

Tid Bytes May 2020

From Sr. Mary Rehmman

Sisters & staff were joined by Bishop Zinkula on Monday, June 1, 2020, at noon in the HMC Heritage area to participate in the “national day of lament” for the 100,000+ persons who have died from COVID-19 in the United States. The weekend tribute was promoted by LCWR as well as the U.S. Council of Mayors. Participants also had in mind the protests against police brutality, occurring at the same time, following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on Friday, May 29.

Srs. Johanna Rickl, Mary Rehmman, Penelope Wink and Jeanie & Elaine Hagedorn participated online in a 3-part seminar on the new biography of Sr. Therese Kane, RSM, **To Speak the Truth in Love**, by Sr. Christine Schenk, CSJ. Up to 300 persons joined via ZOOM with the author “telling the story” followed by comment and interpretation by Sr. Therese, who also answered questions.

On Sundays, HMC residents “participated” in Mass from St. Patrick’s Cathedral celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, with assistance from the laptops of Sr. Huyen Phan or associate candidate, Laurie Gibson. They joined the Pentecost Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas Zinkula at St. Paul the Apostle church in Davenport.

All at HMC have admired arrangements of peonies, iris, daisies, lilacs, apple blossoms and other brightly-colored flora that Sr. Roberta Brich brings from St. Joseph’s Court to beautify the premises.

Movies are shown on Wednesdays at 2:45, chosen from collections from overnight staffer Deb Williams and others. “The Sultan and the Saint” and a John Wayne classic were among them.

Birthday celebrants may choose a “special meal” of ham, steak or salmon as offered by Janet White on the “actual birth-day” or another day of choice.

CHMS at HMC appreciated the opportunity to “vote by mail” in the June Primary Elections with applications to do so sent to every registered voter by the Iowa Secretary of State.

CHM leadership have asked for suggestions from residents about their gradually “going out” and others “coming in” to the Center for “nonessential” reasons. All are anxious to see other CHMs and associates from the area who have been AWR (Absent With Reason) from the premises.

From Sr Marie Vittetoe:

Tribute to Sister Cecelia from Diana Gray this regarding Sister's visits to her brother Kent.

Last year while Kent was in the nursing home for several months recuperating from a broken arm, Sister Cecelia visited and prayed with him on Fridays. I found it very comforting that Sister Cecelia visited him since I am the only family in the area and he had few visitors. After Kent left the nursing home, to move to L'Arche in Clinton, Sister Cecelia asked me about him and gave me a rosary and a card to give for Kent. I had items framed for his new home. I asked Sister Cecelia's intercession during Kent's move and when I was frustrated with the process. Both Kent and I were very "touched" by Sister Cecelia's concern for both of us.

Sisters are enjoying visits to feeders by colorful birds, like orioles, red-breasted grosbeak, etc.

Front entrance doors and codes are installed, but now seldom used except for some deliveries.

From Jeanie in Des Moines area:

Though we are all experiencing "new normal" during this pandemic the deaths of our Sisters Maribeth Takes and Marianne Nehus have been our greatest loss (and their greatest gain!). Our sense of loss was magnified by the inability to honor their lives with the physical presence of community and family. The quarantine necessitated we say our final blessings via live-stream memorial services, the first for CHMs. As prayers continue for the deceased, special prayers are

Also with our sisters at Bishop Drumm and the millions whose lives are also being affected by COVID-19.

In the May-June issue of The Bishop Drumm BEAT, several special women were pictured:

Sister Dorothy Chevalier, a new resident, and Jennifer Worley and Mary Routh, CHM staff. The newsletter showed residents & "Friendly Faces" (Sr. Dorothy Ann) and "Heroes" who work at BD (Jennifer and Mary who were greeting sisters outside their windows.) Mary was filling a bird feeder outside a sister's windows. Jennifer along with her young niece and nephew were holding up signs with "We miss you" messages as they walked around the outside of the building and greeted the sisters through their windows. Barb Gross and Pat Rothamel, our other CHM staff members, have also been regularly brightening the windows with their smiley faces until the day they can do so in person IN the building. A group of nurses from The Ramsey Village in Des Moines also walked around the front of Bishop Drumm one day in support and solidarity of BD staff.