the FLAME



Inspired by God. Serving you.

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



A God Inspired Job

by Lisa Martin, CHM Communications Director

Inspired by God. Serving You. In 2012 this CHM tagline was created from powerful research about the Congregation of the Humility of Mary. The research provided true insights from sisters, associates and staff, as well as those outside the congregation including vendors and donors.

Recently the CHM administrative staff had annual reviews. Prior to our appointments with the CHM President, we were given a worksheet asking us to focus on the CHM Mission statement which reads:

"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."

We were asked to concentrate on the Four CHM Pillars which were also a result of the research. They are:

- Actively Helping Those in Need
- Caring for Earth
- Being Compassionate
- Being God-inspired

As we reflected on our work with the CHMs and how we carried out our responsibilities we were to select one bolded item from the Mission Statement OR one of the Four Pillars of CHM that is personally meaningful, and to step back and consider the question: How does this relate to my work during the past year?

Kelly Bell has been the CHM administrative assistant for the past 30 years and said, "I find that working with the sisters on a regular basis and communicating with the Humility of Mary Housing and Humility of Mary Shelter boards, I connect with the pillar of 'actively helping those in need' and the phrase, '...when we see something that needs doing, we do it."

Bill Ganoe, who has been the CHM finance director for 7 years, responded with, "Every year I see the sisters willing to invest in technology that

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Photo: In addition to administration, Humility of Mary Center employs outstanding kitchen, maintenance, music, reception and supportive living staff.

Spring 2016 Volume 13 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.

We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to do the good things God created us to do from the beginning. -Ephesians 2:10

Congregation of the Humility of Mary

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Send change of address to address above.



Reuniting at Humility of Mary Center in Davenport: Sally Smith, Sr. Marty Conrad, Sr. Johanna Rickl, Sr. Donna Schmitt, Carol Corrigan and Bonnie Theisen. These ladies met when the sisters pictured lived in Des Moines and formed a scripture reflection group.

Dear Friends,

May all of you delight in a joyful and blessed Easter season! Our celebration of the Risen Jesus is certainly a reminder of the solid ground on which we base our faith. In a world torn by violence in word and deed, it is reassuring that a loving God guides us through such challenges.

This issue of "the Flame" offers other reasons to move into the unknown future with joy and hope. We Sisters of the Humility of Mary are truly blessed by all of you, our friends and supporters. The ministries we provide are only possible because you partner with us in so many ways. We thank you for your generosity.

The cover article allows a peek into the world of our wonderful staff members. I hope you can recognize, as we do, the gifts offered in a great spirit of solidarity and compassion. These people are our "first line" of partners in mission. They bring their insights, talents and commitment to work each day and walk with CHMs as together we serve our neighbors far and near.

Other partners in mission are the members of advisory committees for the Congregation and Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat, the Boards of Humility of Mary Housing and Humility of Mary Shelter and the fine staff members and volunteers who work in these sponsored ministries. Their willingness to dedicate time and energy to the cause of "doing unto others" what we want for ourselves, is what helps us make a better world.

Every respectful word, every kind action, every financial or in-kind contribution, regardless of how small, creates an ever-growing ripple of positive energy. In this way we support each other as we work to strengthen the community of love and care that God calls forth in all of us.

With gratitude and joyful hope,

Sister Johanna Rickl CHM President



-Job continued from page 1

reduces energy use, such as L.E.D. and higher efficiency fluorescent lights throughout Humility Mary Center. Also, Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat is a great example of caring for a relatively small patch of earth, by keeping much of the property in native prairie grass and timber.

"There's a financial cost, particularly upfront, to reducing our carbon footprint, or to forego income from growing cash crops, but I see the benefits slowly building over the years in reduced energy consumption and soil that not only is able to rest, but be a haven to wildlife.

"This carries over to my personal life where my house is 90+ percent L.E.D. lighted, warmed and cooled by very high efficiency furnace and air conditioner, plus an all-electric car parked in my garage."

Joyce Bieber has been a member of the CHM administrative staff for less than a year. She said, "The pillar that I initially feel most connected to in my position as development director is 'Actively helping those in need.' My responsibilities revolve around securing donations so that the CHM community may further its mission by serving the poor and powerless. I am sure as I have opportunities to get to know the sisters and their works, I will identify connections to each of the pillars."

