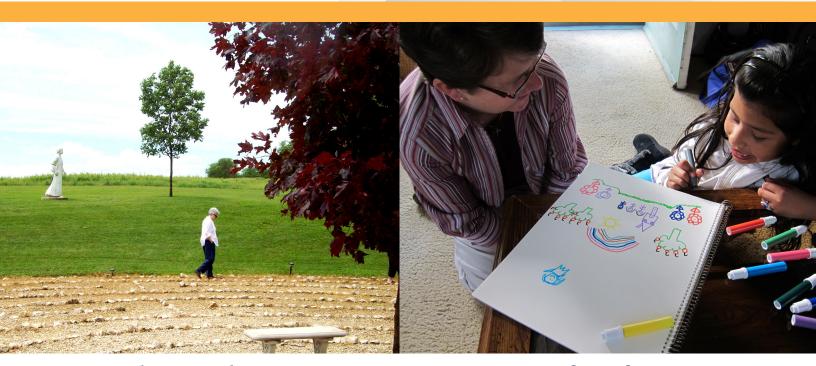




Inspired by God. Serving you.

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



Search and Service as a Way of Life

Why change a logo the Sisters of the Humility of Mary have used for several years? Conversations among CHM community members and associates have expressed awareness that times have changed and so have we. Yet we recognize that our basic values remain and that we continue to live our commitment as vowed religious in a way that is faithful to the founders' vision. Nonetheless, the words and symbols of a passing era

The Search dimension of our commitment is intimately connected to our decision to be faithful followers of Jesus.

may not relate so effectively to persons around us today.

The need to update many CHM publications was the final nudge causing us to address this matter. Working closely with Lisa Martin, CHM Communications Director, the president and Cabinet took the advice of the Communications Advisory Committee to engage MindFire Communications to lead the process. A survey was prepared and taken by CHM members, associates and staff as well as by other persons more removed from the community.

The survey surfaced some aspects of our own self-understanding that were also identified by the publics who took the survey. Among those qualities were the following: actively helping those in need, caring for Earth, God-inspired, and being compassionate. If we explore the meanings behind these words and phrases, I believe we will be better able to communicate to others what we are about as Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

People can easily see what we do, persons to whom we relate, and our areas of ministry. For sisters, these aspects convey much about the *Service* dimension of our vowed commitment. What is more challenging to communicate is the "why we do it." What is it that motivates the outward behaviors that people see? The *Search*

continued on page 2

Photos: Spiritual search on the labyrinth at Our Lady of the Prarie Retreat. Sr. Lynn Mousel serves in Montana as a child and adolescent psychiatrist.

Spring 2013 Volume 11 Issue 1

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 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.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:8)

Congregation of the Humility of Mary

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Editorial Staff:

Lisa Martin, Communications Director Karen Brooke, Development Director

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CHM staff anniversaries are always noted with a celebration at the Humility of Mary Center. From left: CHM Vice President Greta Fitzgerald, Kelly Bell (25 years), Dorothy Hudson (20 years), Sr. Ramona Kaalberg (10 years), CHM President Johanna Rickl.

continued from page 1

dimension of our commitment is intimately connected to our decision to be faithful followers of Jesus. It is God's love we have experienced, God's call we have heard and God's invitation to follow Jesus in religious life that have prompted a "yes" from us. Our work to make the world a better place comes from our relationship to this God who is love.

Our actions arise or flow out of a desire to live in harmony with God's will, as Jesus did. His words and actions expressed a love and care of the "least ones," the vulnerable, the despised, the suffering, and the forgotten. We strive to convey God's love to others in gratitude for the love we have received. We seek to discover the face of God in those around us. We try to follow the mandate to "love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34-35)

And so, in an effort to make our mission more understandable and our community more recognizable to others, we adopted the new logo and tagline that you have begun to see on our recent communications. This change has no meaning unless it helps to communicate who we are and the values we have chosen to lift up and support —we hope we have accomplished that.

