



# The *Flame*

Congregation of the Humility of Mary

Fall 2003

## What's Inside

p. 2 **Seeds of Hope**

p. 3 **Catering to the Soul**

p. 4 **Development News**

p. 6 **Jubilee 2003**

p. 7 **Ministry Highlights**

## The Journey Continues

**T**he Congregation of the Humility of Mary will celebrate their 150th anniversary in 2004 with the theme

*"Jubilee: The Journey Continues."*

The Sisters' intention to love God and their neighbor has been lived out, sometimes under almost insurmountable obstacles, in faith, humility, and simplicity; with friendliness, hospitality, honesty, and joy.

In 1854 the founding Sisters saw their work as aiding the parish priest in his

ministry. Many Sisters still work in parishes, but some are part of diocesan and other organizational units working to enable and empower people in widely separated places in several countries. The 19th century Sisters cared for the educational, health, and social needs of European



1925 - Fort Madison, Iowa Ground Breaking

immigrants who came to the United States. Today those immigrants have entered the mainstream of society.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Introducing *The Flame*

**A** warm welcome to the first issue of our new publication, *The Flame*! Perhaps a word of explanation is in order. Some of you will recall that *Response* was distributed by the communications office and *Futuresponse* by the development office. In the recent past, we engaged a consultant to assess and make recommendations about our efforts in the areas of communications and development. One of his recommendations was that we merge the separate publications

produced by each of those offices. That recommendation and subsequent work by the directors of both offices has "given birth" to *The Flame*.

The new name of this publication gives us a special opportunity to be reminded of the significance of the flame in the CHM logo. This logo was adopted in the early 1980s, not long after our move from Ottumwa to Davenport. The logo's flame will probably always bring to mind the

significance of fire in our history with the destruction of Ottumwa Heights College and Motherhouse in 1957. However, there was a more biblical foundation for its selection. As the Israelites moved out of Egypt, they experienced God's caring presence in the form of clouds by day and a pillar of fire by night. The choice of the flame was really based on reflection that was articulated at the time as follows: "The biblical pillar of fire depicts the

*(continued on back cover)*

(Journey Continues from page 1)

A task of the Sisters is to educate all people to share their goods as the Sisters continue to work for and with the dispossessed. Pilgrims always, the Sisters follow their founders who asked them to choose work not done by others, especially work on behalf of the poor, and to do their work well, but leave it willingly when such is asked of them.

As we approach celebrations for our 150th anniversary, won't you travel down memory lane and share some of your remembrances with us? Tell us how you came to be a partner on our journey. Tell us about your favorite CHM teacher or mentor. Remind us



Sr. Modesta Neubauer with girls at St. Vincents - 1959

address and phone number. We will then be able to easily return them to you. **Please join us in celebrating our 150th Jubilee year!**

of the school pranks you played. Tell us how and why the Sisters are still a part of your life.

Use the envelope in this issue of *The Flame* to send in your memories or e-mail to Lbellomy@msn.com. If you have pictures, we would like to reprint some of them in coming issues to highlight the history we share. Send them in with a simple statement to say we have your permission to use the photo without a fee, and mark them with picture information plus your name,

## France and the Bronx Join Seeds of Hope

The Humility of Mary *Seeds of Hope* program provides women and men who are desirous of serving among poor and marginalized persons an opportunity to work as volunteers with Sisters of Humility and/or their colleagues in ministry. The program fosters a lifelong commitment to bringing Gospel values and a more abundant life to God's people, especially the poor. The summer of 2003 *Seeds of Hope* program brought two volunteers to Davenport and John Lewis Community Services (JLCS).



Beverly Sikora and Joseph Drillon  
*Seeds of Hope* volunteers

Joseph Drillon, 19, from near Nantes, France, worked and lived for eight weeks at the John Lewis Coffee House in Davenport. Joseph is in college technician courses at the University of St. Nazaire and ultimately plans an engineering career. Previous volunteer experiences found him in Ireland with the Citywise.ie program to help educate poor migrant children, and in Italy with the Father Colango residential program for the disabled.