For me, as communications director, I was unable to pick just one. Recently, in one day, I worked on the Care for our Common Home billboard campaign, posted a story about CHM Works of Mercy in the CHM blog, "A Nun's Pocket", and promoted a spiritual retreat at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat. The CHM mission and pillars are what I turn to for inspiration with every project. For over 12 years it's been a daily thing as I work to raise awareness of who the sisters are and how they serve people.

In addition to administration, Humility of Mary Center employs outstanding kitchen, maintenance, reception, music and nursing staff. Working at the Humility of Mary Center we are available to the sisters not only as employees but as friends. What we do is more than just a job. We are a part of the CHM community, supporting their mission and the four pillars. To me, it is truly God Inspired.

Gifts From the Heart



Sr. Jeanie Hagedorn, Des Moines City Councilman, Bill Gray, Sr. Elaine Hagedorn and Roger Routh attended the "Care for Our Common Home" billboard blessing in Des Moines. Roger donated his time and talent to create a video of the event - which can be found on Youtube. Go to chmiowa.org.



An anonymous donor provided for a video projection system in the Magnificat Chapel at Humility of Mary Center.



Sr. Mary Ann Vogel was featured in the "Pray it Forward" video during National Catholic Sisters Week. The social media prayer campaign was funded by the Conrad Hilton Foundation and can be found on Youtube.

May You Continue to Inspire Us

by Kathleen Storms, SSND, Director, The Prairie Retreat

Since the inception of Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat, individuals have found a connection with The Prairie. Some found a special relationship and decided to "pay it forward" by dedicating time and energy to continuing the spiritual energy and legacy of The Prairie. These volunteers. board and committee members, Sisters of the Humility of Mary, and those participating in and bringing others to be part of retreats, make up a supportive presence to the ministry of The Prairie.

Family members have honored many of these loved ones by dedicating the Labyrinth, Gazebo, and "Joseph the Journeyer" statue, to name a few. Marycrest alumnae have placed a statue of Mary near the pond to remember alumnae and the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

Whatever the inspiration (the prairie, the river, the pond, the plentiful birds and deer, the whispers of wind, the deep silence in the labyrinth and other places of prayer), families and friends have remembered the commitment of their loved ones.

About a year ago we began planning for a "Prairie Memorial Garden" which would help us remember these special people. The garden will consist of a



2016 OLPR Advisory Committee: front row l-r: Joy Flaherty, Connie Mutel, Rosie Restelli, CHM, Sandy Miller, Barb Keiper, Linda Molyneaux, Kathleen Tomlonovic, CHM. Backrow l-r: Kelvin Sidney, Todd Seifert, Tim Lane, Gary Lane, Brian Nauman, Ken Colwell.

centering point of a small but growing native burr oak tree. Spiraling out from the tree will be stones engraved with the names and dates of the lives of those with a special connection to this holy place. Hansen Monuments of DeWitt will engrave the stones for us.

The Burr Oak Tree represents longevity of life. It is a slow growing, native Iowa tree with deep roots and expansive branches. The spiral is symbolic of change and growth. Spirals are experienced in all of life. The spiral often symbolizes the presence of the divine. The spiral also allows us to add a progressive number of



stones over years to come. Sometime this spring we will be placing our first six stones. These are the initial individuals to be remembered:

Sr. Anita Fosdick, CHM Honored by her family.

Sr. Michelle Schiffgens, CHM Honored by Patricia Kilgore

Jane Grahlmann (Served on OLPR Advisory Committee and attended many events.) Honored by family and friends who knew of her love for The Prairie

Lewis Randolph
(Served as a faithful
volunteer for 14 years during
the early days with Father
Vincent Fabula.) Honored by
his children.

Glenn Blackburn and Helen Blackburn Parents of Joan Meierotto, a donor who desires that we hold sacred the land in honor of her farmer parents. Mary Jane Biehl Honored by her daughter, Linda Molyneaux, current OLPR Advisory Committee member.

"May you continue to inspire us:

To enter each day with a generous heart.

To serve the call of courage and love

Until we see your beautiful face again."

