In this issue, we shine a light on those making a difference in every life they touch to create a significant impact on every tomorrow.

Rejoicing with Jubilarians
Twenty-two HM Sisters rejoice in milestone years of vowed religious life and dedication to living each day in response to God’s call.
Sustainable stewardship of natural resources
is part of the corporate witness of the
Sisters of the Humility of Mary. Please join
us in making recycling a priority.

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Dear friends,

As the springtime unfolds itself over the Villa, we find delight and peace in the natural beauty that surrounds us. We have often wondered what it was truly like for our first sisters to walk on and work this land with so many challenges in the wetlands (mud?) and the need to clear fields to plant and harvest food for the many orphans, sisters, students, and others who were part of the early life at the Villa. Through these past 152 years since the journey from France, the sisters experienced many changes and transitions as they sought to bring more abundant life to God’s people. Although there have been many external changes in clothing, in ministry assignments and in the buildings themselves, the internal core of mission has been the moving force that continues to invite us forward.

Change is speeding up all around us, in our society and in our world. In addition to changes, we are also experiencing the critical challenges and breakdowns of the systems that have supported our society for such a long time – a health system that struggles to provide adequate care in a culture and economy that strangles it, education that sees more and more children falling behind and rising costs that make college and advanced education out of reach for more and more people, the economy that results in an ever-widening gap between rich and poor, and even our political system that has begun to show the face of violence as it becomes grid-locked in a refusal to work together for the common good.

We are challenged as well in our lives as religious women as we confront many critical questions and urgent challenges before us. And so, what does it mean for us to give witness to something greater at work in our world? What does it mean to participate actively as people who believe in gospel values and the importance of bringing more abundant life? How do we join hands with others who are drawn to the mission so we can better respond to the needs before us?

Pope Francis stated in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*: If we allow doubts and fears to dampen our courage, instead of being creative we will remain comfortable and make no progress whatsoever. In this case we will not take an active part in historical processes, but become mere onlookers. (129)

We are called and invited on a daily basis to do what we can, to participate actively to the extent that is possible, to offer our gifts where they are so needed. What can we do in our small part of this world that will bring more abundant life?

Each year we are missioned together with the associates, our volunteers, volunteer alums, and our partners in ministry. We commit ourselves to find ways “to share the love and healing of Jesus, to speak the joyful message of the Gospel through our actions and the witness of our lives.” (adapted from the HM Vow formula, Constitutions, #19)

In this issue of the *HM Voice*, we offer some glimpses of how we continue to share in the mission of Jesus by reaching out to others to respond to the needs that are before us.

We are grateful for all of you who have been part of our lives in some way, and we ask God to bless you with the abundance of life and joy that speaks of hope, courage and promise in our world today.

In Mary’s humility,

*Sister Toby Lardie, HM*

Pastoral Leader

**Leadership Team**

Sr. Karen Bernhardt  
Sr. Mary Pat Cook  
Sr. Carole Anne Griswold  
Sr. Barbara Wincik  
Sr. Toby Lardie,  
Pastoral Leader
Positive change begins with an opportunity. And that’s exactly what those residing at Humility of Mary Housing’s Opportunity House in Garfield Heights, Ohio, are getting.

HM Housing, a ministry of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, opened Opportunity House in 2010 in the convent purchased from another religious community in an effort to provide young men a better alternative to the Cleveland men’s shelter.

Intended for recently homeless young men age 18-24 with a HUD diagnosed disability, Opportunity House is permanent, supportive apartment-style housing for those left to fend for themselves after aging out of the foster care system and failed by other youth systems.

All residents are supported by Humility of Mary Housing’s Caring Compass of Services, wherein staff works with residents to: Normalize life, Establish an individual support plan, Work at lasting independence and Strengthen life skills.

The Caring Compass helps keep all going in the right direction and provides services such as quality housing, life skills, employment, education, physical/mental health, emergency assistance, homeless prevention assistance, advocacy and spirituality.

With a furnished apartment and the Caring Compass of Services, residents are taught the tools to reach lasting independence. The apartment is the first step to normalize life by removing fear and uncertainty, addressing personal challenges and creating a structure to daily life. With the guidance of a case manager, they are then able to establish an individualized support plan around individual needs. As success is gained it allows the youth to strengthen life skills and the community connections needed to achieve and maintain independence. Regular employment builds financial responsibility and helps maintain a stable lifestyle.

The length of stay varies by resident, with earning a life-sustaining income.
income, obtaining housing within the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and/or reaching a 24th birthday being common reasons for residents to leave.

**Much Needed Renovations.**

Opportunity House was used as it was left by the previous sisters until the summer of 2014 when a campaign started to transform the building into 11 one-bedroom suites with private baths and small kitchens, as well as a community room, laundry rooms and lounge. The renovations were made possible through funding from the Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, the Cleveland Foundation, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Humility of Mary Housing and the Federal Home Loan Bank through a sponsorship by First Merit Bank.

An open house and dedication ceremony of the newly renovated Opportunity House was held in January.

“Having our partners, neighbors, friends and benefactors here today is what made this all possible,” said Sr. Toby Lardie, pastoral leader for the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, in remarks to the gathered crowd. “We are deeply grateful to see this mission live on in so many ways, here and at other places throughout Humility of Mary Housing.”

Also grateful is Alfred, a resident, who shared his appreciation for a new start in life. “I have been in the program for a while and it has really helped me to be the person I am,” he said. “Without Opportunity House I would be out on the streets. I grew up in a very broken neighborhood and had nowhere to go from the time I was 5 until now. I love it here and I just wanted to say thank you to you all.”

A ribbon cutting with oversized scissors marked the official beginning for the newly renovated Opportunity House.
Beneath every news story there are people: living, breathing, people with families, each with stories of heartbreak and triumph.

Refugees who come to this country, usually after years and sometimes decades of enduring violence, persecution and even torture, epitomize the history of the United States — searching for a better way of life for their families. Like our own ancestors before us, they have hopes of freedom and prosperity for their children. When the HM Community recently welcomed refugee single mothers and their children for a weekend of respite, fun and sharing, the sisters felt their mission affirmed in the smiling faces of those women and children.

“Catholic Social Teaching teaches us about the dignity and rights of all human beings,” said Sr. Eilis McCulloh, who has worked with refugees in Minnesota and Ohio. “For so long, refugees and immigrants have been stripped of their dignity and rights as they have been forced to flee their home countries, endure brutal wars and torture, and have settled into ‘temporary’ existence in refugee camps while hoping to return home.”