Joseph had hoped to volunteer in the Bronx with the Franciscan Monks of New York but they advised against this because of his limited ability to speak English. It was suggested he access the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS) website, where the *Seeds of Hope* has a listing. After speaking with Barb Gross, CHM Associate and *Seeds of Hope* Team Chair, and Kate Ridge, CHM Associate

and member of the *Seeds of Hope* team, Joseph's mind was made up to head to Iowa. Joseph's contribution at JLCS included general grounds maintenance and working with children at *Project Renewal*. He said the highlights of his experience were meeting the friendly people who would say hello to a Frenchman even though they couldn't communicate with him and learning English.

Beverly Sikora, 40, from the Bronx, New York, lived at the Humility of Mary Center and worked for JLCS for two weeks, the highlight being her work with a women's group. Beverly is a junior high school special education teacher in the inner city of the Bronx and a veteran of religious volunteer mission programs in seven different states and El Salvador. These experiences have led Beverly to a better understanding of God's plan for her. Her goal in five years is to retire from teaching and work as a missionary in the human services field.

Beverly always prays for a sign from God to direct her to her next mission experience. She wanted to get into the social service spectrum and found the *Seeds of Hope* program through the CNVS vocation directory. Speaking with Barb Gross, she felt so welcome she knew she had found the perfect fit. Out of all of her mission experiences, Beverly finds the Sisters of Humility experience to be the friendliest!

## Consider a Gift to the Golf Cart Fund

Our Lady of the Prairie is a wonderful place to visit. To help the Sisters better accommodate their guests, we are asking for help to purchase a covered, gas-powered golf cart. If you would like to contribute to the OLP Golf Cart Fund, please send your gift to:

*CHM Development  
Golf Cart Fund  
820 W. Central Park Ave.  
Davenport, IA 52804*



*With the help of a rented golf cart, Dennis Rife(L) and Blake Seivers helped many visitors tour the Prairie Retreat during the blessing weekend in October.*

## Catering to the Soul



*Fr. Robert Harness, Most Rev. William Franklin, Sr. Jude Fitzpatrick, Abbot Brendan Freeman, OSCO and Sr. Joann Kuebrich*



*Bishop Franklin blesses the entrance*

Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat was blessed by the Most Reverend William Franklin on Saturday, October 4th, 2003. The blessing was attended by 130 people including the Sisters of Humility, members and board of New Horizons of Faith, Inc. and many friends and workers responsible for making the Prairie Retreat possible. The next day nearly 250 people came to the Retreat for an open house where tours were given of the beautiful buildings and grounds.

Get away from it all and feed the spirit! Plan your visit soon by contacting Sr. Cathleen Real at (563)323-9466.



*Phyllis Ammeter; CHM Assoc., Gary Ammeter and Sr. Dawna Sutton were the cantors for the blessing ceremony.*



*Sr. Sue Sellers celebrates a beautiful day on the prairie.*



*Srs. Mary Bea Snyder and Regina Mary Cratty handed out programs.*

## Transitions at the Center

Nearly two years ago, Sr. Sue Sellers left McAuley Terrace on the Bishop Drumm campus in Johnston, Iowa to come to Humility of Mary Center as director. Sr. Sue has brought a special spirit and a unique blend of wonderful gifts to this ministry. However, her heart has never been far from the Bishop Drumm community which she loves. An opportunity to return there as a member of the staff at Martina Place (the assisted living facility) called her back to Johnston. Sr. Sue began her new ministry on October 20, 2003.

As we bade farewell to Sr. Sue, we were also excited and grateful that Sr. Mary Bea Snyder accepted our invitation to serve as the new director of HMC. Sr. Mary Bea's personal gifts and her wide range of experience in both administrative and service roles, combined with her deep commitment to the CHM community, give us cause to rejoice as we look to the future.

## Visitation Program Begins

The Sisters of Humility have initiated a new CHM *Visitation Program* for women who feel called to participate in a one year experience with the Sisters. The purpose of this temporary commitment program is spiritual formation within the community of the Sisters to prepare women for life in their own Christian community. "In the past we viewed religious life as a calling for a lifetime commitment," said Sr. Ramona Kaalberg, CHM Coordinator of Formation. "In a culture that tends to be more transitory, an invitation to a temporary commitment responds to a need of the times."



