she moves into Bishop Drumm Retirement Center from the Humility of Mary Center; (middle) maintenance employee Roger Voss and Sister Delphine Vasquez decorate the Chapel for Christmas; Sister Catherine Linnenkamp rings a bell at Genesis Cancer Center following completion of radiation treatments; Sister Irene Muñoz is inducted into the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Des Moines in October; (bottom) Sister Virginia Bartholome (left) and Rosalia Riedel enjoyed celebratory cake to commemorate their 100th birthdays with staff and friends at Bishop Drumm.

# *CHM received donations in memory and in honor of loved ones between July and November 2023.*

*We remember them in prayer.*

## **Memorials**

### **Dick and Alice Anstey**

Donor: Barbara Hoerner

### **Eleanor Anstey**

Donors: Carol Craighill

Barbara Hoerner

Brent Marchbanks

Maryanne Sobiech

### **Belinda Anstey**

Donor: Barbara Hoerner

### **Michael Battani**

Donor: Susan Battani

### **Lorraine Battani**

Donor: Susan Battani

### **Kelly Bell**

Donors: Karen Brooke

Jim and Traci Maxted

Michael and Mary Maxted

Con-E Osmer

Claudia Scharf

Bill and Bonnie Schmidt

Deborah Schwab

Mark Van Hoosier

### **Dick and Joan Bennett**

Donor: Sr. Margaret Bennett, CHM

### **Carroll and Josephine Bennett**

Donor: Sr. Margaret Bennett, CHM

### **Mike Bennett, SJ**

Donors: Sr. Margaret Bennett, CHM

Tom Bradley

Nancy and Owen Stipp

### **Walter Bradley**

Donor: Elizabeth Wood Bradley

### **Brich and Lustraaf families**

Donor: Sr. Roberta Brich, CHM

### **Chuck Brogan**

Donor: Mary Brogan

### **Sr. Bryan**

Donor: Johnny and Nancy Austin

### **Walter J. and Corinne J. Cawley**

Donor: Fr. William Cawley

### **CHMs who served at**

#### **St. Joseph in Des Moines**

Donor: Keith and Loretta Greiner

### **CHMs**

Donor: Betty Johnson

### **Sr. Frances Comito, CHM**

Donor: Joseph Comito

### **Margaret Ann Comito**

Donor: Joseph Comito

### **Sr. Maxine Connaway, CHM**

Donor: Dianne Marshak

### **Gwen and Robert L. Cox**

Donor: Claudia Scharf

### **Sr. Micheline Curtis, CHM**

Donor: Robert Baumler

### **Father Rick Dagit**

Donor: Mary Bartine

### **Sr. Francis Xavier**

#### **Dierickx, CHM**

Donor: Gail Votroubek

### **Sr. Donna Donovan, CHM**

Donor: Ruth McMillin

### **Sr. Miriam Ehrhardt, CHM**

Donors: Barbara Bruski

Sr. Rae Elwood, CHM

Rita Hagner

Ann Moore

Sr. Kathleen Mullin

Con-E Osmer

Rosie Ping

Beverly Rosenbohm

Claudia Scharf

Janet Walther

### **Susan and Cyril Elsinger**

Donor: Sr. Kathleen

Henneberry, CHM

### **David Emerson**

Donor: Joan Marie Resnick

and Frank Wessling

### **Mike Farrell**

Donor: Joan Marie Resnick

and Frank Wessling

### **Sr. Margaret Fines, BVM**

Donor: Frank Vito

### **Tom Gallagher**

Donor: Sr. Margaret Bennett, CHM

### **Sr. Annette Gallagher, CHM**

Donor: Peggy Van Zeyl

### **William Gissel**

Donor: Sr. Kathleen

Henneberry, CHM

### **Neal Gray**

Donor: Anne Marie Gray

### **Harold Gregorich**

Donor: Nancy Jebson

### **Sr. Mildred Hamilton, CHM**

Donor: Fr. Walter Helms

### **Sr. Kathleen Hanley, CHM**

Donor: Barbara Bruski

### **Suzy Hartung**

Donor: Sr. Kathleen

Henneberry, CHM

### **Sr. Mary Kayleen Heffron, CHM**

Donor: Mae Marie Heinje