For a single mother to be separated from family, bear children in refugee camps, and then begin life anew in a foreign country, the challenges are staggering. But Sr. Eilis said her experience with many of the refugees has been one of joy and hospitality. “My first experience working with a refugee community was in Minnesota. The refugees and I were both new to the area and I had the opportunity to learn a new city/culture with our clients. I’m certain that I learned more from them than they did from me, which still holds true. I am always struck by their hospitality and sense of community and family. Early on, I was always invited into their homes for cups of chai, traditional meals, conversation, and laughter,” she said.

Sr. Margaret (Peg) Cessna echoed that feeling. “All of the people that I have worked with have fled their countries for refugee camps in neighboring countries. Many families have walked for miles to get to the camps because of torture or fear of persecution in their homelands. The families that I have worked with come from Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma, Bhutan, Eritrea, Sudan and...
“For so long, refugees and immigrants have been stripped of their dignity and rights as they have been forced to flee their home countries, endure brutal wars and torture, and have settled into ‘temporary’ existence in refugee camps while hoping to return home.”

— Sr. Eilis McCullogh

Burundi,” she said. “These families that I mentor embrace their new city with gusto. They overflow with gratitude, are eager learners and work hard to adjust to their new life in Cleveland.”

HM Sisters see a natural link between their mission and the refugees. “In the HM mission, we talk about ‘responding to the needs of the times’ and ‘bringing more abundant life to God’s people-especially the poor.’ Through our work with refugee communities, we are responding to immediate needs of communities living on the margins of our world and our neighborhoods. My hope is always that I empower and encourage them to live their best life,” said Sr. Eilis.

Sr. Peg pointed out that the refugees are eager to work, taking entry-level jobs and working hard to provide for their families. She continued on next page

“All of the people that I have worked with have fled their countries for refugee camps in neighboring countries. Many families have walked for miles to get to the camps because of torture or fear of persecution in their homelands… These families that I mentor embrace their new city with gusto. They overflow with gratitude, are eager learners and work hard to adjust to their new life in Cleveland.”

— Sr. Margaret (Peg) Cessna
helps them negotiate the everyday life that we now take mostly for granted. “I drive the parents. I tutor the children. I talk to welfare officers and school officials, doctors, and city officers. I teach bus routes and give tips for the unfamiliar reality of winter. I go to school concerts and hospital emergency rooms. I shop with them and slowly read labels in grocery stores and pharmacies. I explain water bills and thermostats,” she said.

Perhaps the most unexpected part of the story is that a group of people who have so little are so willing to give all they can. “They welcome me into their home. They give me their trust. They demonstrate their affection with hugs and hospitality. They share their culture and their food. They sing for me and dance. They radiate gratitude with thank you after thank you. They embody goodness and humility in their simplicity and authenticity,” said Sr. Peg.

As Jesus said, “…for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Though we may be strangers geographically, generosity and kindness cross all borders. Even the borders of our hearts.

“They radiate gratitude with thank you after thank you. They embody goodness and humility in their simplicity and authenticity.”

– Sr. Margaret (Peg) Cessna
Sr. Karen Bernhardt was chosen by the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) as their Public Citizen of the Year at the organization’s annual conference in November. She was honored for her work with the Hartville Migrant Ministry and the Partners Against Trafficking of Humans Stark County (PATHS).

According to NASW, the Public Citizen of the Year award is given to a member of the community that exemplifies the values and mission of the social work profession by “making significant contributions to an area or population of concern to the social work profession such as at-risk or vulnerable populations, quality of life in communities, or social issues; acting with courage; and demonstrating outstanding leadership.” The person who receives the award is not a social worker.

The awards process is divided into three stages: regional, state, and national. To be considered for the state award, the nominee has to be recommended by a NASW member for the regional award. Sr. Karen had received the Region 8 award earlier last year after being nominated by Sr. Susie Corrigan, HM (now deceased). The state recipient is then chosen from the eight regional winners.

“In diverse and wonderful encounters, I came to understand that a community of caring and richly diverse persons can make a difference when we work in collaboration,” Sr. Karen said in her acceptance speech. “The Spanish-speaking immigrants, to me, have touched my heart over the last almost 30 years.”

And over those years, Sr. Karen has worked in four different states with many underserved populations, including homeless men, women and children; survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking; Spanish-speaking immigrants; and farmworkers. She also served as the national director of the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network. In addition to her work with the Hartville Migrant Ministry and PATHS, she is currently working in Stark County to help set up a specialized task force to assist juvenile victims of human trafficking.

“There are so many challenges,” Sr. Karen said of her work, both past and present, “the language barrier, helping them understand the health system, the legal system, or even basic services. Our job is education and advocacy. Every population has bad apples, but the people I’ve worked with are such good people with good values. And the saddest thing is that there’s really no way for them to get citizenship.”

Sr. Karen said she’s also seen a rise in awareness of the problem of human trafficking in recent years. It was something that was in the shadows, but now more groups and government agencies are beginning to collaborate to recognize the signs and address the issue. Sr. Karen said more faith-based groups are also getting involved, especially with setting up safe houses where survivors of human trafficking can go to deal with trauma and get the help they need to rebuild their lives.
“Once you’re part of us, you’re a part of us forever.” That was Sr. Katie King’s pitch to potential HM Volunteers when she was visiting volunteer fairs during her tenure as director of the HM Volunteer Service Program (HMVS), and those words have stood the test of time. HM Volunteer Service alums may be scattered throughout the country, but now as director of the alumni program, Sr. Katie makes sure they always stay connected to the HM Community.

Sr. Katie had been serving in campus ministry at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron when she was asked by HM Leadership to join the membership team. And though she went where the community needed her, she had loved her campus ministry so much that she still felt the call to work with young people in another capacity. The idea of starting a volunteer service program had been brought up previously, so with the encouragement and support of the HM Community, Sr. Katie asked to see what she could do with that idea.

At the time she was getting started, there weren’t too many programs that engaged young adults in ministry. They wanted to be involved, Sr. Katie said, but they needed someone to help facilitate the connection. So Sr. Katie started with offering short-term placements of a few weeks to a few months, though she did eventually expand and offered long-term placements as well. The

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Brian Aubry, a 2006-2007 volunteer, helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity in Immokalee, Fla., during his year of service.
first year-long volunteer served in 1993-1994, and there are currently 15 volunteers serving at sites in Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania for the 2015-2016 service year.