Sister Johanna Rickl CHM President



Giving Thanks to HMSI



Tello, my name is Gwendolyn Ford, and I'd like to take a few moments to let you know how thankful and appreciative I am to the fine and caring people of Humility of Mary Shelter and their Permanent Housing Program. I came to HMSI along with my fiancé, Garcia Horace, in February 2009. We were cross-country truck drivers whose company had abandoned us after our last delivery of a semitruck in Bettendorf, IA. The company refused to answer our phone callsthus leaving us broke and stranded (and did I mention that I was sick?), in a place that we knew nothing about, and had no friends or family here. So we called HMSI to see if they had any room for (two) more and were cheerfully told to come on over; our relationship started from that point. After our first day there, we got busy trying to gather as much information as we could about the services, doctors/ clinics and whatever else we thought was available to us, since we now had to start over. Our service coordinators were Peggy

and Cathy, and the rest of the staff (their REAL titles = ANGELS).

After being diagnosed on 2/25/2009 with Stage 4 Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (and earlier that afternoon being told that we had been granted an apartment) I hunkered down for what would be the fight of/for my life. With chemo treatments too numerous to count, a fantastic group of praying doctors and nurses, case workers, and our ever faithful crew at HMSI, we can't find enough words to say how thankful we are to all of you. WE thank you for your thoughts and constant prayers, and especially allowing us to be now official residents at/in your program for the last 2 1/2 years.

> Sincerely, G. Ford

oming out of the ⊿hospital, June 21st, I felt there was no hope for me. I was homeless, unemployed and destitute. This was, in my 58 years, my first experience this far down the proverbial hole. Outside of my children and my sister, who could not reasonably help me, I couldn't imagine -nor could I find-anyone who would really care. I was wrong. The Humility of Mary Shelter, as a whole, cares. From my initial intake with Amber, through meetings with my original coordinator, Mandy, interaction with Jason and Cindi, contact with Sister Nancy and all the staff, I've never felt deserted or alone. It has been said, "The Lord helps those who help themselves." HMSI has been the best catalyst to help me help myself. I have a home, employment, and I have discovered a



new calling in the process. Words truly cannot express my gratitude to everyone involved in the operation of HMSI. Humility of Mary Shelter will always have my unconditional support.

Maggie Stewart Grant Emergency Shelter Participant

HMSI Mission: Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. provides emergency shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing programs that offer opportunities for men and women experiencing homelessness to become emotionally, mentally and physically more stable.

HMSI History: The Congregation of the Humility of Mary founded Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. in 1990.

Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. (HMHI) is a non-profit organization that operates a transitional and permanent supportive housing program for single-parent families experiencing homelessness, offering opportunities for growth and development that could result in self-sufficient living.

In 2008, HMHI responded to the need to reopen the local homeless shelter. After indepth dialogue, community input and planning, the Congregation of the Humility of Mary gave its approval and Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. was incorporated.

The community's overwhelming support played a vital role in the development of Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. and it is this support that will ensure the continuation of shelter services to the homeless men and women in the Quad City area well into the future.

For God so Loved the Cosmos

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

ope Benedict XVI has made being green a central part of his teachings and policy-making. Just months after being elected pope, Benedict stated in his first homily as pontiff that "the earth's treasures have been made to serve the powers of exploitation and destruction" and called on Catholics to be better stewards of God's creation. Theologian Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, in an article, "For God So Loved the Cosmos," reflects on a faith response to troubling Earth issues like climate change, pollution and extinction of species. She says, "One religious response has been to focus on the doctrine of creation. Since the whole world was created by God, who saw it was "very good" (Gen. 1:31), nature-sky, sea, land, and the creatures that dwell there—has great value in God's eyes. Human beings, created in the divine image and likeness, are part of this community of life. We are put in the garden to till and care for it (Gen. 2:15), not destroy it."

In Our Lady of the Prairie's mission statement we commit to "hospitality and service in a sacred space of peace and beauty that promotes respect for all creation in the tradition of the Sisters of Humility." During her tenure as director at The Prairie, Sister Joann Kuebrich promoted respect by planting trees, establishing prairie grasses

and fire trails, developing the erosion control project and creating beauty around the pond to enhance the natural beauty of The Prairie.

