

July 2020 TidBytes

From Des Moines

Due to the current pandemic Srs. Jeanie and Elaine Hagedorn's first virtual family reunion with their maternal relatives replaced the scheduled in-person reunion in July. The Sisters organized the gathering with their maternal Pardee relatives who rated the event a big success. 40 cousins from eight states enjoyed the chance to see and visit with each other for over an hour, many for the first time in two years. This first virtual reunion was so much fun that the group chose to Zoom again next summer IF we can't meet in person. (Jeanie produces an e-newsletter between reunions; it is titled "Pardee Time" and the name described this event well!)

Additionally, the Hagedorn sisters remembered and gave thanks for the life and death of a cousin, several Des Moines friends, and dear BVM sisters and classmates. It was a blessing that many funeral services and memorials are now being live-streamed.

Webinars and virtual retreats continue to occupy many of the days of quarantine for Srs. Elaine and Jeanie as, perhaps, for others as well. Some of the webinars most appreciated addressed "Climate Change and the Elections" (Maryknoll), "Healing Racism" (Sounds True), "COVID-19 and Voting Rights", and "Breathing in a Time of Crisis" (Catholic Climate Covenant). We have also made a number of prayerful virtual retreats including "Blessing of the Earth" with Pat Shea (OLPR) and an Ignatian Retreat "Praying with Music" with Fr. Bob Dufford, SJ (Emmaus Retreat House).

The CHM staff at Bishop Drumm continues to be present to our sisters in every way they are able during this time. They and we are eager for the time we are again allowed to visit them in person! Meantime phone calls, notes and emails, visits and serenading through the windows, and our daily prayers are attempts that sisters and the staff are making to encourage and support our sisters at Bishop Drumm.

From Kathryn O'Meara

Well, a little "opening up here". Able to return to scrabble & Rummykub games (with masks)., Plus the exercise group has resumed. So, that is progress. However, still being "very careful."

From Diana Gray

My brother, Kent, being welcomed into his new L'Arche group home. Lots of nice things shared – word and pictures. I thought you would enjoy this:

Kent's sister, Diana, shared that Kent grew up with very little spirituality and that it was something they both deeply wanted for him. L'Arche has given Kent the opportunity he wanted to grow in spirituality and his love for Jesus. Kent is now usually the first one to say "pray" as soon as he sits at the table for each meal, even wanting to pray before snacks. We can't wait to see how Kent continues to bloom. Kent has filled our hearts with joy and we are so happy to have him be a part of the Arch IV family!

From Sr. Mary Rehmann

July 4th was celebrated on Tuesday, June 30, when all residents could be together before work on the elevator began. For dessert there was a beautiful layered red, white and blue trifle. We miss sharing these days with other CHMs and associates in the area. On the 4th, some residents watched the classic

“Mr. Smith goes to Washington” with Jimmy Stewart. Other July celebrations included the Feast of Our Lady of Humility on the 17th with pizza from Happy Joe’s, and Mary Magdalen on the 22nd.

HMC residents continue eating separately during elevator servicing. Those in the East wing are missing two: Sr. Regina Mary Cratty who is at Heartland Health Center in Moline and Sr. Marie Vittetoe who went to Genesis East on July 24. More elevator delays mean the practice will continue. Sr. Lillian comes up for Mass and prayers in the chapel as she keeps a walker on both lower and first floors. But those “upstairs” don’t see Srs. Pat Heidenry and Cathleen Real. Traditional 10:00 and 3:00 lunches are served on the “puzzle table” in the community room.

“13th” the movie, was viewed and discussed by a small group. Seeing 50 years of history in less than two hours answered how we got to “Black Lives Matter” today.

Humility Homes & Services (HHSI) celebrates 30 years of history this year. A variation on the Jazz Brunch annual fund-raiser will feature a variety of activities during October. Look forward to emails and other notices. Father Steve Ebel alluded to an anniversary banner out front of the building, which those living at HMC accept on faith! HHSI has had support from FEMA and the CARES Act in housing up to 140 individuals and 6 families during the pandemic. All were housed in hotels until the shelter building could be re-opened for individuals in July, but fewer occupants there because of “distancing” practice. Sanitizing is frequent and only packaged food is permitted on site. Where possible staff work from home with conference calls and ZOOM used for meetings. Service coordinators visit participants at their residences. Almost ten individuals or families have been placed in housing during this period.

P.S. Correction: The “30-year anniversary banner”, at the entrance to the Center, is celebrating 30 years of Our Lady of the Prairie retreat ministry. Humility Homes & Services is also marking a 30-year ministry to homeless persons and families.

Associate candidate Laurie Gibson, who works as a Supportive Living assistant, was “absent with leave” while quarantined for a week with her daughter, who lives with her. Both had negative test results for COVID-19 after her daughter showed symptoms for the virus.

Summer sun shines on roses, a variety of lilies, moss rose, marigolds, rose of Sharon, pink cone flowers, hostas, baskets of petunias, hip-high zinnias, and sedum in St. Joseph Court. Sr. Kathleen Henneberry faithfully recycles the water from a dehumidifier. Sr. Roberta Brich arranges flower displays throughout the building.

Vegetables reaped from the garden include radishes, onions, kohlrabi, pea pods, green beans (just coming), beets and zucchini. Sweet corn has been enjoyed and watermelon has had rave reviews.

The Davenport Public library resumed service during July. Book and other media requests are delivered monthly.

Mass has resumed with regular celebrants Fr. Robert McAleer (Tuesday), Msgr. Frank Henricksen (Wednesday) and Fr. Steve Ebel (Friday). Also welcomed were Bishop Thomas Zinkula, Fr. Tom Hennen and Fr. Ed O’Melia. Srs. Pat Heidenry and Cathleen Real attend remotely via in-house TV and the Eucharist is brought to them downstairs.