She placed the volunteers where the sisters were serving: in Arizona on Native American reservations; in Immokalee, Fla. working with migrant farmworkers; in Chicago; in California; in San Antonio, eventually expanding to 26 sites in the early days of the program. They served in clinics, in childcare programs, as teachers and builders and advocates. The sisters acted as site mentors and helped the volunteers acclimate to their service. The first formal orientation for an HMVS group took place at the Villa in 2000. That orientation continues to this day along with a mid-year retreat that helps the volunteers recharge and reconnect with each other and their reasons for doing service.

Sr. Katie enjoyed many things about being director of HMVS, but the most rewarding thing for her was the fact that she got to see the way it affected the young people involved. “Once they realize they are getting more than they’re giving, it changes them,” Sr. Katie said. “That was the reason I loved doing it. I got to see how committed they are to service and the gratitude they have for this [the HM] community. And a majority of the alums are now in non-profit work and continue to be involved.”

Gabrielle Campo, an Immokalee volunteer in 2003-2004, is one of them. She currently serves as program director of Refugee and Immigrant Services at Catholic Charities in Indianapolis and credits HMVS and Sr. Katie for influencing her path.

“While in Immokalee, I learned to see the face of God in small, unexpected places. These people, moments, and experiences shaped my life today. I can still remember feeling the presence of God each morning while I walked to the Southwest Florida Legal Clinic or entered the
Guadalupe Center. These places enriched my spiritual experience and continue to inspire me in my current professional and personal life. Everything about Immokalee, from the sisters, the people, the friends, taught me to see the face of God in everything. It was no accident when I bumped into Sr. Katie that fall day [at the Notre Dame Volunteer Fair], it was Providence.”

Sr. Katie stepped down from running HMVS in 2008 and started a new position as director of the alumni in order to keep former volunteers connected. “Around 2007, the community wanted to ‘open the tent’ and extend our connection with people. I felt strongly that this [the volunteers] was another connection,” she said.

So she set about tracking down addresses, writing newsletters, and arranging alumni gatherings and family service opportunities. Even with 340 alumni to keep track of, Sr. Katie takes the time to include a personal note on each newsletter; and she can tell you what each alum did during his or her service and what each is doing now.
And the relationships she has cultivated continue to affect the volunteers far beyond the scope of their service.

“I had an opportunity to reconnect with several other alums in Chicago,” said Lauren Bost, a 2005-2006 volunteer. “As a group, we were able to reminisce on our experiences and reflect upon how our time of service has impacted our lives. We even had the chance to discuss our current involvement in service projects and share ideas on how we could continue to serve together. I feel blessed to still have this connection to the HM sisters. It is comforting.”

But perhaps the best legacy Sr. Katie has left is best summed up by one of the volunteers.

“When I signed on with the HMVS, I thought it was going to be my ‘last hurrah’ in the world of service work,” said Dennis Lackey, a 2009-2011 volunteer. “What I got instead was an experience that permanently altered who I am and the way I see the world. Joining the HMVS was a whimsical decision I made while hoping to put off ‘the real world,’ and instead, I was introduced to it for the first time.”

“Joining the HMVS was a whimsical decision I made while hoping to put off ‘the real world,’ and instead, I was introduced to it for the first time.”

— Dennis Lackey, 2009-2011 volunteer

Fun facts about HMVS ALUMNI

- There are 10 doctors, 14 nurses, 3 physician assistants, and 1 dentist among our number.
- 221 children have been born to HMVS alumni!
- Several alumni have earned their Ph.D.
- We also have 20 campus ministers, 20 teachers, 10 social workers, 7 lawyers, and 4 school psychologists.
- 4 alumni are working full time on justice issues and 3 are writing books.
- Many Immokalee volunteers have stayed to work with the community long after their service years ended.
Sister Achieves All-Star Status with Students

By Connie Moorhouse

Sr. Mary Catherine Blooming is a testament that with age comes the ability to have a profound influence on the lives of others.

An educator for most of her life, Sr. Mary Catherine enjoys what she calls the “daily renewal of life” she witnesses every day as a teacher of religion and communications at St. Joseph High School in Natrona Heights, Pa.

“I love that I can be totally blown away by what transpires each day – even by their sufferings, big and small,” she said of her students.

But what really blows one away is the chance to witness how much the students love, admire, appreciate and respect the teacher who, to them, is anything but a grandmother figure.

“She is the most amazing person,” said Stephanie Edwards, who jumped at the chance to praise Sr. Mary Catherine. “She doesn’t just teach straight religion; she tells us how people view it, how it’s alive in our world today, and how, as Catholics and Christians, we should accept everyone.”

To Caroline Lindy, Sr. Mary Catherine is the person who has taught her to become a leader as well as being someone she looks up to.

For Ryley Danielson, his connection with Sr. Mary Catherine is a more personal one. “She helped my family with some tough times, and it’s been very nice to have her as a teacher.”

“She is the most amazing person. She doesn’t just teach straight religion; she tells us how people view it, how it’s alive in our world today, and how, as Catholics and Christians, we should accept everyone.”

–Stephanie Edwards, Student, St. Joseph High School

Sr. Mary Catherine Blooming proudly shows off the bulletin board of pictures for the school’s 100th anniversary celebration.

“She really goes above and beyond for her students,” Caroline added.

Above and beyond is understated just listening to Ryan Smith detail how Sr. Mary Catherine helps students by serving as the advisor for the school’s yearbook, farm club, speech and debate team, mock trial team and outreach team, in addition to attending every sporting event.

“I think it’s important to show an interest in their extracurricular activities,” said Sr. Mary Catherine, whose unmatched energy and passion goes beyond the classroom and fields of play.

As an educator she relishes getting students involved and immersed in culture. “If I am your teacher, you are going on a field trip,” she said.

The ultimate field trip occurred last year, when a group of 130 students and chaperones took part in Pope Francis’ visit to Philadelphia. The trip also included stops in Harrisburg and the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pa.

Another priority is showing her students what the world is really like; accomplished by relying on current publications and guest speakers – doctors, rabbis, couples and other specialists – who she says are a part of God’s presence and offer an understanding of sharing Christ with others.

“I think we can all learn from that,” she said.

