

A publication for friends of the
Congregation of the Humility of Mary



Merging Ministries

By John DeTaeye, Director of Development, Humility Homes and Services, Inc.

The Board of Directors of Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. and Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. are pleased to announce the agencies have merged under a new name – **Humility Homes and Services, Inc.**

This strategic merger strengthens our capacity to prevent homelessness and serve those experiencing homelessness in the Greater Quad Cities area. The merger centralizes our administrative, financial, and development functions. It builds our capacity to utilize best practices and evidence-informed programs with rigorous reporting and evaluation throughout all of our services. And finally, we are able to assist with coordinating and aligning existing housing programs and identify gaps in services for persons experiencing a housing crisis in the Quad Cities.

Our main office and the Fresh Start Donation Center continue to be located at 3805 Mississippi Ave., and our emergency shelter and program offices remain at 1016 W. 5th St. in Davenport.



Our Legacy

The “New York Times” described the 1989 National March for Housing best when they wrote, “Tens of thousands of people marched on the Capitol today to protest the shortage

of decent, affordable housing. They included homeless men and women, families who rent but cannot afford to buy homes, state and local officials...”

Several sisters from the Congregation of the Humility of Mary were among the thousands that marched in DC. Moved by the Congregation’s call to build community by “working for justice within the human family and caring for Earth itself,” the sisters made the 40-hour round trip bus ride to DC. As a result, they returned inspired and strengthened in their faith to end homelessness in the Quad Cities.

Their faith and dedication turned into measurable action. Almost

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Photo 1995: Sr. Rachel Beeson and Sr. Nancy Schwieters babysit for single parent participants in the Humility of Mary Housing program.

Summer 2018

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The Flame is published three times a year for the Congregation of the Humility of Mary and friends.

Our Mission: We, the members of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary, call one another to live the Gospel with simplicity and joy following the example of Mary.

Like our founders, we strive to be attentive to the call of the Spirit in the signs of our times, especially the needs of the poor and the powerless.

We commit ourselves as individuals and as a congregation to work for justice within the human family and to care for the earth itself.

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

-Psalm 82:3

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Sr. Johanna Rickl, Sr. Mary Ann Vogel and R. Scott Van Vooren at the document signing for the merger of HMHI and HMSI.

We, members of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary commit ourselves to work for justice within the human family and to care for Earth itself. This is our mission and in this issue of “the Flame” we share ways in which we carry it out in our world of today.

Thirty years ago, as we explored unmet needs in the Quad Cities, we learned one of the greatest needs was affordable housing for single parents and their children. A basic need of all people is shelter, a roof over one’s head, a place to call home. Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. came into being as a result of our exploration. Ten years ago, a local homeless shelter announced it would be closing because of financial difficulties. Again, not wanting people experiencing homelessness to be out on the street, we decided to form Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. The lead story in this issue shares the exciting news of the merger of these two programs into one to be known as **Humility Homes and Services, Inc.** with a tag line of “**servicing all, benefiting all.**” The merger came about after nearly three years of meetings with consultants, staffs and boards. The end result was celebrated and will certainly lead to greater efficiencies of operations.

Our mission also calls us to respond to immigration issues. There is no way we, a country built by immigrants, can say it is justice to remove children from their parents when they are trying to flee to safety. Nor is it just to hold immigrants in GEO detention centers not just for months, but even for years, because they cannot afford legal representation. That is why we made a contribution to the **Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network** for a fund to be used to hire immigration lawyers as described on page 7.

Our mission to care for Earth is carried out in a very special way at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat. A major fund-raising event, **Spirit of the Prairie**, will be taking place on August 26. This is an opportunity to learn more about the program offerings at The Prairie, to enjoy local foods and beverages, to purchase the works of local artists, to enjoy local musicians and to take a tour of The Prairie grounds. Driving up the lane to the retreat center is an experience you must have to appreciate what you will see; I believe you will want to return! See the back page for more information.

Thank you, all who help us continue our mission; all who participate and share in our lives in so many ways. You are a gift to us.

-Mary Ann Vogel, CHM President

Merging continued from page 1

30 years later, the agencies they launched own or lease 93 supportive housing apartments and operate the area's only low-barrier, emergency shelter for single adults. The shelter provides short-term housing for up to 70 adults each night. On any given day, over 200 persons – including children, parents, single adults, and veterans – can obtain personal hygiene products, household items, furniture, and clothes at our Fresh Start Donation Center.

