

TidBytes – December 2021

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

Des Moines – S. Jeanie Hagedorn

The month of December and the weeks of Advent have flown by so quickly! Time seems so do that as we age, would you agree?

While the Des Moines sisters are so sorry to see Sr. Justine Denning leave our area to move to HMC in Davenport we are happy for her to be with our sisters there, and we are sending her with our gratitude, blessings and prayers. With her dear sister Ina now in a place where she can get the medical care that she needs we understand Justine's decision but will miss her greatly! We in Des Moines hope to have a "farewell lunch" before her January departure from our fair city.

Srs. Elaine and Jeanie Hagedorn also bid farewell to Jim Reed our (only) brother-in-law, and were pleased to be invited to be readers and offer prayers during his funeral services and burial on December ninth. We so appreciated the presence of Sr. Jude Fitzpatrick and a number of other friends at the funeral, and likewise everyone's prayers for Jim's peaceful death. The days following the funeral were busy finding homes for our mother's beautiful dishes that Mary Jo kept and for Jim's warm winter clothes that were donated to refugees and homeless men at the DM. Catholic Worker. It was good to spend Christmas Eve with Jim's kids as they adjust to a new reality without their dad and grandpa.

We continue to miss seeing our sisters at Bishop Drumm (*and* in Davenport!). With the new COVID variant we continue to practice precautions for both *their sake* as well as our *own*. Since doctors are now warning that even cloth masks are not enough protection from this highly infectious Omicron variant Elaine and Jeanie have started wearing the better-quality KN 95 masks that were given to us. We hope all of you have also received your vaccines and booster shots! What a challenging time!

As we celebrate this Christmas time and give thanks for "God with us" Emmanuel we send our

love, prayers and blessings to all our sisters, associates and staff with deep gratitude for who you are and all you do for others. Because of the fewer occasions to be together again this Christmas, we enjoy and appreciate those times even more, even when by Zoom or phone calls. And not shopping for or giving Christmas gifts and cards has not been *all* bad! We have appreciated the greater simplicity of the season and the true meaning of love – ours for one another and God's for all of humankind! May our new year 2022 find us and all the world open to the daily miracles that surround us as Jesus, the Cosmic Christ, invites us into the unknown future that awaits.

Humility of Mary Center – S. Mary Rehmann

Christmas trees all over the place: many, many red or gold ornaments with little paper bird houses hanging on edges of branches of the tree in the Community Room with its gold lights and angel on top; large white tree with white lights and blue or silver ornaments standing in the Heritage area, also angel on top; multi-colored lights and ornaments light up the tree at the end of the East wing near the Nurses station; little "table tree" with "chasing" lights in the Dining Room.

CHM and HMC Staff were celebrated at lunch with selection of beverages, cold and hot hors d'oeuvres, colorful vegetable and fruit trays, cold meats and salmon, and desserts. The traditional blessing of trees was held that afternoon, followed by more cheese, crackers, pickled herring, and sweets in the dining room.

Sisters Kathleen Henneberry, Catherine Linnenkamp, Roberta Brich, and three Vietnamese sisters enjoyed a beautiful tour of Christmas lights along with Shelly and Todd Seifert, who drove the van. This writer was very disappointed she was unable to go.

The Christmas crib is in the northeast corner of the chapel with beautiful ceramic figures, except

for the wise men, in their places as of this writing. The chapel is adorned with many pots of red poinsettias and pine greens throughout. The **Christmas wreath** has four white candles and large blue & white one in the middle, with metallic ribbon woven over the greenery. The candles are lit for morning and evening prayer and Mass. The novena of Masses, begun on Christmas Day, and continues through January 2, 2022.

There was a pre-Christmas afternoon concert, too, courtesy of **Sr. Rachel Beeson's** sister, Rachel Norton, who played the piano with her daughters, Becky Landwehr on clarinet and Amy Van Sickle on French horn. Becky and Amy used the pandemic as opportunity to play again. They practice once a month.