While it’s clear her students benefit from her vast experience, Sr. Mary Catherine says she didn’t become a good teacher...
until well into her career, which includes stops at Magnificat High School in Rocky River, Ohio; St. John High School in Ashtabula, Ohio; Central Catholic in Canton, Ohio; and detours into parish ministry in the Youngstown and Pittsburgh Dioceses.

During that time she went to Notre Dame University, where she says she learned a lot about theology and how to be a really good teacher.

She accepted her current position at St. Joseph High School in 1998, and the school, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015, is certainly better for it.

“You are my favorite person,” an adoring Stephanie Edwards said.

At that statement, every other head in the classroom nodded in agreement.

Sr. Mary Catherine Blooming is one of eight educators to receive the 2016 Golden Apple Award from the Diocese of Pittsburgh for excellent performance in the classroom, church and community.

The group will be recognized during a May 24 dinner celebration hosted by The Most Rev. David A. Zubik, Diocesan Bishop, at The Cardinals Great Hall at St. Paul Seminary in Crafton, Pa. Award recipients are selected based on completion of a formal application; professional development; service to school, church and community; the nominating letter; letters from pastors/principals; and the essay required of each nominee.

In her essay, Sr. Mary Catherine expressed that love is a gift from God, and love makes all things possible – even easy. “Teaching Scripture, Christian Lifestyles and Communication draws on my background in theology, languages and media. I see Catholic schools as a place for God’s family to gather, to study, to celebrate sacraments, and to compete academically and in sports. It’s always been a lot of fun – made easier with love.”

Sr. Mary Catherine is lauded as a role model for religious life and service to church and community, as evidenced by her involvement in Presents for Patients and coordinating the making and delivering of Easter baskets to underprivileged children. In the classroom, she continues to challenge herself with a desire to constantly learn and incorporate new technology.

In addition to receiving the Golden Apple, the educators will receive a $6,000 monetary award and a Golden Apple pin. The award is made possible through the generosity of the Donahue Family Foundation.

During a Mass celebrating the 100th anniversary of St. Joseph High School, Bishop David Zubik blesses and thanks Principal Beverly Kaniecki for her work in developing Catholic education at St. Joseph High School.
Nothing brings people together like good food. And what better way to make new friends than to invite them into your home during the Christmas season for decadent, loved-by-all Christmas cookies. That’s exactly what siblings Gerrie DiMatteo and Elaine Ross were hoping when they moved into Villa Maria Apartments in 2004.

The pair never imagined they were about to embark on an annual tradition that would span more than a decade and escalate to the point of outgrowing their apartment. But that’s exactly what happened.

That first year, they transformed their apartment into a wonderland of numerous Christmas villages with everything from churches, to railroad stations and trains, to a skating pond.

Or more simply put by Gerrie, “A little bit of everything.”

Along with lots of Christmas cookies baked by Elaine and taste-tested for approval by Gerrie, it was an instant success with anyone welcome the entire month of December.

Word quickly spread, and over 100 people knocked on their proverbial Christmas door in year two, which prompted them to rethink logistics for the event.

“We decided the apartment was too small for everything,” Gerrie said, “so we kept the Christmas village in the apartment and put the cookies in the activity room.”

This was a move that was short-lived with yet more reconfiguring needed. “When that still wasn’t big enough, we moved to Lourdes Assembly Room and decided to focus only on the food,” Gerrie said.

With sufficient room capacity and a full kitchen in the new space, the sisters were now ready to do some serious entertaining.

“From the time we moved to Lourdes, everyone was invited and it was a one-day event,” said Elaine.

“Everyone” encompassed all HM sisters, staff, and Villa Apartment residents and family members, which meant more food and lots of it. And they didn’t disappoint.

“We love the excitement of Christmas, making people happy and getting together,” Elaine said. “Our mother always baked, and I got my love of baking from her.”

The process typically starts in September. Elaine is the master baker, who determines what cookies to make, a list exceeding over 20 varieties. An HM Associate, Gerrie
serves as the grocery shopper, official taste tester and is in charge of clean-up.

Elaine admittedly doesn’t taste any of her creations, leaving that to Gerrie and a few select other people. And she expects complete honesty of her work.

“I tell them to be honest. I don’t want something out that people aren’t going to eat,” she said.

Along with the traditional Christmas cookies, Elaine always makes sure to have something with lemon, orange, apricot, nuts, chocolate, and gluten and sugar free. Oh, and something fun and cute, which consists of things like Christmas mice, melting snowmen and reindeer cookies. After the third year, they realized not everyone liked sweets so they accommodated by adding dips, cheese balls and crackers, which are the specialty of their sister Midge DiMatteo, an HM sister, who also helps with set-up on the day of the event.

The trio estimates that last Christmas’ gathering attracted approximately 150 people. And while they have so many memories they could share, Elaine recalls one as being extra special – a hand-written note telling her that every cookie was better than the one before.

But all good things must come to an end, and so it is with this cherished tradition as 2015 was the last official Cookie Party.

The sisters agree they can’t end their joy of social gathering during the holidays and hinted at a possible scaled back version with attendees bringing a favorite recipe to share.

“There’s no way I can just stop baking,” Elaine confessed.

That baking though, much to the dismay of cookie lovers everywhere, will be on a much, much smaller scale.

And that’s just the way the cookie crumbles.
The HM Congregation is honoring 19 Jubilarians as they celebrate 75, 70, 65, 60, and 50 years of vowed religious life. These sisters have ministered in the fields of administration, counseling, eco-spirituality, education, health care, hospitality, parish and pastoral ministry, social services, social justice, and congregational leadership. Through their ministries and in their prayers, they have witnessed God’s love to the people of God, and have touched many lives along the way.

75 Years

Sister Theresa White, formerly Sr. Mary Bede, entered the HM Community from St. Mary Parish, Conneaut. She attended Fontbonne College, St. Louis, Mo., and earned a certificate in pastoral ministry from St. John College, Cleveland. She served for 24 years in the ministry of hospitality working as a helper in the Meat House at the Villa and in the kitchen at Villa Maria High School and the old Villa Maria Convent. She also served as housekeeper at St. Cecilia, Cleveland; Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland; and St. Stephen, Niles; and in the kitchen and food service at Lourdes Convent, Cleveland, and St. James, Lakewood. Sr. Theresa has served in pastoral ministry for the past 40 years in the Grand Island, Neb., Diocese at St. Theresa Parish School of Religion, Mitchell; St. Nicholas, Valentine; Resurrection Parish, Grand Island; and St. Mary Parish, Wood River. She currently serves as a minister of hospitality, Eucharistic minister, and patient visitor in Grand Island Parishes, Grand Island; St. Francis Medical Center, Grand Island, and Memorial Health Center, Grand Island, positions she has held since 1994. Sr. Theresa also serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

Thank you for the 360 seasons of life, the nine decades, the 94 years of which you have given glory, honor and praise to God.