### **Jean and Bernard Herber**

Donor: Randell and Mariann Berg

### **James Loftus Hesse**

Donor: Kathleen Hesse

### **Alberta Hilton**

Donor: Alberta Hilton Estate

### **Dianne Huddleson**

Donor: John and Julie Delaney

### **Fr. John Hynes**

Donor: Sr. Margaret Bennett, CHM

### **Anne Jochum**

Donor: Sr. Mary Bea Snyder, CHM

### **Sr. Ramona Kaalberg, CHM**

Donors: Sally Smith

Frank Vito

### **William & Beverly Kanak**

Donor: Ann Hanson

### **Srs. Irene and Edith Kane, CHM**

Donor: Mary Catherine Epatko

### **B.J. Keegan**

Donor: Gail Votroubek

### **Sr. Kathryn Kreager, CHM**

Donor: Bob and Sally Simonson

### **Jeffrey Kremer**

Donor: Tina Noble

### **Sr. Mary Ann Leto, CHM**

Donor: Ruth McMillin

### **Michael Maag**

Donors: Al and Joan Beck

Kerry Bicknell

Stephen and Dorothy Earp

Roxanne Gray

Sr. Kathleen Henneberry, CHM

Dorothy Knickrehm

Linda Maag

Julie McCann

John and Linda Molyneaux

Mike and Betty Pyevich

QC Analytical Services, LLC

Gail Votroubek

### **Sr. Karen Macksey, CHM**

Donor: John Macksey

### **Sr. Joanne Mauro, CHM**

Donors: Michael Mauro

Frank Vito

### **Sr. Gretchen McKean, CHM**

Donor: Cynthia Martin

### **Sr. Miriam Clare Miller, CHM**

Donor: Myles and Patricia Miller

### **Sr. Patricia Miller, CHM**

Donors: Imogene Barloon

Sr. Margaret Bennett, CHM

Karen Brooke

Jim and Connie Cade

Rev. David and Dr. Ruth Daumer

Sr. Justine Denning, CHM

Sr. Rae Elwood, CHM

Kent and Lori Ferris

Sr. Kathleen Henneberry, CHM

Barb Kendall

Sr. Joann Kuebrich, CHM

Glenn and Bernadine Leach

Evalee Mickey

John and Linda Molyneaux

Kathleen Popelka

Rodger and Mary Routh

Claudia Scharf

Joan Smith

Ann Van Hoff

Janet Walther

### **Benita Moore**

Donor: Sr. Rae Elwood, CHM

### **Mary Naab**

Donor: Sr. Kathleen

Henneberry, CHM

### **Rosemary Noth**

Donor: Noth Family

Charitable Fund

### **Sr. St. Jude O'Neill, CHM**

Donor: Mae Marie Heinje

### **Sr. Claudellen Pentecost, CHM**

Donors: Sr. Margaret Bennett, CHM

Sr. Justine Denning, CHM

Sr. Rae Elwood, CHM

Sr. Kathleen Henneberry, CHM

Sherron Hughes

Sr. Joann Kuebrich, CHM

Karen Maehl

John and Linda Molyneaux

Claudia Scharf

Sheryl Smyth

Sr. Mary Bea Snyder, CHM

Jo Ann Thornburg

Deborah Williams

### **Sr. Harriett Ping, CHM**

Donor: John and Julie Delaney

### **Jean Powell**

Donor: Michel Larson

### **Sr. Rosalia Riedel, CHM**

Donors: Sr. Margaret Bennett, CHM

Sr. Justine Denning, CHM

Sr. Rae Elwood, CHM

Sr. Kathleen Henneberry, CHM

Sr. Joann Kuebrich, CHM

Sr. Catherine Linnenkamp, CHM

Gerry and Tana Odean

Rodger and Mary Routh

Joan Smith

Sr. Mary Bea Snyder, CHM

### **Anna, Alec and**

#### **Kristine Ripperger**

Donor: Lawrence Ripperger

### **Sr. Mary Rocca, CHM**

Donor: James and Mary Rocca

### **Mary Jo Rocca**

Donor: James and Mary Rocca



*A memorial stone service honoring the late Sue Witte was held at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat (OLPR) on Nov. 19 (above). A portion of the memorial donations given in honor of Sue was earmarked for a memorial stone in OLPR's Memorial Garden. If you are interested in a memorial stone, please contact President Sister Johanna Rickl at 563-323-9466.*