*Marcella Bandfield*

We celebrate the arrival of Marcella Bandfield, our first participant in the *Visitation Program*. She saw a newspaper article announcing the *Visitation Program* and inquired almost immediately about details of the program. "I read about the program in the *Catholic Messenger* last February and I thought right away that this program was something I was interested in pursuing. It was appealing to me to live with the Sisters, and I was interested in being involved in some type of ministry," Marcella said.

Welcome Marcella!

# From the Development Office

## Pay-it-Forward

*Now is the time to start planning...*

Have you made plans to pay-it-forward? A recent poll by Charles Schwab & Co. indicated that "many Americans have not yet made plans for their estate, calling in question whether the projected \$41 trillion wealth transfer of the Baby Boomers will happen," according to the report. A 1999 report, *Millionaires and the Millennium*, from researchers at the Boston College Social Welfare Research Institute, "estimated that \$41 trillion in wealth would be transferred from one generation to the next over the next five decades, of which \$6 trillion would be given to charity."

But you need not be a millionaire to contribute to a non-profit organization. Now is the time to begin estate planning. Consider one of many planned gift options including bequests, charitable trusts and annuities, gifts of appreciated assets, gifts of insurance policies, life estate contracts and charitable lead trusts. Giving to a charity doesn't mean your family will not be taken care of. You may designate a percentage of your estate to the Sisters while providing for your family also. To choose the best giving opportunity for you and your family, contact the Congregation of the Humility of Mary for a Planned Giving Portfolio and visit with your financial advisor or attorney. To assist you in the process, we will explore in detail the various planned giving options in the issues to come. If you have already included the Sisters in your estate planning, please let us know so we may acknowledge your gift.

Once the estate-planning process is complete, many feel a sense of relief and security knowing that their future is well-planned and organized. Additionally, giving can offer a great sense of peace for the donor. What a wonderful way to acknowledge the many gifts that God has given you and to help the Sisters for many years to come.

*"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

- Matthew 6:21

## Consider a Year-End Gift to the Sisters of Humility

Now is the perfect time to plan your year-end gift to the Sisters of Humility. There are a number of planned gift and current gift options. For the donor, year-end gifts may have certain tax advantages.

Current gifts include cash, securities, real estate, insurance and personal property. Planned gifts include bequests, charitable trusts and annuities, gifts of appreciated assets and insurance policies, and life estate contracts.

For example, if your stocks or bonds purchased more than a year ago have appreciated in value, consider giving the appreciated assets to the Sisters of Humility. This may provide a tax advantage because you pay no capital gains tax on the securities you contribute.

Income derived from a planned gift is an investment in the future of the Sisters of Humility and in the future of the ministries in which they are involved. Remember, any size gift makes a difference. As always, blessings to you for your generosity.



## Memorial Cards Celebrate Life, Love and Giving

This special keepsake card makes a beautiful statement of sympathy and comfort to family members of loved ones who have passed away. The card also lets the family know of your gift made in memory of their loved one to the Sisters of Humility.

Please consider using these special cards and remember the Sisters in your memorial giving.

If you would like one or more memorial cards, please contact our Development Office by phone (563) 323-9466 or e-mail [ncerny@chmiowa.org](mailto:ncerny@chmiowa.org).

# Future Response

Many fundraisers are faced with an interesting challenge over the next few years.

How do we communicate and encourage the next generation of givers?

A recent study by the Independent Sector and Youth Service of America found that individuals who were engaged as volunteers as youth are twice as likely to donate their time as adults, and are also more generous in their charitable giving. The article



*Assumption High School students Ted Bentler (center left) and Brett Adams volunteer at the Humility of Mary Center along with Brett's mom, Mrs. Adams (far left). They are pictured with Sr. Jude Fitzpatrick.*

stated, "working with today's youth is the first step in raising tomorrow's dollars."

**Those who volunteer as youth and whose parents volunteered became the most generous adults in giving time.**

Please encourage your children to volunteer, communicate your gift preferences to your children and talk with them about the importance of giving to charity. The future depends on it!