Thank you for the 280 seasons, the seven decades, the 75 years of service to the Lord, as a Sister of the Humility of Mary—this dedication, service and commitment has been an inspiration to me and my priesthood.

Thank you for the 160 seasons of Pastoral Ministry, the four decades, the 46 years—this has been all of my ordained ministry, plus a few years. Thank you for your affirmation and support through these 160 seasons.

Congratulations on this exemplary length of life, dedication and service to the Lord, as a Sister of the Humility of Mary and to the Diocese of Grand Island. —Fr. Lou Nollette
70 Years

Sister Jean Babeaux, formerly Sr. Mary Irene, entered from St. Joseph Parish, Canton. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland; her Master of Arts from Xavier University, Cincinnati; and her Master of Library Science from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

Sr. Jean spent 44 years in the ministry of education where she taught at St. Paul, Salem; St. Patrick, Hubbard; St. Patrick, Kent; St. Edward, Youngstown; Sr. Edward Jr. High, Youngstown; Cardinal Mooney High School, Youngstown; Central Catholic High School, Canton; Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; and Magnificat High School, Rocky River. She also served as an administrator at St. Mary, Marietta, as principal at St. Joseph, Cuyahoga Falls, and as a librarian at Firestone Jr. High School, Akron where she also served as the director of the learning center. Sr. Jean also served as an independent tutor in the Akron school system; as Begel Hall coordinator at Villa Maria Retreat Center, Villa Maria; and as director of Villa Maria Circle at Villa Maria Community Center. She currently serves as a volunteer at Villa Maria Community Center and in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

Two Jubilees figure in my family’s history! First, my Aunt Martina Babeaux’s, who as a Mercy Sister of Erie, Pa., celebrated her 50th anniversary. I attended the affair especially at my father’s request, as he wished me to consider her community as a place for my vocational wish to also become a Catholic sister. However, I had already made up my mind to be a Sister of the Humility of Mary, having recently graduated from Mt. Marie Academy which our sisters staffed, and where I had become acquainted with the Community’s founding, charism, and its educational, hospital, and parish services.

I wished to join the HMs! Gratefully, I am able to enjoy my 70th Jubilee of doing so; and serving in our ministries through the very fruitful and blessed years.

—Sr. Jean Babeaux, HM

Sister Geraldine Koerner, the former Anna Mae Koerner, entered the HM Community from St. Cecilia Parish, Cleveland. She earned both her Bachelor’s and Master’s of Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and began a 26-year ministry in education. She taught at St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. James, Lakewood; St. Raphael, Bay Village; St. Albert the Great, Cleveland; St. Edward Jr. High, Youngstown; and as principal at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ashtabula and St. Louis, Louisville. Sr. Geraldine then spent the next 20 years in pastoral care at St. Joseph Riverside Hospital, Warren; St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown; as coordinator of activities and Shalom program at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, and at St. Christopher, Rocky River; where she served as a pastoral minister and director of ministry to the sick, aging, and bereaved. She also served as a volunteer in horticultural therapy at Kethley House, Cleveland. Sr. Geraldine currently serves as a volunteer at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, and in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

As I celebrate 70 years, I am grateful for the wonderful education I had and for the kindness of all the sisters, especially when I started to teach. They were always giving me pointers on different little things I could do to get my students involved. I am also grateful for the time I spent on the farm and in the Villa Shoppe. I enjoyed it so much and I learned so much.

—Sr. Mary Conrad Walsh, HM

Sister Dorothy Zwick, formerly Sr. Mary Zita, entered the HM Community from St. Joseph Parish, Cleveland.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and her Master of Education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. She ministered in education for 26 years as a teacher and principal in the Cleveland, Youngstown, and Pittsburgh dioceses. Among the places she taught are St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Mary, Conneaut; St. Paul, Salem, where she also served as principal; St. Edward Jr. High, Youngstown; St. Patrick, Hubbard; and Our Lady of Grace, Pittsburgh. Sr. Mary Conrad also served in the Transportation department at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, and as the director of The Villa Shoppe. She currently serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

Two Jubilees figure in my family’s history! First, my Aunt Martina Babeaux’s, who as a Mercy Sister of Erie, Pa., celebrated her 50th anniversary. I attended the affair especially at my father’s request, as he wished me to consider her community as a place for my vocational wish to also become a Catholic sister. However, I had already made up my mind to be a Sister of the Humility of Mary, having recently graduated from Mt. Marie Academy which our sisters staffed, and where I had become acquainted with the Community’s founding, charism, and its educational, hospital, and parish services. I wished to join the HMs! Gratefully, I am able to enjoy my 70th Jubilee of doing so; and serving in our ministries through the very fruitful and blessed years.

—Sr. Jean Babeaux, HM

continued on next page
Parish, Massillon. After graduating from the St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing, Youngstown, and becoming an RN, Sr. Dorothy went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh and her Master of Science in Nursing from Catholic University of America, Washington DC. She served as a nurse at The Rose-Mary Center, Euclid and as a nursing supervisor at St. Joseph Hospital, Lorain, before returning to the St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing as an assistant instructor of nursing and assistant director of education. She also served as director of the St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing, a position she held for 28 years. Sr. Dorothy served in HM Congregational Leadership as General Secretary for 16 years and as Villa Maria Community Center administrator for 14 years. She currently serves as a pastoral ministry volunteer at St. Patrick Parish, Youngstown, as a pastoral team volunteer at Villa Maria Community Center, and in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

“My whole being proclaims your greatness, O my God, and my spirit is joy-filled in your presence…” I wrote these beginning lines of my Magnificat during a retreat at Villa Maria many years ago. The words continue to ring true for me. My Magnificat prayer sums up my purpose in life—to offer praise and gratitude to God and to serve with others in a spirit of harmony and peace.

My Magnificat helps me to face the events and circumstances of my life with a grateful heart. My Magnificat urges me to take on the challenges of each day, to work untringly with others to find solutions, and to promote a peaceful spirit throughout the process.