## Memorials *Continued*

### **Sr. Eileen Roseberry, CHM**

Donor: Theresa Hayden

### **Joe Rosenthal**

Donor: Joan Marie Resnick

### **Frances and Leo Runnells**

Donor: Randell and Mariann Berg

### **Sr. Madeleine Marie**

**Schmidt, CHM**

Donor: Fr. Walter Helms

### **Sr. Donna Schmitt, CHM**

Donor: Sally Smith

### **Mitch Schneider**

Donor: Sr. Kathleen

Henneberry, CHM

### **Patricia Sloan Skinner**

Donors: Ned Burmeister

Janet Johnston

### **Richard Smith**

Donor: Randell

and Mariann Berg

### **Alfred Smith**

Donor: Rose Smith

### **Francis and Mary Martha**

**Stoessel**

Donor: Stephanie Stoessel

### **Terri Studer**

Donor: Sr. Justine Denning, CHM

### **Sr. Carla Takes, CHM**

Donor: Ruth McMillin

### **Mary Lu Takes**

Donor: Rose Smith

### **Sr. Kathleen Tomlonovic, CHM**

Donor: Steve and

Nancy Thornton

### **Peter Tursi**

Donor: John and

Stephanie Bryan

### **Sr. Marie Ven Horst, CHM**

Donors: Fred and Linda Ortiz

M. Irene Spaletto

### **Sr. Marie Vittetoe, CHM**

Donor: Donna Swank-Rudiger

### **Vern Waldenberg**

Donor: Sr. Margaret Bennett, CHM

### **Sr. Mary Suzanne**

**Wickenkamp, CHM**

Donors: Mae Marie Heinje

Nancy Jo Hillard

### **Sue Witte**

Donors: Mary Boock

Karen Brooke

Lucia Dryanski

Carol Ehlers

Una England

Billie Greenwood

Kevin and Lynn Hatfield

Tina Hayz

Sr. Kathleen Henneberry, CHM

Louise Jesson

Sr. Catherine Linnenkamp, CHM

Evalée Mickey

Nuns- Kim Cang Temple

Sonja Rekers

Richard and Becky Roller

Brenna Ross

James and Julie Ross

Beth Stearns

Margaret Tinsman

Gail Votroubek

Mary Weih

Jim Wessel

### **Glenn and Louella Wood**

Donor: Elizabeth Wood Bradley

### **Jack Wyland**

Donor: Sr. Mary Bea Snyder, CHM

## Honorariums

### **Dr. Eleanor Anstey**

Donor: Linda Minich

### **Sr. Virginia Bartholome, CHM**

Donor: Glenn

and Bernadine Leach

### **Sr. Justine Denning**

Donor: Fr. Timothy Fitzgerald

### **Jennifer Hager**

Donor: Barb Kendall

### **Sr. Jeanette Kopel, CHM**

Donor: Glenn

and Bernadine Leach

### **Mary Martin Lane**

Donor: Sr. Joann Kuebrich, CHM

### **Marycrest Reunion**

Donor: Jennifer Schreier

### **Sr. Irene Munoz, CHM**

Donor: Dr. Peter

and Mary Reiter

### **Margaret Peters**

Donor: Michael

and Loretta Peters

### **Joan Marie Resnick**

Donor: Mary Boivin

### **Sr. Joan Marie Schuster, CHM**

Donor: Glenn and

Bernadine Leach

### **Sr. Marian Smith, CHM**

Donors: Neil and Mary Earl

Glenn and Bernadine Leach

**CHM appreciates all donations we receive throughout the year.**

For those who prefer to make an **online donation**, we have added a **QR code**. Scan to go directly to **CHM's secure donation page**.





820 W. Central Park Avenue  
Davenport, Iowa 52804  
chmiowa.org

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 2  
Rock Island, IL



*The Statue of Our Lady of the Prairie greets guests at our retreat center, OLPR, near Wheatland, Iowa.*