



## CHMs Offer Matching Grant to Shelter Homeless

Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. (HMSI) was founded in 2008 by the Congregation of the Humility of Mary (CHM) and since then has effectively served thousands of people. It is an emergency shelter located in Davenport which provides temporary housing and services that offer the opportunity for men and women experiencing homelessness to become emotionally, mentally and physically more stable.

To encourage new and/or increased donations from the Quad City community to support and ensure the continued operation of HMSI, the CHM sisters have established a goal of raising \$250,000 by April 30, 2014. As a challenge and inspiration, the sisters will match dollar for dollar the first \$100,000 raised.

To date, individuals and businesses have been very generous in their

support of the Shelter and Quad City area homeless by contributing \$40,000 in the first two months. CHM president, Sister Johanna Rickl says, "We are deeply grateful for this initial outpouring of support in such a brief period of time, and are confident that the community will continue to help us reach our goal of raising \$250,000. 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."

Funding is always a challenge for human service agencies within our community, particularly those serving the homeless. Often the people in most need of services are unable to pay for what they receive. When HMSI was founded, start-up funds were generously contributed by the community. From the outset it was understood that HMSI would need community support to sustain services.

HMSI is providing services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, meeting important essential community needs, and the doors must stay open," was the consensus of those who gathered 4 1/2 years ago to discuss the future and long-term plans for the Shelter. That goal has been and must continue to be met.

Contributions to HMSI can be indicated on the enclosed envelope. On-line donations can be made by visiting the shelter website at [www.humilityofmaryshelter.com](http://www.humilityofmaryshelter.com)

*Photo: A press conference was held in front of the Humility of Mary Shelter building on April 3, 2013, announcing the matching grant. From l-r: Sister Johanna Rickl, CHM president, HMSI participant Alan Peterman, Cindi Gramenz, HMSI program director, Sister Mary Ann Vogel, CHM, HMSI finance director, Julie Bockenstedt, HMSI co-director and Sandy Walters, HMSI co-director.*

## Summer 2013 Volume 11 Issue 2

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.

*"The ruler will answer them, 'The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.'"*  
- Matthew 25:40

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*During the CHM Assembly weekend the sisters presented the CHM Peace & Justice Award to Rosa Mendoza, executive director of the Diversity Service Center of Iowa in Muscatine. l-r: Sr. Greta Fitzgerald, Rosa Mendoza and Sr. Johanna Rickl.*

Dear Friends,

This issue of *The Flame* brings the flavor of our recent community gathering, the annual CHM General Assembly, that featured Associates Day, a Memorial Celebration of deceased sisters and associates, the presentation of our CHM Peace and Justice Award, celebration of Jubilees and time to reflect on our community's forward movement guided by the Holy Spirit.

As we experience or view the realities around us—from very personal issues such as losses in our families, to world events such as continuing conflicts in many countries—we can become quite discouraged. However, a look at the longer arch of history offers proof that our God walks with us, drawing us toward a new and brighter future.

Sister Helen Garvey, BVM, offered an uplifting keynote presentation that walked us through the changes in our lives that came with the unfolding riches of the Second Vatican Council. The committee planning our 2014 celebration of the CHMs' 150 years of ministry in the USA led us, with an enjoyable mini-drama, through the joys and struggles of the community as it journeyed from Pennsylvania to Missouri, to Iowa, to Montana and back to Iowa.

This longer view grounds us with trust in God's loving guidance and the ongoing invitation to do our part here and now to make the world a better place. The cover story about support for Humility of Mary Shelter is but one example of how we try to do that.

Thank you for walking with us as we continue to open ourselves to the future that is emerging!

Sister Johanna Rickl  
CHM President

## Full Circle

by Karen Brooke, CHM Development Director

Kathleen Collins would say she has come full circle! As a CHM associate and full time mental health therapist at Humility of Mary Shelter, her life and career has taken many divergent paths, all contributing and guiding to the place where she is today. Kathleen grew up in Rock Island, IL. Her mother died when she was 2 1/2, so she and her older sister Mim (Mary Ann) were raised by their beloved father. The girls attended a Catholic school, the Villa de Chantal, governed by Sisters of the Visitation. Kathleen was valedictorian, and went on to attend Barat College of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, IL. She continued her studies at the Universite de Grenoble, in France and graduated with a BA in English and French from St. Ambrose University. Her secondary education degree came from Augustana College, and her MA in counseling from Western Illinois University. Education for Kathleen has been and continues to be a lifelong, diverse and enriching journey. Alternative courses of study have been a three-year program with Michael Harner's Foundation for Shamanic Studies, and a four-year program with Lynn Andrew's School of the Sacred Arts. Both programs are focused on healing, with an emphasis on nature, the need for harmony and eliminating emotional toxic presence from our lives.

When she was 30 she entered the Peace Corps as an "older volunteer." She traveled to Niger, West Africa, as a nutritionist. In her words, "we learned to be sacred witnesses to people, to remove judgment and accept and value everyone in the context of their culture and experience."