During the past year, we have worked with Boy Scout Troop #92 from DeWitt, IA, to expand the ways in which we promote respect for this sacred space. Three projects are nearing completion:

- Building and setting seven well-crafted wood benches on the 2.5 mile nature trail, a project managed by Scout Andrew Darland.
- Clearing the brush along the outer perimeter of the nature trails, managed by Scout Theo Papuga—20 truckloads of branches were removed.

We are put in the garden to till and care for it (Gen. 2:15), not destroy it.

Placing stone markers that tell the Universe Story along the nature trails, a project managed by Scout Matthew Townsley. The 22 stone markers tell creation's story taken from the book of Genesis and expanded with the insights of science. We now know that creation has taken 13.7 billion years to bring us to today.

It has been a privilege to work with these young men and their families to extend the mission of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary by promoting respect for all creation. We are eager to have these projects completed in April so our guests will have more opportunities to be inspired by God's gifts and Earth's fecundity.









Friendships and Family: A CHM Legacy

by Karen Brooke, CHM Development Director

Rathleen Dooley is a Magnificat Society member. Her strong commitment to the Congregation of the Humility of Mary is in honor of her aunt, Sister Marie Joseph Romano, her cousins Sisters JoAnne and Cathy Talarico, and in thanksgiving for her family and the positive impact the CHM community has had on her life.

Born in Des Moines on New Year's Eve 1944, Kathy was one of four children born to John "Bill" and Alice Dooley. Her infancy was spent in Des Moines.

Her strong commitment to the congregation is in thanksgiving for her family and the positive impact the CHM community has had on her life.

Her father was in the military, stationed in the South Pacific during World War II. When her mother took ill in 1945, it became necessary to place Kathy and her older sister, Mary, in the Christ Child Home in Des Moines for about 6 months. Many Sisters of Humility helped staff the Christ Child Home at that time. Soon after, her father was released from the military and he relocated his family to Phoenix, AZ, where the climate was better for her mother's health.

Kathy's mother died when Kathy was in high school. It was her mother's wish that all the children attend college. Kathy always wanted to be a nurse, like her mother, so she began her studies at Phoenix Junior College while researching four-year institutions. It was her Aunt Frances, another of her mother's sisters and also a Navy nurse during WWII, who suggested Marycrest College. With the small college fund set aside for her by Aunt Frances, Kathy applied and was accepted into the nursing program. She recalls, "I have many fond memories of Marycrest and made friendships that have lasted through the years. I lived in an off-campus house the first year and Sister Gretchen McKean was our wonderful 'house mother.' During our second year and OB rotation, I can still remember the wonderful aroma of Sister Mary Brigid Condon's cinnamon rolls as we studied in the gathering room at Mercy Hospital."

She spent three years at Marycrest, graduating in 1967. During the summers, Kathy worked at Broadlawns Hospital in Des Moines and lived with her Aunt Rosie (Sisters JoAnne and Cathy's mother). She and her Marycrest roommate, Marilyn Merz (Lowe), signed up with the Army Nurse Corps prior to



A CHM Magnificat Society Member, Kathleen Dooley's "humility" roots run deep

graduation. After passing their State Nursing Boards in the fall 1967, they were called to active military duty. For the next three years Kathy and Marilyn were stationed together at Madigan General Hospital in Tacoma, WA, and the 106th General Hospital in Yokohama, Japan. Kathy finished her military commitment and following a brief time in Florida, settled in San Francisco and found employment at the VA Medical Center where she worked until her retirement in January 2000. Since 2002, Kathy has worked as a per diem RN in the General Clinical Research Center at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center and loves her work. In her "spare time" she is a returning president of the

San Francisco Rose Society, travels to Phoenix frequently to visit and help care for her father's widow, sponsors three children through World Vision, and enjoys world travel, especially river tours in Europe with a childhood friend.