During my 70 years as a Sister of the Humility of Mary, I have met many people who have touched me with their kindness and generosity. I am indebted to them for their encouragement and support in my personal life, in my various ministry opportunities, and in other ways that I am called to serve. Each encounter has enriched me and given me the assurance of God’s goodness and constant presence in my life. To you, Loving God, I offer my praise and thanksgiving.

—Sr. Dorothy Zwick, HM

65 Years

Sister Dolores Bourquin, formerly Sr. Peter Fourier, entered from St. Peter Parish, Canton. She earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and her Certification in Pastoral Ministry from the Diocese of Cleveland. Sr. Dolores ministered in education as a teacher at St. James, Lakewood; St. Joseph, Massillon; St. Patrick, Hubbard; and Our Lady of Grace, Scott Township; and as a pupil personnel director at St. Raphael, Bay Village. She served as Director of Religious Education at Our Lady of Victory, Tallmadge, where she was also a pastoral minister, and St. Patrick, Hubbard as director of religious education. She was a certified school counselor at Villa Montessori Center, Cleveland. Sr. Dolores was also the co-director of the HM Associate Program for seven years. She currently serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

IN CELEBRATION

Sister Margaret Ebin, formerly Sr. Charlene, entered the HM Community from St. Joseph Parish, Canton. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. John College, Cleveland, and her Master of Science in Nursing from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Sr. Margaret began her healthcare ministry as a nurse at St. Joseph Hospital, Lorain, and also served as nursing supervisor and director of nursing services at the facility. She served as maternity instructor at St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing, Lorain. In the Youngstown Diocese, Sr. Margaret served as director of nursing services at both St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown, and St. Joseph Riverside Hospital, Warren, and she also served as director of ambulatory care at St. Elizabeth Hospital. She then turned her talents to helping to care for her sisters as Associate Director of Sister Services, Villa Maria Community Center; Villa Maria. Sr. Margaret currently serves as hospital liaison at Villa Maria Community Center and as a volunteer and Eucharistic minister at St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital.

Sister Mary Pat Leopold, formerly Sr. Chaminade, entered from Blessed Sacrament Parish, Cleveland and earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and her Master of Arts in Teaching in English from Indiana University,
Bloomington, Ind. She ministered in education for 41 years as a teacher and principal in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses at Annunciation, Akron; St. Martin of Tours, Cleveland; St. Albert the Great, North Royalton; St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Joseph, Ashtabula; St. Edward, Youngstown; Mother of Sorrows, Ashtabula; and St. Pius X, Warren. She also served as Primary Grades Consultant in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Sr. Mary Pat served as an assistant to the parish leader at St. Ann, Sebring, and as a volunteer pastoral minister at Humility House, Austintown, before serving as a chaplain at Humility of Mary Health Partners, Warren for nine years. She also volunteered at Humility of Mary Health Partners, Warren for two years. Sr. Mary Pat currently serves in the Ministry of faith-filled presence at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria.

Sister Mildred Ruffing, formerly Sr. Jacinta, entered the HM Community from St. Paul Parish, Norwalk. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and her Master of Science in Religious Education from St. John College, Cleveland. She served as a teacher in the Cleveland, Youngstown, and Pittsburgh dioceses for 20 years at The Rose-Mary Home, Euclid; St. Cecilia, Cleveland; St. Mary, Painesville; St. Stephen, Niles; St. Paul, Salem; St. Edward Elementary, Youngstown; and Our Lady of Grace, Pittsburgh. Sr. Mildred then ministered for the next 42 years in religious education as the religion coordinator at St. Edward Elementary, Youngstown; and the director of religious education at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Canton and St. Robert Bellarmine Parish.

Sister Rose Mary Schmidt, formerly Sr. Rosalie, entered from St. Mary Parish, Massillon. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and her Master of Science in Education from Kent State University. She began a 35 year ministry in education as a teacher and principal at St. Patrick, Hubbard; St. Louis, Louisville; St. Pius X, Warren; St. James, Lakewood; and St. Agatha, Ellwood City. She also served as assistant director of HM Life Opportunity Services, Akron. Sr. Rose Mary then spent 25 years serving at Villa Maria Community Center as director of hospitality and administrative coordinator at Villa Maria Retreat Center; as assistant administrator of Villa Maria Community Center; and as director of Sister Services. She currently serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer and as a Pastoral Team volunteer at Villa Maria Community Center.

Sister Delrina Clarin, formerly Sr. M. Delrina, entered from Blessed Sacrament Parish, Cleveland. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland; her Master of Education from the University of Illinois; her Master of Arts in Religious Studies from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh before beginning her ministry as a teacher at Magnificat High School, Rocky River and St. John High School, Ashtabula. She served on staff at the House of Prayer, Youngstown; as a librarian at Youngstown State University, Youngstown; and in the Religious Education Department at the Youngstown Diocesan School Board office before serving as librarian at Central Catholic High School, Canton. Sr. Mary Catherine then turned her talents to pastoral ministry and religious education. She served as pastoral minister at St. Joseph Parish, Mantua and as director of religious education at St. Benedict Parish, Canton; Holy Spirit Parish Uniontown, where she was also a pastoral minister; St. Pius X Parish, Warren; St. Agatha Parish, Ellwood City; All Saints Parish, Pittsburgh; and St. Felix Parish, Freedom. She served as a consultant at Sr. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrel and as the RCIA/adult education coordinator at St. Mary Parish, Freeport. She currently ministers as a religion teacher at St. Joseph High School, Natrona Heights, where she has been for the past 18 years.