TO BLESS THE SPACE BETWEEN US John O'Donohue

If you have a connection to Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat and would like to place an engraved stone in the memorial garden, please contact Sister Kathleen Storms, SSND, Director at OLPR. Guidelines for this memorial gift will be shared and discussed with you.



First Impressions

by Joyce Bieber, CHM Development Director

After joining the Congregation of the Humility of Mary as development director in November, two things were immediately evident: 1) Sisters of the Humility of Mary are incredible women; and 2) there are many wonderful people who care about and support the sisters and the ministries of the community.

Over the past couple months, as time has permitted, I have visited with many of the CHMs. I am eager to learn their stories and discover how each sister has lived her faith.

It is apparent already that collectively the sisters have impacted countless lives and inspired many to live more spiritually.

While I have not yet had the opportunity to get to know every sister personally, it seems that each sister I talk to has a story that is more interesting than the last. Yet they are so humble. It's an amazing opportunity to get to work with such intelligent and accomplished women. I will learn a lot from them.

I have also been touched by the notes and stories shared by the donors. Starting this position just before the Christmas season was great timing because many people remember the sisters with cards and donations during the holiday season. It was heartwarming. I enjoyed reading the memories shared in the cards and notes. It is already apparent that collectively the sisters have impacted countless lives and inspired many to live more spiritually.

As development director I am responsible for all fundraising and planned giving for the community. It is fitting that the first issue of "the Flame" that I have the opportunity to work on is the donor issue. As I began this job, the names on the list were all new to me; however, I already feel as though I know some of you. I hope to get to know all the people who support the sisters not only financially but with time and talent as well. The Sisters are very appreciative of every gift and every supporter who helps further the important ministries of the community and provides care and comfort for the retired sisters.

I am excited about and grateful for this opportunity. If you get a chance, please send me an email or call me to share your experiences with the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. I look forward to hearing from you!



Joyce Bieber

The Congregation of the Humility of Mary (CHM) announces that Joyce Bieber has been named CHM Development Director. Ms. Bieber will be responsible for overseeing all fundraising and planned giving for the religious community.

CHM President, Sister Johanna Rickl stated, "We welcome Joyce Bieber to our staff and know that as we plan for the future, her education and experience will strengthen our organization. Joyce's enthusiasm to be a part of our mission of caring for the poor, the powerless and earth itself is a blessing to us and we look forward to her fresh insights."

Ms. Bieber has held positions in hospital marketing, economic development and most recently as the executive director of the Centerville, Iowa, Chamber of Commerce for the past 17 years. She said, "I am pleased to be a part of an organization with such a compelling history of service. I am grateful for the opportunity to assist the sisters in continuing their ministries."

Save the Date 7th Annual Spirit of the Prairie Sunday, August 21, 2016 3-6 pm

A spirit-filled afternoon at

Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat

- locally produced food, wines, and beer
- music, art auction and tours inside and out
 - call 563-336-8414

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Caring for our common home, Sister Cathleen Real delivered copies of Pope Francis' Encyclical "Laudato Si" - to local legislators' offices.

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To make a donation contact Joyce Bieber, Development Director, Congregation of the Humility of Mary, 820 West Central Park Avenue, Davenport, IA 52804. Phone 563-336-8401 or email jbieber@chmiowa.org.

Your contributions help support our sponsored ministries.





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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, prayer and care of Earth. Planned gifts ensure that these vital ministries will continue.

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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.

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- + Provide a lasting tribute that offers ongoing support for the Sisters of Humility.
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For information contact: Joyce Bieber, CHM Development Director 563-336-8401 jbieber@chmiowa.org Magnificat Society member Msgr. Francis Henricksen volunteers in the kitchen with Sr. Joann Kuebrich during the annual Spirit of the Prairie fundraiser.





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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, 2015. 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

Shiela Kielly



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To receive the latest CHM news and events please send your e-mail address to lmartin@chmiowa.org

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

Resting in Heavenly Peace



Sr. Corrine Foley June 29, 1920 -November 6, 2015



Sr. Carolyn Walters June 21, 1919 -November 10, 2015



Sr. Ursula Keough October 4, 1922 -February 28, 2016



CHM Associate Patti Norris April 1, 1946 -March 3, 2016



Sr. Darlene Schwarte September 15, 1937 -March 17, 2016