A career as a pharmaceutical representative (first woman in the Quad Cities) prompted her to take classes in pre-medicine at Augustana, to better understand her products. Kathleen was one of the first Pathway Hospice volunteers and continues to volunteer for the Red Cross as a disaster mental health specialist. She provides essential de-briefing for people experiencing personal loss from disaster events, and for volunteers returning from disaster assistance. In addition to her full time work at the Shelter, she has a private counseling practice and presents workshops on spirituality and healing.

Kathleen began her contract position with Humility of Mary Shelter and the Sisters of Humility in May 2009, a few months after the Shelter opened in the fall of 2008. In her position as a therapist she interacts with all Shelter program coordinators and clients. Most individuals upon coming to the shelter are assessed and placed in one of the six programs. Each program has its own client base and connects people with services and resources within the community for their individual needs and support. The needs are many—medical, legal, substance abuse, mental health issues, family problems, housing, employment and more. Kathleen's door is always open and her office is a warm and welcoming spot, with a steady flow of people needing an ear to listen and a caring voice.

Sr. Nancy Schwieters introduced Kathleen to the Sisters of Humility soon after she started working at HMSI. She often joined Sr. Nancy for lunch at the Humility of Mary Center,



*Kathleen Collins (r) is a therapist at the Humility of Mary Shelter in Davenport where she counsels program participants like Deanna Escoto.*

and was also introduced to CHM associates. Kathleen didn't know what an associate was; it sounded interesting and she had great respect for the CHM mission. The sisters at the Villa had been her "mother," and helped raise her. She had always been comfortable in their presence so becoming a CHM associate seemed the most natural thing in the world. Kathleen says, "being connected to the CHMs sparks that formative part of my background; the nuns at the Villa were instrumental in making me who I am today. And since the deaths of my father and sister, the CHMs have become my 'family.'" Kathleen serves with sisters and staff on the "Care of Earth" and Communications committees, and has recently made a planned giving commitment to the CHM community.

Thank you, Kathleen, for coming "full circle" and sharing your compassion, enthusiasm and gifts with our CHM and Quad City communities.



## Sisters & Associates Assemble

More than 100 sisters and associates attended the Annual CHM General Assembly, held June 27-30, at the St. Ambrose University Rogalski Center, Davenport. It was an engaging weekend of meetings and special events for participants—many traveling great distances to attend.

The CHM General Assembly is a time for community business, sharing among members, and celebration. This year's theme was "Growing in the Spirit of Vatican II" and featured key note speaker, Sister Helen Garvey, BVM.

Special events during the weekend included a welcoming rite for two new CHM Associates, a Peace and Justice award ceremony, a memorial service for sisters and associates who died since the Assembly last year and a Jubilee Mass celebrated at Christ the King Chapel recognizing the anniversaries of six sisters.



Each CHM associate has a Contact Sister who keeps in regular touch and acts as a personal host at CHM functions. Two new associates were honored at the CHM welcoming rite. They are pictured here with their contact sisters. (l-r): Associate Lisa Hixon, Sr. Pat Heidenry, Associate Diana Ortega and Sr. Judith Carrara.



Sr. Marie Vittetoe offers table remarks during a future planning session during the CHM Annual Assembly.



CHM associate Evalee Mickey and Sr. Elaine Hagedorn reconnected at the welcoming rite.



Srs. Dolores Schuh and Joann Kuebrich are happy greeters checking in assembly participants in the heritage area of the Humility of Mary Center.



Srs. Ramona Kaalberg and Irene Muñoz among the 100 Sisters and associates who gathered for the CHM Annual Assembly.

## Jubilee 2013

The Congregation of the Humility of Mary (CHM) celebrated the Jubilees of six vowed sisters at a special Mass of celebration at Christ the King Chapel, St. Ambrose University Campus in Davenport, Iowa, on Sunday, June 30 at 2:00 pm. Rev. Msgr. Francis Henricksen was the principal celebrant at the liturgy honoring the following Jubilarians:



Sr. Marcia Costello



Srs. Marian Smith and Charlene Olear enjoy the Jubilee reception at the Rogalski Center.

**75 years**  
Sister Corrine Foley  
Sister Marie Ven Horst ( M. Helene)

**70 Years**  
Sister Marita Bartholome  
Sister Charlene Olear

**60 years**  
Sister Marcia Costello

**50 years**  
Sister Elizabeth Thoman



Sr. Marita Bartholome



Sr. Marie Ven Horst is assisted by Sr. Catherine Linnenkamp in preparation for the Mass.



Sr. Elizabeth Thoman



Srs. Kathryn O'Meara and Janice McCann await the Jubilee celebration Mass.



Sr. Donna Donovan helps with Sr. Corrine Foley's corsage prior to the celebration Mass.



Jubilee musicians: Sr. Kathleen Hanley on piano, CHM associate Mary Martin Lane on flute, Sr. Kathleen Storms, SSND, and Sr. Mary Ellen Freeman - vocals.

## Giving Voice

by Sister Lynn Mousel, CHM



The youngest member of the Sisters of Humility, Sr. Lynn Mousel (l) with Shannon Fox, SSJ-TOSF (Sisters of St. Joseph Third Order of St. Francis).