Sister Mary Catherine Blooming, formerly Sr. Mary Chad, entered the HM Community from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Cleveland. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Notre Dame College, Cleveland, and her Masters of Education in Library Science from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh before beginning her ministry as a teacher at Magnificat High School, Rocky River and St. John High School, Ashtabula. She served on staff at the House of Prayer, Youngstown; as a librarian at Youngstown State University, Youngstown; and in the Religious Education Department at the Youngstown Diocesan School Board office before serving as librarian at Central Catholic High School, Canton. Sr. Mary Catherine then turned her talents to pastoral ministry and religious education. She served as pastoral minister at St. Joseph Parish, Mantua and as director of religious education at St. Benedict Parish, Canton; Holy Spirit Parish Uniontown, where she was also a pastoral minister; St. Pius X Parish, Warren; St. Agatha Parish, Ellwood City; All Saints Parish, Pittsburgh; and St. Felix Parish, Freedom. She served as a consultant at Sr. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrel and as the RCIA/adult education coordinator at St. Mary Parish, Freeport. She currently ministers as a religion teacher at St. Joseph High School, Natrona Heights, where she has been for the past 18 years.
60 Years continued

from John Carroll University, University Heights; and her Educational Specialist degree and Ph.D. from The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. She ministered in the field of education for 48 years in various capacities in the Cleveland, Youngstown, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Va., and Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va. dioceses. Among the places she taught are St. Sebastian, Akron, where she also served as principal; St. Cecilia, Cleveland; St. Raphael, Bay Village; Barberton City Schools, Barberton, where she also served as a tutor; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ashtabula; St. Joseph, Ashtabula; St. Agatha, Elywood City; and St. Leo College, Williamsburg, Va. Continuing her involvement in education, Sr. Delrina served as the Elementary Schools Consultant for the Diocese of Cleveland and as a tutor at Goodrich Middle School, Akron. She also ministered as the director of religious education at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Cleveland, and St. Matthew Parish, Akron. Sr. Delrina has served as coordinator of adult education and coordinator of continuing education at John Carroll University and as a research associate at The College of William and Mary. She currently serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer and in the "Ministry of the Coffee Cup."

Sister Margaret Daniels, formerly Sr. M. Rebecca, entered the HM Community from St. Joseph Parish, Canton. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Notre Dame College and her Master of Education in Guidance/Counseling from Loyola University, Chicago. She ministered for 32 years in education as a teacher and guidance counselor at St. John High School, Ashtabula; Cardinal Mooney High School, Youngstown; Central Catholic High School, Canton; Magnificat High School, Rocky River; Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; and Erieview Catholic High School, Cleveland. Sr. Margaret has served as director of formation and assistant director of novices for the HM Community; at the House of Prayer; Youngstown; as assistant rector at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend; as a licensed professional counselor at HM Ministry Services, Cleveland; and as coordinator of hospitality at Villa Maria Retreat Center, Villa Maria. She currently serves at St. Martha Manor, Akron, in the ministry of HM Presence and in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Dolores Lucas, formerly Sr. Mary Joseph, entered from St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Cleveland. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Notre Dame College, South Euclid, her Master of Arts in Guidance from John Carroll University, Cleveland, and her Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from Cleveland State University, Cleveland. She has ministered for 47 years as a teacher, school counselor, and outreach worker in the Cleveland and Palm Beach, Fla., dioceses. She taught for 13 years at Magnificat High School and then served for 27 years as a counselor and with the Alternative Education Opportunity Program in the Cleveland Public School System. She currently serves as an outreach worker at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Fellesmere, Fla., a position she has held for the last 15 years.

Sister Cathy Joy Popoczy, formerly Sr. Theresa Joseph, SND, entered the HM Community from St. Joseph Parish (Collinwood), Cleveland. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education and her Master of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland and began her 43 years of active ministry as a teacher. Among the places she taught are St. Margaret Mary, South Euclid; St. Michael, Cleveland; St. James, Lakewood; St. Mary, Massillon; St. James, Warren; and St. Mary, Conneaut. Sr. Cathy Joy also served as a pastoral minister at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Smyrna, Ga., and St. Joseph Riverside Hospital, Warren. She also served the hospital in Warren as director of pastoral care and as a certified chaplain. After retiring in 2003, Sr. Cathy Joy currently serves as a volunteer at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, and in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Jenni Skerk, formerly Sr. M. Davidica, entered from St. Francis Parish, Youngstown. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and her Master of Science in Religious Education from St. John College, Cleveland. She has ministered for 56 years in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses as a teacher, pastoral minister, director of religious education, and chaplain. Sr. Jenni taught at St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Mary Painsville; St. Martha, Akron; St. Cecilia, Cleveland; Mount Pleasant Catholic Elementary...
Center; Cleveland; St. Patrick, Hubbard; and St. Mary, Conneaut. She served in pastoral ministry at St. Eugene Parish, Cuyahoga Falls; St. Joseph Parish, Suffield; St. Joseph Parish, Mantua; and St. Louis Parish, Louisville, where she also served as director of religious education. She served as director of religious education at St. Joseph Parish, Ashtabula. Sr. Jenni ministered as a chaplain and chaplain volunteer at Mercy Medical Center, Canton and St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown. She currently serves as a chaplain volunteer in the emergency room at Mercy Health/St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital.

**Sister Carole Wakefield**, formerly Sr. Mary Jeremy, SND, entered the HM Community from St. Gregory Parish, South Euclid. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and her Master of Science in Religious Education from St. John College, Cleveland. She ministered in education as a teacher at St. Margaret Mary, South Euclid; St. Francis, Cleveland; St. Mary, Elyria; Ss. Philip and James, Canal Fulton; St. Aloysius, East Liverpool; and St. Ann, Arlington, Va. Sr. Carole has served in the Grand Island, Neb., diocese for the last 47 years in pastoral ministry at St. Ann Mission, Morrill; St. Theresa Parish, Mitchell; St. Nicholas Parish, Valentine; Resurrection Parish, Grand Island; and St. Mary Parish, Wood River. She also served as assistant director of social services at Lakeview Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Grand Island, and as a family support specialist at Lutheran Family Services, Grand Island. Sr. Carole currently serves as a chaplain at St. Francis Medical Center, Grand Island, and in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

**50 Years**

**Sister Paulette Kirschensteiner** entered from Holy Cross Parish, Euclid. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Art Education from Ursuline College, Pepper Pike, and her Master of Arts in Fiber Arts from Kent State University. Sr. Paulette began her ministry as an art teacher at Magnificat High School, Rocky River. She also taught at Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria; St. Patrick Elementary, Kent; Malone College, Canton; and Kent State University. She opened The Cherry Stone Studio in North Canton where she was an art instructor specializing in art as prayer and drawing on the right side of the brain for adults. Sr. Paulette is also an accomplished artist. She was presented with the Robin and Russ Handweavers Award for her work in an exhibition at The Butler Institute of American Art in 1991 entitled Fibre Concepts Now: A Regional Exhibition and had a special mention in the 64th Annual Exhibition of work by artists and craftsmen of the Western Reserve. Her art is also featured in many installations across the country including St. Anne Chapel, Las Vegas, Nev. (2 panels, “Untitled”); Temple Wise, Cincinnati, (“Psalm 150”); Lake County Hospital, West, Willoughby, Ohio (“Sandscape”); Walsh University, North Canton (“Inbreaking” and “Untitled”); and the entrance wall of the Conference Center at Villa Maria Community Center to name a few. Sr. Paulette has also designed priest vestments in collaboration with other religious sisters and been featured in a number of art exhibitions, including faculty shows at Kent State University, the 31st Annual Ohio Ceramic, Sculpture and Craft Show, and Focus Fiber at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Her most recent exhibition was Mandalas and Zentangles at Villa Maria Community Center. Sr. Paulette currently serves as director of Villa Maria Circle at Villa Maria Community Center and in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

