

TidBytes – January 2022

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

Des Moines – S. Jeanie Hagedorn

As we said “good-bye” to 2021 and gave thanks for all the blessings, I assume we also breathed a collective sigh of relief that we *survived*. Sadly, not all did. And as we welcome 2022, the pandemic is still with us in variant forms, and many of our other national and world challenges continue to haunt us as well. I guess this is where our faith comes in, to remind us that, as we walk into the unknown future, we do not walk alone. That is what gives us courage to welcome the new year! And we do so with openness, trust and even joy.

Srs. Elaine and Jeanie Hagedorn’s Christmas/New Year days were bittersweet as we observed the holidays without our only brother-in-law who died peacefully on Nov. 16 and was buried on Dec. 9. His years of prayer were answered to be with God and with his beloved wife and son. “The nuns” as Elaine and Jeanie are fondly called helped with planning and participating in the military funeral service. Many relatives and friends including Sr. Jude Fitzpatrick were present to offer support. The following weeks were spent helping his three adult children prepare for a virtual auction of all the contents of his home as they prepare to sell the house. We were grateful to claim the warm winter jackets, clothes, blankets and towels for the Catholic Worker, for Catholic Charities’ ministry to refugees and to immigrant friends of the Hagedorns.

Another goodbye was that of Sr. Justine Denning who said her own goodbyes – first to her sister Ina Merschman with whom she has lived for many years. As Ina needed further care she moved to an assisted living facility, and Justine said goodbye to their home. With the assistance of her nephews and friends Justine moved to Humility of Mary Center in Davenport on January 16th. Her departure was delayed a couple days due to the 12 inches of snow that was dumped on Des Moines this week. While beautiful to watch from *inside*

it brought travel warnings for outside! But Justine arrived safely and was warmly welcomed at HMC. While we will miss her in the DM area, we know she is happy to be with her Humility sisters.

Associate Barb Gross welcomed her new baby granddaughter into this world and is happily adjusting to the joys and challenges of helping care for an infant. Cathy Talarico keeps in touch via phone and email and is surviving these “cloistered days” that COVID demands. All of us long for the day when we can again visit our sisters at Bishop Drumm, but with the high contagion of Omicron and very high numbers of positive cases in our area everyone is continuing to follow CDC guidelines. Our prayers are that the new year will bring our country and world freedom from this deadly virus, and from the deadly racism, violence, division and poverty that plagues us. THEN we can truly celebrate together a HAPPY New Year! THAT is our prayer for 2022!

Humility of Mary Center – S. Mary Rehmann

New Year’s Eve included the annual Holy Hour, followed by recitation of the Te Deum in the chapel, and something different for the evening meal. Staff including **Shelly and Todd Seifert, Joyce Bieber, and Mike Duffy**, helped serve the variety of cold and hot hors oeuvres, many prepared by Food Service Coordinator, **Kendra Syler**. Favorites include shrimp cocktail, a colorful veggie tray and dips, spinach-artichoke dip with toasted bread pieces, chips and salsa with many choices of desserts and candy. Beverages included frozen slush as well as choice of beers and soft drinks.

Sr. Lillian Stevens had a surprise holiday visit from her granddaughter, Jennifer Hatfield, from Pittsburgh.

On **January 10 we said good-bye** to all the Christmas trees, decorations, indoor and outdoor

lights, wreaths in the chapel and dining room, and some decorations on residents' doors. We loved the red and green paper "lanterns" in the dining room, beautifully reflected back to us by the windows after dark. **Thank you cards were sent** to those who gifted us with chocolates and Christmas candy, including old-fashioned ribbon candy, cookies, fruit cake, fresh fruit, popcorn and home-made "Chex-mix". The camels and wise men had made their way to the chapel crib for the Epiphany, this year the very next day after Christmas.

Seven inches of snow delayed **Sister Justine Denning's move to the Center** from Altoona by a day; she and her helpers arrived in time for the noon meal on Sunday, January 16. She could be seen over the next few days bringing in more contents from her car, through the chapel, and to her room in the West Wing. She is appreciated for having joined the tray carriers from "day ONE".

Keep your eyes open for the colorful "bus wrap" on a Davenport Citi bus alerting the public to the national **HOTLINE 1-888-373-8888** for reporting suspected "Human Trafficking". Sponsored by the CHM congregation and the local "Attacking Trafficking" organization, it is expected to be seen by 2 million "viewers" during its exposure through March. St. Alban's Episcopal Church is host for a related Prayer Service on Sunday, January 23, at 2 p.m. and volunteer training on Sunday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m. at 3510 W. Central Park Avenue in Davenport.

Sr. Claudellen Pentecost supplements descriptions of Montana with some of her books about her favorite state with hair stylist, **Sheryl Smyth**. Sister has also shared the video tape of the performance by her deceased pianist now deceased nephew, Steve Gordon, one of 80 grand piano players in a unique performance during the Closing Ceremony of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Something neat: The city of Bettendorf is inviting ideas for making this May 27 -5/27/22 a FUN DAY. It matches their ZIPCODE!

Bishop Drumm Center – Barb Gross

Daily Routines: Each of the sisters at Bishop have their daily pattern of doing what they enjoy. This varies from going to Mass, going to the activity room, doing puzzles, playing Rummikub, listening to EWTN, watching sports and the news, going for walks in the hallways, reading, visiting their neighbors and much more with the assistance of staff.

Meetings: On Tuesday, January 18th, we had our regular monthly meeting with the sisters in Chapel after Mass and then our staff meeting followed. After our meetings, our CHM staff had a nice holiday lunch over at the Greenbriar. It was an enjoyable time to be together, have a delicious lunch and simply relax.

We wish everyone a happy and blessed New Year 2022!!!

Administration – Kelly Bell

Sr. Justine Denning: 820 West Central Park Avenue, 563-322-1834, ext. 147

Sr. Caridad Inda: Kahl Home, 6701 Jersey Ridge Road #N122, Davenport IA 52807, 563-484-3876. No visitors at this time, please.

There was some office switching at HMC for the Leadership Team:

Sr. Johanna Rickl, 563-336-8418, Room 036, mjrickl@chmiowa.org

Sr. Marcia Eckerman, 563-336-8403, Room 035, meckerman@chmiowa.org

Sr. Lynn Mousel, 563-336-8416, Room 043, lmousel@chmiowa.org

Sr. Mary Bea Snyder, 563-336-8417, Room 041, mbsnyder@chmiowa.org

Sr. Mary Ann Vogel: Office at home, 563-340-6102 (cell), mvogel@chmiowa.org, maryannvogel621@gmail.com