Our Future

“The rent eats first,” notes Matthew Desmond in “Evicted,” the recent best-seller on America’s housing crisis. According to the United Way’s ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed), 38% of Quad City residents are choosing between paying for rent, food, health, and education. Residents need housing and food security for our Quad Cities to thrive. When everyone has a place to call home, the Quad Cities will grow stronger and prosper.

Let’s Get Started

Humility Homes and Services, Inc. will build upon three decades of service and advocacy. In the weeks ahead, you will see changes that represent our name – including updates to signage, our online presence and monthly communications. We hope you like the changes, and as always we welcome your suggestions. We are grateful for you and that you have chosen to join us in ending homelessness.

Your contributions help support CHM sponsored ministries.



Collaboration Enriches Religious Life

by Lynn Mousel, CHM

A gift of my experience of religious life has been the opportunity to collaborate with others, both vowed members and lay, associated with various religious congregations. I have been able to work, learn and enjoy friendship with a wide variety of people. This doesn’t change my deep connection with my fellow CHMs, but it expands and enriches my experience of religious life. Two examples of this collaboration include my involvement with the Dubuque Area Vocation Association (DAVA), and the ForMission program, sponsored by the Religious Formation Conference.

The ForMission program is a two year multi-faceted learning experience for women and men religious in formation ministry. The program has been very beneficial in my roles as Coordinator of Membership Development and an Associate Co-Leader with the CHM community. The ForMission group meets every six months in person

for a week at a time, in addition to ongoing reading and support in between these sessions. We share knowledge, but also the joys and challenges of working with those who are in the process of joining our religious congregations. We are able to give one another hope, as the challenges we face tend to be quite similar. In the process, I have been enriched by knowing sisters, brothers, and priests coming from various cultural backgrounds and types of religious communities.

The CHM community has a history of involvement with DAVA going back a number of years. It is an honor to represent the CHM community and continue our involvement in the group. This group focuses on increasing awareness of religious life as an option and journeying with those who are discerning a vocation to religious life or the priesthood. While the ForMission program involves congregations from around the United States, DAVA is a regional

group. Our purpose is to support and collaborate with one another in providing programs to promote vocations to religious life and priesthood. I have had the chance to work with DAVA members on various activities and projects, including high school mission talks and Busy Student Retreats at St. Ambrose University in Davenport.

The use of technology has been very helpful in connecting with one another. This is true for both groups, but is illustrated in the picture of DAVA members above. Zoom video conferencing is a wonderful way to connect across the miles, when being in the same physical space is not feasible. It is amazing how the Holy Spirit can seem so present among us, even when the medium is cyberspace!

Given these opportunities for collaboration, and tools for connecting with one another, I am very grateful to experience religious life in these times.

Photo: Sr. Lynn Mousel is 2nd from right and standing with members of the Dubuque Area Vocation Association.

Honor and Remember

The Congregation of the Humility of Mary is grateful for the donations received in memory or honor of loved ones between January and May 2018. CHMs remember these individuals in our daily prayers and Masses.

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The Road Less Traveled

by Margaret Kruse, OSF, Director of Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat

In March I began my journey as the new director of Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat (OLPR). I am a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi from Milwaukee, WI. However, I spent most of my life in Iowa growing up on a farm with 14 brothers and sisters before joining the Sisters of St. Francis (OSF) in 1966.

Prior to returning to Iowa for parish ministry in 1977, I spent two years in day care work with the United Farm Worker Union in California. Working with the children of migrant workers and staff expanded my vision of the world and different cultures.

For 28 years I was in pastoral ministry in Iowa, ministering to the people in Farmington/Keosauqua, Tama/Toledo, St. Thomas More in Iowa City and eight parishes in the Ft. Dodge area.

In 2007 I was elected to be OSF leadership team where I served for eight years, being exposed to whole new worlds with the community

and beyond. After leadership I was given a year sabbatical, during which I visited 22 women's congregations that were involved with sustainability and caring for Earth.

Recently, I spent a year and a half at St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care, a day care with children and adults interacting daily. I was in the pastoral care department, bringing prayer, presence and liturgy to the residents.