*"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others."*

*-Barbara Bush*

*"Peace, like charity, begins at home."*

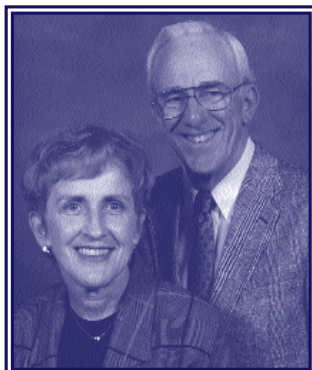
*-Franklin D. Roosevelt*

## Development Highlight Zone

The Development Office is pleased to report the following:

- Due to the generosity of our donors, the Spring 2003 Annual Appeal has generated \$40,671 in gifts for the Sisters of Humility. These gifts will be used for the care of the retired Sisters, mission and ministries, Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat, CHM Endowment Fund, greatest current need and the Central City Ministry Project. The Spring 2003 Annual Appeal goal is \$110,000. If you haven't already, please take time to return your annual appeal gift so that we may reach our goal. Many thanks!
- The Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat Campaign has generated nearly \$400,000 in gifts. Please consider making a year-end gift to help reach the fundraising goal of \$500,000.

- The Congregation received gifts from Mr. & Mrs. Francis Fosdick through Vanguard Charitable Endowment Fund; the John & Rita Daniel Charitable Giving Fund; and the Our Lady of Lourdes Outreach Program. Additionally, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Schneider gave a gift for Sr. Ana Maria Orozco's work in Chiapas, Mexico.



*The late John and Rita Daniel*

*The donor envelope in this issue invites your support in honor of the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the Sisters of Humility... many thanks to you for your generosity!*

**Changes in Your Life?  
New Address?  
Please let us know!**

We want to keep in touch. More importantly, we want to remember you and your loved ones in our prayers. Contact us with changes. Nancy Kay Cerny, Development Director at (563) 323-9466 or e-mail: [ncerny@chmiowa.org](mailto:ncerny@chmiowa.org) Humility of Mary Center 820 W. Central Park Avenue Davenport, IA 52804

# Jubilee 2003

As 17 Sisters celebrate their various Jubilee years, some look back with cherished memories of their ministries and the unique ways they lived their vocations.



*Sr. Marcia Costello celebrates her 50th Jubilee with Katie and Bob Sieren during a Jubilee reception at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Bettendorf*

## 75 YEARS

Sr. Eileen Roseberry

## 70 YEARS

Sr. Miriam Therese Foley  
Sr. Mae Murphy

## 60 YEARS

Sr. Marita Bartholome  
Sr. Lucia Kadolph  
Sr. Annunciata Lamotta  
Sr. Leona Mary Manning  
Sr. Thomasine Muller  
Sr. Charlene Olear  
Sr. Suzanne Wickenkamp

## 50 YEARS

Sr. Marcia Costello  
Sr. Miriam Ehrhardt  
Sr. Jeanette Kopel  
Sr. Joann Kuebrich  
Sr. Cathleen Real  
Sr. Mary Rocca

## 25 YEARS

Sr. Marcia Eckerman

**Sr. Marita Bartholome:** I am grateful to have spent many days climbing the mountains and wading the creeks of Montana. One of many eventful times I remember was the great move of the Marycrest library books from Upham Hall to the new Cone Library. Sixty-five Sisters were attending summer school and we all made 60 trips hauling books. . .all in one day on the 4th of July! I thank God for all the blessings I have received as a Sister of Humility for 60 years. May the coming years be ones of living as “older and bolder” for Jesus and Mary and others.

**Sr. Lucia Kadolph:** I enjoyed the many summers that I worked with the children at Christ Child Home in Des Moines and St. Vincent Home in Davenport. My religious vocation has been a great joy. I have met many beautiful people who have made a difference in my life.

**Sr. Thomasine Muller:** I remember most of all my first assignment to Dowling High School in Des Moines. While I was helping out at the Christ Child Home during the summer, I recall on one occasion chasing a little boy. . .running in the back door, and out the front of our neighbors’ home next door, which happened to be the Governor’s house.

**Sr. Charlene Olear:** I have experienced peace, joy, happiness and contentment beyond measure. I have been showered with God’s choicest graces and blessings, more than I could ever have wished for in any other chosen vocation.

