

TidBytes – June 2021

CHM internal community news to CHM sisters, associates, and staff

Des Moines – S. Jeanie Hagedorn

Srs. Justine Denning, Jude Fitzpatrick, Elaine and Jeanie Hagedorn attended the farewell reception in Altoona for Father Tim Fitzgerald who is retiring. Sr. Jude and the Hagedorns also participated in the special Mass, Vow Renewal and luncheon with other women religious of the diocese hosted by Bishop Joensen. Sr. Cathy Talarico enjoys exercising her green thumb to the benefit of the plants in her backyard garden. Associate Barbara Gross continues giving her generous ministry to our sisters at Bishop Drumm and wrote a beautiful reflection in the recent SPARK! Associate Stephanie Dirks continues singing in the choir at the bilingual Mass at Our Lady of the Americas parish, and enjoys line-dancing with a group in Des Moines. Associate Barbara Rouse will be retiring this month from her work as Administrative Assistant for the DM Public Schools and looks forward to spending more time with her children and grandchildren.

Keeping up with Zoom opportunities, doctor opportunities and daily living seems to keep all of us busy each day. The Region X series “Exploring Intersections” has been especially interesting and challenging including the recent one on racial justice. We look forward to the next one July 14 on Ending Human Trafficking and are grateful to Lisa Martin, Srs. Lynn Mousel and Johanna Rickl for their work on these videos and on the follow-up discussions.

Sr. Elaine is nearing the end of her grafting procedures and is continuing to please her surgeon with the progress. Sr. Jeanie has been working on genealogy and formulating a “summary” of up to twelve generations of their family tree, based on mounds of research done by cousins on both sides of the family. So far these two peace activists have discovered ancestors who fought in both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War! Both Elaine and Jeanie wonder “why” Jeanie has undertaken this project beyond satisfying her interest in learning more about their ancestors. (The sisters are the last generation of Hagedorns and have no direct nieces or nephews to leave this “treasure” to.) But Jeanie says that “*maybe* knowing some of the “greats” from our family’s past will get *us* a pass through the Pearly Gates! Or at least help us recognize our “great” family members when we meet in heaven!”

Bishop Drumm Center – S. Micheline Curtis

CHM’s had a farewell and thank you for Lisa Metten (the director of nursing) who is leaving Bishop Drumm after 25 years of service to CHMs. Besides a lovely bouquet and card with names of all 102 sisters who have been here, we did the usual CHM farewell blessing.

We also welcomed Sr. Catherine Linnenkamp as she arrived for further therapy.

Catherine L. was visited by her sister and brother. Sr. Hilary had friends visit from Ottumwa. They also visited Sr. Rosalia.

We have been able to go outside in the morning before it got too hot—Jennifer never fails to provide trivia to stimulate our lazy brains— this time on Memorial Day and Flag Day.

The Mercy Guild from the hospital brought flowers from Mercy Sister’s graves where they were for Memorial Day and planted in our courtyard. They have done this for several years.

Humility of Mary Center – S. Mary Rehmann

We notice it when HMC residents are gone. Sr. Kathleen Henneberry celebrated the 150th anniversary of Catholic churches in Chariton, Iowa, on June 13. Bishop William Joensen, Des Moines was the main celebrant and three young persons were confirmed. A Corpus Christi procession, preceded by several Bag Pipers, led people to the anniversary dinner. S. Kathleen rejoiced to see and visit with many of the parishioners she knew during her 2003 – 2008 years at Sacred Heart Church (plus St. Francis parish in Corydon, IA.)

Sr. Judy Herold rode with Sr. Kathleen to Newton where she spent 2 days with brother, Fr. Tony Herold. “It was a blessing celebrating liturgy with him IN PERSON and having quality time to share our stories,” she said.

Sr. Lillian Stevens has beautiful flowers in the East wing patio and a tomato plant too. She has petunias in bags hanging on the fence posts and Gerber daisies in a pot. Also blooming are the colorful purple clematis and roses on the long-lived bushes attended to by Sr. Regina Mary for some years.

The white lilac tree in St. Joseph Court had a whole “head” of big blooms that could be seen over the redbud tree from the porch in the court. Many days Sr. Roberta Brich cuts whatever flowers appeal to her and keeps vases on various tables.

As of press time radishes have been our produce from the Center gardens. Roger Voss has planted beets, broccoli, cabbage, cherry tomatoes (the walnut trees don’t affect them), green beans, onions, squash, zucchini. He waters with a hose and sprinkler all the way from the Center. We also had local sour cherries.

The monarch “nursery” has appeared again on top of the mail drawers. Those passing through the community room may witness an emergence and/or accompany a butterfly to the great outdoors.

We keep in touch with Sr. Catherine Linnenkamp, now at Bishop Drumm getting therapy for her broken left wrist and walking. She has a “tall” walker with something like “platforms”, parallel to the floor, on which she places her elbows and lower arms to support her body weight. They have Mass daily except for Saturday. She is happy to get to know and/or re-acquainted with more of her CHM sisters.

So far, we sing only at Sunday Mass and have not resumed choir practice, to the dismay of some of us. Staff wear masks and do not eat with the residents yet either.

CHMs, associates and other guests may come for Mass, meals and visits with appropriate notification. Visiting may be done in the small parlor near the reception area or in the light court. Guests may stay overnight with pre-approval.

Game days will resume.

Sr. Bea Snyder and Janet White are sharing responsibilities of “Resident Life Coordinator”. Diana Gray has visited several times. She will have surgery on June 25 and appreciates prayers.

The Region X “Exploring Intersections” episode in June was on “Racism. The next subject is “Human-trafficking” on July 14 at 3 p.m. (CDT). Sisters are finding these programs well prepared and informative. Viewers are finding these programs well prepared and informative. The programs are open to the public and are found at www.exploringintersections.org.