Also new to The Prairie is Ann Metzger, our recently hired assistant director. Ann is originally a farm girl from SE Iowa. After graduation from high school and college she worked at a boarding school for high school girls in Illinois and moved to Minnesota where she worked in youth ministry in the Archdiocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul for ten years. She returned to Iowa and worked in youth ministry for another ten years in the Archdiocese of Dubuque and in the Diocese of Davenport until she became a mom.



OLPR Director Sr. Margaret Kruse, OSF and Ann Metzger, OLPR Assistant Director

We were fortunate that when Ann decided to return to ministry she served as interim OLPR staff during the search for a new director and everything fell into place!

We are both excited for this new adventure at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat. We look forward to getting to know the CHM sisters and all the people associated with The Prairie, and most of all to having you visit!

Visit chmiowa.org/retreat or call 563-336-8414 for our upcoming retreat schedule

Jubilee 2017



The Congregation of the Humility of Mary celebrated Jubilee 2018 on June 24 with a Celebration Mass at Christ the King Chapel on the St. Ambrose University campus in Davenport.

Those celebrating their anniversary are (above l-r) CHM Associate Rosemary Hendricks (25), Sisters Kathleen Tomlonovic (60), Marian Smith (70), Mary Ann Vogel (60).

On Saturday, September 29, at 9:30 am, a second Jubilee Mass of Celebration will be held in Our Lady of Peace Chapel at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston, Iowa. (below l-r) Sisters Marita Bartholome (75), Joanne Di Iulio (70), and Karen Macksey (70) will be joined in the celebration with some of those pictured in top photo. Far right: Sr. Marilyn Kraus (70) will be unable to attend.



"The Jubilarians serve as reminders each year that our CHM legacy can still guide us as we live each day and look to the future. As we thank God for the gift of our life, for encouragement and support and for opportunities for ministry and service, we thank God that you also have received gifts that prompt your gratitude."

Read more in the news section at chmiowa.org

In Loving Memory

Sister Constance Pailliotet
October 29, 1926 -
April 2, 2018



Tributes to our departed sisters can be found at www.chmiowa.org in the Sister Stories section

Unjust Immigration Detention

Kathleen Mullen, a long-time friend of CHMs, is the author of "One Among Many," a book about the Humilities of Iowa. Recently, Kathleen contacted us to help spread awareness of the need for funds to help provide legal assistance for immigrants detained at a GEO detention facility in Aurora, CO.

What she learned when she responded to a request to visit immigrants in this facility led her to take on this fund-raising campaign. She said full-time bona fide immigration lawyers are needed to ensure immigrants have a fair chance to successfully defeat deportation action and establish their affirmative claim in immigration cases. Kathleen's first-hand account of her experience in the detention facility can be found at chmiowa.org/service.

Kathleen is working through the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to collect funds for hiring the immigration lawyers. To learn more about this organization and to donate see: rmian.org —be sure to designate that your donation go into the fund for legal representation.

Assisting immigrants in detention with good legal representation flows from our mission to work for justice within the human family. It is one way to show CHMs mean what we say when we call for a halt to immoral immigration policies and practices including:

- Separating children from parents;
- Housing children in detention centers;
- Creating cruel uncertainty in the lives of eligible DACA recipients for whom this nation is their only home;
- Closing our doors to asylum seekers.



Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat

Our Lady of the Prairie is in need of volunteers to assist with programs, facilities and grounds. Opportunities include meal prep and kitchen clean-up, garden care and harvesting, landscape weeding and trimming and gift shop staffing. Time frames vary from 2 to 4 hours on an occasional basis. If you're interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, send your name and interests to olpretreat@gmail.com or call 563-336-8414 and we'll add you to our contacts list. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



Sr. Johnelle Howanach (l) was visiting from Montana and on hand to help Sr. Cecelia Vandenberg celebrate her 100th Birthday on June 26. A life-sized cut-out of the birthday girl greeted many guests. Sr. Cecelia received an avalanche of cards and good wishes from all over the country on this momentous occasion.



Spirit of the Prairie

8th Annual Fundraiser Sunday, August 26, 2018

3:00 - 6:00 pm - Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat

- ~ **SAVOR** locally produced summer buffet and spirits
- ~ **ENJOY** live music by the Barley House Band
- ~ **SHOP** a silent art auction and The Prairie gift shop
- ~ **MEET** and greet the artists
- ~ **TOUR** the beautiful Prairie grounds and buildings

For more info and to register go to:

www.chmiowa.org
or call 563-336-8414

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