I am grateful for the opportunity to share my experiences at the Giving Voice national gathering in Belmont, California July 5-8, 2013. Giving Voice is an organization for Catholic sisters under the age of 50. As the website describes, it is a peer-led organization that creates spaces for younger women religious to give voice to their hopes, dreams and challenges in religious life. Involvement in this organization has greatly enriched my experience of religious life and gives me hope for the future.

About 75 of us, from many different congregations of women religious, gathered at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont. Our theme for the weekend was mission and ministry in the 21st century. Sr. Yolanda Tarango, CCVI, joined us to share her wisdom and reflections on this topic.

Each of our congregations was founded with a particular spirit, to meet particular needs of the time. Sr. Yolanda invited us to reflect on how this same spirit is expressed in

different ways as our times change. In the case of the Sisters of Humility, we have gone from caring for orphans and teaching the children of immigrants in our early history to our ministries of retreats, housing and shelter today. Some of us, including myself, currently work with those with mental health needs. The CHM mission statement speaks to how we "strive to be attentive to the call of the spirit in the signs of our times." Sr. Yolanda reminded us not to lose sight of the fact that the world is suffering and needs a response.

*"We have no doubt religious life will continue; we are full of passion and energy, but we don't know exactly what it will be like."*

A phrase that echoed throughout the weekend, gifted to us by Sr. Leslie Keener, CDP, was "we are women of the cross and women of the resurrection." I think of us as being women of the cross in a couple of different ways. One is that we stand with those on the margins of society and those in need. That is how we live out the Gospel, and how we express our love for God. We are also women of the cross as younger women religious in uncertain times for religious life. We have no doubt religious life will continue; we are full of passion and energy, but we

don't know exactly what it will be like. We are in a transition time. We are women of the resurrection because we remain women of hope and share that hope with others.

There were several hints of the future that I experienced at the gathering. It was very multicultural, which I found exciting and enriching. There were many Spanish-speaking sisters and we used translators and translating equipment to communicate with one another in our native languages. This diversity was a beautiful reflection of what is already present in our Church and our world. Another glimpse of the future is collaboration among communities. Giving Voice gives younger women religious from different communities an opportunity to form relationships with one another and dream dreams together. Along with the support and wisdom of the sisters who came before us, and by listening to the Spirit, who knows what we will be able to accomplish!



In addition to her ministry as a child & adolescent psychiatrist, Sr. Lynn is an accomplished musician, singing and playing piano at many CHM functions.

## Charisms Meet at The Prairie

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

Summer is a time when many sisters take time for an extended retreat to recharge and refocus their energy for mission. This July, The Prairie hosted sisters from six religious congregations whose charism or focus for mission is to be in right relationship with Earth and its creator God. The Prairie, with its pristine beauty and mission "provides 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."

Most notably, July 14-21, the School Sisters of Notre Dame hosted their

Universe Story Retreat at The Prairie. Eleven sisters, one associate and three SSND facilitators fully immersed themselves in beauty and birdsong. The focus of their retreat was to reflect on the sacred story of Creation. Daily reflections on the gifts of fire, water, soil and air deepened their sense of the uniqueness and difference of each and the vast and deep communion between all aspects of creation. Many followed the newly installed cosmic walk which tells creation's 13.7 billion-year history of the birth of the universe from stars to present day species of plants and animals, how Earth has evolved and what concerns

we have for Earth in our day. Most religious communities were founded to respond to the signs of the times—a challenge especially from Vatican II. Service to the poor and living the Gospel challenges sisters to not only care for immigrants, children and families in need, but also to care for vulnerable Earth as well. Why wouldn't we change the ways we live in relationship with Earth once we have experienced the beauty of God's gifts of creation so evident at The Prairie?



*David Haas Live in Concert*  
Friday, September 27, 2013 7:30pm

Internationally known musician and liturgist in concert at St. John Vianney Church, Bettendorf, IA. David will connect his inspiring music to the good news of Vatican II. Fee: \$15 (students and seniors); \$20 (adults) \$25 (at the door). Scholarships available.

*Liturgy Workshop with David Haas*  
Saturday, September 28, 2013 8:30am - 2:30pm

Liturgists, church musicians, and choirs are invited to join David Haas to explore inspiring music of Vatican II. David will share his lively compositions and his 40 years of creating sacred music. The workshop will be held at St. John Vianney Church, Bettendorf. Lunch and handouts provided. Fee: \$20 (students); \$25 (adults).



Call 563-336-8414 to register. All proceeds to benefit

**Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat**



*May They Rest in Peace*



Sharon Smith, CHM Associate  
June 14, 1959 - March 10, 2013



Sister Ann Leahy, CHM  
August 18, 1927 - April 10, 2013



Millie Rodgers, CHM Associate  
August 10, 1930 - May 1, 2013



*Sr. Micheline Curtis (top) and Sr. Regina Mary Cratty  
are dedicated to tending the flower garden in St. Joseph's  
Courtyard at Humility of Mary Center.*