**Sr. M. Suzanne Wickenkamp:** A most challenging event was the decision to sell St. Joseph Hospital in 1987. I tried to be helpful in making the difficult transition of two hospitals into one health center and to be a role model for true acceptance of

change. I am grateful to have dedicated my life to the service of others, trying to follow the invitation of Jesus to love God and neighbor, and that during the last 16 years I have had the opportunity to continue my mission in pastoral care at the Ottumwa Regional Health Center.

**Sr. Jeanette A. Kopel:** When I became a member of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1953, good health was one of the prerequisites. Shortly after making perpetual profession, I began experiencing some symptoms which later were diagnosed as multiple sclerosis. I began praying that I would be able to serve and not be a burden for the community. I am grateful to those who, over the years, trusted and believed in me enough to hire me even with my physical limitations.

**Sr. Mary Rocca:** As I look back over 50 years as a CHM, I envision a wonderful patchwork quilt of my life. It “tells” of joys, challenges, anxieties, fun, poor decisions, students, parents, families, patients, medical personnel, clergy, friends, inmates, correctional officers, refugees, travel and good health. Like *Candid Camera*, a smile and a vocation can “be anyone, any-place and at any time.” In summary, “God gives his best to those who leave the choice to Him!”

**Sr. Marcia Eckerman:** A cherished ministry: My work among those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. My simply being was a ministry, showing acceptance of all human beings and being the presence of God. At times my love and acceptance of them was all they had. My friends did not feel welcome in the mainline churches and wanted to hear the word of God. Through these moments a small family of friends grew to become a welcoming and safe home for others disowned, abandoned and alone, while living with a deadly disease.

## Ministry Highlights - Letters from Sisters in the Field

Dear Ones,

Sr. Marilyn Brinker and I are doing well and enjoying our chaplain ministry at Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. So often we are asked, "what does a Chaplain do?" Well, there is more to it than "pop in and out" of patient rooms. We are a part of the total hospital team. As chaplains we are **FIRST RESPONDERS** to any emergency, code blue or death in the hospital.



*Sr. Dorothy A. Chevalier(R)*

Our ministry is to be there for family members and medical personnel. We are active listeners who offer sympathy, empathy, compassion, and understanding to those who are grieving. We make sure that the patient's clergy preference is notified. We prepare grief sessions for those who have had a loss. We also plan memorial services for families and offer prayer and comfort to people of all faiths. One area in which we have been especially trained is assisting patients in executing an Advance Health Care Directive. This is another name for a Living Will.



*Sr. Marilyn Brinker(L)*

The song rings through my head which includes the words: "We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly, we are called to serve one another and walk humbly with God." That is what chaplains do and how we minister every day that God gives us the health, strength, and courage to be for others. With love in my heart and humility in my life,

*-Sister Dorothy A. Chevalier*

Hola,

For some 40 years, I've carried successful campaigns in academia in domestic and foreign lands. So, I agreed to come out of retirement for a month and teach Spanish at Assumption High School. In my smugness, I never inquired into the particulars of the assignment. **SAY WHAT?** Report for duty at 7 A.M.? Lesson plans? 135+ students? Cafeteria patrol? Sweltering heat and no air conditioner? A fan, a fan, my kingdom (but not my Coke) for a fan! Good-bye tranquility! Hello pandemonium!

Regroup, reconsider, repent. Perhaps I was sent here to pay for my sins. But surely I could not have been that bad! Besides, the CHM Sisters at the Center were rattling their beads for me.

First order of business was adequate ventilation. Okay, forget "adequate." Open the windows and limit the breathing.



*Sr. Orozco with Assumption students*

"Sister, all kinds of bugs are crawling in!" Please, I shouted, "There's no need to shout!" Let us start a lesson on entomology in Spanish: mosquito, insecto, hmmm, unidentified crawling object.

The lesson was cut short by students stomping on my visual material. Oh, my! A water bottle flew through the air followed by a pair of shorts and a set of keys! A buzzing burst into my brain. Oh, that's the bell. Sisters at the Center, survivors of multiple high schools, chuckled and said, "Wait. It'll get worse." And so it did. At the end of the month (and my wits), the principal approached me. Would I like to stay for the year? Month? Week? Adios!!!

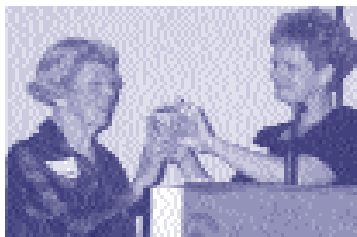
I'm not sure how much Spanish the students learned. But they taught me the meaning of the name of the congregation I joined many, many years ago: Humility.