Several years ago, Kathy visited the Midwest. She spent a few days at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat and visited the Marycrest campus and the Humility of Mary Center. Kathy remarks, "It was a delightful experience staying at The Prairie, as well as renewing my friendship with Sister Gretchen and acquaintance with Sister Ana María and remembering my student nursing days at Marycrest and Mercy Hospital. I'm so grateful for my education and the many friends I made."

Kathy's "humility" roots run deep. We are grateful to her and so many friends whose commitment and vision will ensure the continuation of the CHM ministries and values.

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The creativity of Sr. Delphine Vasquez is a great help to residents and staff at the Humility of Mary Center.

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Sr. Mary Bea Snyder, Coordinator of Sister Services at the Humility of Mary Center, adjusts the official "90th Birthday" hat on the head of Sr. Ursula Keough.

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This spring issue of *The Flame* contains a listing of all friends who have made contributions to the Congregation of the Humility of Mary from January 1 through December 31, 2012. 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.

I thank God always, when I remember you in my prayers.
Philemon 1: 4

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CHM Magnificat Society

Chartered in 1999 by the Sisters of Humility, the CHM Magnificat Society was established to identify and honor those donors whose commitment, vision and concern for the future of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary is demonstrated by their planned giving support.

Responding to the needs of the Church in the modern world, the Sisters of Humility serve in ministries that include support for the homeless and underserved (especially Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. and Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc.), immigration and healthcare advocacy, education, pastoral care in parishes, Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat, care of Earth and prayer. Planned gifts ensure that these vital ministries will continue.

Membership in the 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.

Benefits of Making a Planned Gift

- + Provide a lasting tribute that offers ongoing support for the Sisters of Humility.
- → Make a gift today without spending current income or retirement resources.
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- Become a partner in ministry with the Sisters of Humility.
- + Receive a glass etching of the Magnificat fresco from the Ottumwa Heights Chapel as a tangible token of appreciation for support.
- + Be remembered in the prayers of the Sisters of Humility during Masses in the Magnificat Chapel at the Humility of Mary Center.

For information contact: Karen Brooke, CHM Development Director 563-336-8401 kbrooke@chmiowa.org Susan Alden **Eleanor Anstev** Mrs. Lois Barrett Donna Beatty Justin Beeson Mrs. Maddy Beran Fr. Richard Bevenour Elaine Briel Mildred Carlson Lenore F. Clark Renee Cooley Mary Alice Daly Mrs. Regina Denman Barbara Detaeye-Dvorak Roberta & Donna Dobbels Kathleen Dooley Linda Frear Eli Sue Foley **Eunice Fong** Mary E. Gauthier Raymond P. German Rev. Robert Harness Wilma Hauser Dr. Lyle Hellyer Msgr. Francis Henricksen Paul & Mary Hittner Richard & Iona Inman Marilyn Kelley Shiela Kielly William and Betty Klodt

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Photo: Sue Witte, a founding member of the Magnificat Society, enjoys attending many CHM functions including those at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat where she sometimes volunteers in the kitchen.



And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

-Colossians 3:15



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CHM Associate Program

A ssociates of the Humility community are women and men, young and old, married or single who carry the CHM spirit into their personal and professional lives and who enrich the community through their own gifts and talents. Some are former vowed members; others come as colleagues in ministry, former students, relatives of members or those discerning future vowed commitment. Associates are not vowed but their relationship to the CHM community is rooted in bonds of friendship, service, prayer and mutual support.

Associates participate actively in the life of the Congregation, from committee work and service projects to prayer and community gatherings. For more information, contact Patricia Knopick, CHM Associate Program Coordinator, 563-324-4594 or pkredsci@gmail.com.

We Welcome our newest CHM Associates Diana Ortega, Linda Hennes and Lisa Hixon







May They Rest in Peace



Mary Ott, CHM Associate July 12, 1927 - December 25, 2012



Catherine (Kay) Glancy, CHM Associate August 21, 1926 - December 29, 2012