Traditional oyster stew followed evening prayer service and the blessing of chapel crib **on Christmas Eve**. **Fr. Steve Ebel** celebrated Mass at 7 p.m. **Fr. Wally Helms** celebrated on Christmas morning. Wine and cheese were followed by Christmas Day feast of made-to-order prime rib, baked potato bar, grilled baby asparagus, and dessert of fresh-baked mincemeat or cherry pie.

Gifted sweets included all kinds of fancy cookies, home-made fudge, chocolates of every shape, flavor and filling, including Godiva "master pieces". Fresh fruit baskets had grapefruit, pears, several apple varieties, and grapes. Of course, there were "Cuties" from **associate Rita Hagner**. **Associate KC Barnes** provided Christmas oranges and grapefruit too.

Lynda Hasson outdid herself with chocolate "bombs", that turned into hot chocolate when placed in a mug with hot water or milk added. Miniature marshmallows showed up too.

Kathy Kendall's riddles were in mail boxes on Christmas Day. Favorite Christmas "tree-top"? What do the elves put out for Santa? What do Mexican children have at Christmas time? **Answers to Kendall riddles:** angel, coffee, piñatas.

Special gifts included a pair of new black shoes that **Sr. Claudellen** found in the "give-away" downstairs. HMC residents had cozy Muk Luks hanging on their outside doors on Christmas. Sisters are most grateful to the St. Alphonsus Altar & Rosary Society for gifts and gift cards.

Outgoing leadership (**Srs. Mary Ann Vogel, Johanna Rickl, Marcia Eckerman, Lynn Mousel and Irene Muñoz**) will be recognized on Tuesday, December 28, beginning with a photo presentation and prayer service at 4:45 followed by drinks and hors d'oeuvres, then dinner. It will conclude with reflections on the past four years, comments and sharing.

Announcements of new leadership (**President Sr. Johanna Rickl, Vice-President Sr. Marcia Eckerman, and Cabinet members Srs. Lynn Mousel, Mary Bea Snyder and Mary Ann Vogel**) appeared in the *Catholic Messenger* (December 23) and *QC Times* (December 26). Because she was unable to do so with the others on December 12, **Sr. Mary Bea Snyder** will make her commitment at the 11:40 Mass on Wednesday, December 29. Terms begin January 1, 2022.

Best Christmas EVE story: Sr. Kathleen Henneberry brought the Eucharist to her first cousin, Mary Loretta Kedley, at Manor Care on Christmas Eve afternoon. Loretta can only have a very small fragment. About 4:30 p.m., Sr. Kathleen got a call that Mary Loretta had died! Glory to God in the highest!! She was the last first cousin of many Henneberry relatives.

P.S. It is beautiful here – blowing snow covering all...and I have beautiful harp music just ending "Send in the Clowns"!

Bishop Drumm Center – Barb Gross – Pictures by Mary Routh

Kayleen's sister-in-law, Kathy Heffron, came to visit her on Friday, December 3rd.

Hilary was grateful to see her nephew & niece, Marty and Cathy Menke on Sunday, December 19th.



All the sisters gathered for their Christmas party on Wednesday, December 22nd at 2:00 p.m. in their dining room. All were grateful to see S Mary Ann Vogel, S Johanna Rickl, S Lynn Mousel, and S Marcia Eckerman! WE had a grand time with Christmas treats, gifts, games and songs!!!

Sr. Rosalia at 98 with a newly completed puzzle!



Administration – Kelly Bell

Real, S. Cathleen: Room 318, Cell: 515-823-3510. Leaving messages is not encouraged as Sister struggles to retrieve them.

Chevalier, S. Dorothy: S. Dorothy's sister has requested that Dorothy be removed from all e-mail distribution lists. Please remove dodochevie@gmail.com from your email list.

Graham, Nancy: nancylngraham55@gmail.com

Maag, Linda: Lindamaag09@yahoo.com

Wallace, Betsy: 61 Thompson Avenue West #227, St. Paul, MN 55118



Mary Routh took a picture at the end of the Memorial Prayer time on Monday, December 6 at 11:00 a.m. It is always delightful to hear of the memories shared about our CHM sisters who have gone before us!