*-Sister Luz Maria Orozco*

## Marycrest Alumni Association

The Marycrest Alumni Association hosted its annual Homecoming and Awards Program on October 4, 2003. More than 40 alumni, former faculty, staff and friends of Marycrest joined in the festivities which were held at The Mark of the Quad Cities.

During the banquet the board presented its "Spirit of Marycrest" award to Betty



*Betty Dalton, CHM Associate, receives award from Janet Rossmiller-Miller, president, Marycrest Alumni Association*

Dalton, Class of '42 and CHM Associate. Dalton, of LeClaire, Iowa, was honored for her contributions to society through education and church, and her embodiment of the Marycrest ideal of service and active community involvement.

The board announced a scholarship fund for Humility of Mary Housing, Inc., and presented Sandy Walters, Marycrest alumna and HMHI director, with a \$500 check to be awarded to one of the program's participants. Contributions of the Sisters of Humility were also recognized.

The Marycrest Alumni goal is to continue to foster relationships between the students, faculty and staff of the now-closed Marycrest. To keep updated on events and activities, visit the association's web site

at [www.marycrestalumni.com](http://www.marycrestalumni.com).



*Sr. Annette Gallagher, Sandy Walters, Benita Moore and Sr. Marcia Costello*

Our next event is the "The Flags of Marycrest" during the Festival of Trees Parade on November 22, 2003. For more details please call Jan Luton at (563) 355-3756 or an alumni board member. You may also e-mail our board at [board@marycrestalumni.com](mailto:board@marycrestalumni.com).

(The Flame continued from page 1)

Sisters of Humility as pilgrim women on the move in response to the call of God and neighbor. . .with the assurance that our God is always with us.”

As we begin this new publication and as we move into the 150th year of our founding, we celebrate all the ways God’s loving presence has been and continues to be with us. In many and varied ways, each of you readers has been an expression of that loving presence. We are grateful to each of you who continue to join hands with the Sisters of Humility so that together we might “fan into flame the gifts God has given us.”

This column began with a word of welcome to *The Flame*. I close with another warm welcome to our new communications and development directors. Lisa Martin Bellomy is following Sr. Marcia Costello as director of communications; Nancy Kay Cerny, following Teresa Ruzic, is our new director of development. Their expertise and experience, coupled with an already obvious commitment to the Sisters of Humility, are a gift to us and hold much promise as we look hopefully to the future.

Sr. Jude Fitzpatrick  
CHM President

During the 2003 CHM Assembly, the final six candidates for president each gave a short presentation. The candidates expressed their beliefs concerning the future needs of the community. The assembly then had a brief time for questions and answers before determining their choice from among the six. Sister Roberta Brich received the greatest support in the selection process.

Sr. Brich later presented a slate of three Sisters as possible candidates for the vice-presidency. The community at large selected Sr. Pat Miller.

The results of this process will be forwarded to the CHM Representative Assembly which will affirm these selections in March.



*Pictured above left to right are: Srs. Marilyn Schierbrock, Cathy Talarico, Roberta Brich, Johanna Rickl, Mary Rehmann, and Pat Miller.*



*The Flame* is published three times a year for the Congregation of the Humility of Mary and their 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.

**Congregation of the Humility of Mary**

820 W. Central Park Ave.  
Davenport, IA 52804  
563/323-9466  
sisters@chmiowa.org  
www.chmiowa.org

**Editorial Staff:**

Lisa Martin Bellomy, Communications Director  
Nancy Kay Cerny, Development Director

**Communications Advisory Committee**

Donna Donovan, CHM  
Mary Martin Lane, CHM Assoc.  
Catherine Linnenkamp, CHM  
Dolores Schuh, CHM  
Joan Sheil, CHM  
Elizabeth Thoman, CHM  
Delphine Vasquez, CHM  
Simone Wilmes, CHM

*Printed on Recycled Paper*



Congregation of the Humility of Mary  
820 W. Central Park Ave.  
Davenport, IA 52804

**Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #3033  
Davenport, IA**

**Address Service Requested**