"I celebrate. Gratitude to a loving and faithful God. Gratitude for my Sisters in community, for opportunities to be challenged and grow into the person I am today. Gratitude for all my family and friends who have shared with me so many experiences over all these years. Gratitude for the ability to create with my hands and eyes. My heart is full.—Sr. Paulette Kirschensteiner, HM"

**Sister Susan Klein** entered the HM Community from St. James Parish, Lakewood. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. John College, Cleveland, her Master of Science in Gerontological Nursing from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, and her Ph.D. from Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Sr. Susan began her ministry in healthcare as a public health nurse with the Visiting Nurse Association in Cleveland and then served for nine years at the director of the office continued on next page
of aging at the Federation of Catholic Community Services, Cleveland. She also ministered in outreach services and as a program officer at the US government Bureau of Health Resources and Services in Washington, DC. Sr. Susan served as geriatric consultation specialist at Villa Maria Community Center for seven years before serving as director at the Center for Gerontological Nursing and Advocacy at the College of Nursing at the University of Akron. She also served as a volunteer at Villa Maria Community Center and in the HM Ministry of prayer in recent years. Sr. Susan currently serves in the Ministry of Faith-filled Presence at Villa Maria.

It is my honor to offer my reflection in this 50th jubilee year for my dear friend Sr. Sue. This momentous occasion offers an opportunity to consider the essence of a person and how a life speaks to us. Sue’s life, even today, speaks to us in countless ways. Throughout her life, in the face of tragic losses and adversity, she has shown a tenacity to persevere, the ability and courage to discover and rediscover the depth of the human capacity to heal and be whole.

Her life speaks to us through compassion and dedication to a life of service as a nurse, through dedication to and advocacy for the elderly, through ground breaking research about caregiver burden, through finding God in Solitude, in relationship, in nature, in the face of the other, in poetry.

She has lived her life walking with God and toward deeper union with God. That is what sustains her, renews her and guides her journey. She is an inspiration; giving faithful attention and appreciation for the deep affection that belongs to a life shared with a friend. Those of us fortunate enough to have her life touch ours are blessed by her spirit and are richer for it.

—M. Patrice McCarthy, HM Associate

Take, Lord, receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will—all that I have and call my own. You have given it all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me.” ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

This is a prayer that Denise often privately prayed. Her love for God, so great, she was willing to give everything back to the One who created her. She first gave back through her love and care for all to whom and with whom she ministered. Her gentle, compassionate and accepting spirit with others radiated the love she knew God had for them. As time progressed, God called her to give even more of herself. Through this call, every day, she has exhibited nothing less than acceptance with grace. Her fidelity to the God of love is a shining example to all of us.

Thank you, Denise, for sharing your life with us. We in the HM Community are proud to be able to call you our sister.

—Sr. Meg Leslie, HM

Sister Denise Maher entered from St. Peter Church, Canton. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education, graduating cum laude from St. John College, Cleveland, her Master of Science in Education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, and her Master of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University of New Orleans. She ministered as a teacher and principal for 12 years at St. James, Lakewood, and St. Brendan, Youngstown, before serving the HM Community at Villa Maria Community Center on the formation office staff, as formation director and as coordinator of justice concerns. She also served the Catholic Commission of the Southern Region, Diocese of Cleveland, as parish social action coordinator, as director of Humility of Mary Housing, Inc., Akron, as a volunteer mentor at Holy Family School, Stow, and in the HM Ministry of Prayer. Sr. Denise currently serves in the Ministry of Faith-filled Presence at Villa Maria Community Center.

Sister Barbara O’Donnell entered the HM Community from St. John Nepomucene Parish, Cleveland. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, her Master of Arts in Religious Education from LaSalle University, Philadelphia, and her Master of Arts in Earth Literacy from St. Mary of the Woods College, Terra Haute, Ind. Sr. Barbara’s 22 year ministry in education
began at St. Christopher, Rocky River; and
she also taught at St. Sebastian, Akron;
Mt. Pleasant Catholic Elementary
Education Center, Cleveland; and St.
Anthony, Canton. She also served as
a substitute teacher in the Diocese of
Youngstown at St. Pius X School, Warren,
and as director of religious education at
Barbara has been involved with Ecology
and Faith Spirituality. She has served
as an assistant and earth educator at
Villa Maria Farm and she was the
director of EverGreen Ministry at Villa
Maria Education and Spirituality Center
(VMESC). Villa Maria, where she also
served as an advocate for eco-spirituality
and eco-justice. She currently serves with
VMESC as an eco-spirituality associate
where she presents a variety of programs.

How blessed, how grateful, how hopeful I
am as a member of our HM community.

My parents and family taught me to value
the gift of all life and to depend on God’s
grace while making effort to do the right
thing. This was magnified through my call to
religious life and the Sisters of the Humility
of Mary.

So many people have welcomed me into
their lives through elementary education,
parish ministry, Villa Maria Farm/EverGreen
and Villa Maria Education and Spirituality
Center. Their influence and prayerful support
depen my commitment to Eco-Spirituality
and Eco-Justice. They witness to humility,
compassion, wisdom and our connectedness
to the mystery of our expanding cosmos.

Always in the process of becoming, I
reflect further on the gift of community
life: being women of faith, women of the
Gospel, women of Earth, and citizens of
the Universe. My faith is strengthened by
our HM charism and mission as each
day I am called to share in divine energy and
creativity. I celebrate these 50 years
with joy! —Sr. Barbara O’Donnell, HM

Sister Carla
Rutter entered
from St. John
the Baptist
Parish, Canton.
She earned
her Bachelor of
Science (cum
laude) from St. John College, Cleveland
and her Master of Education in Religious
Education from Boston College, Chestnut
Hill, Mass. Sr. Carla taught at St. Brendan
School, Youngstown, and then became
director of religious education at St.
Brendan Parish, Youngstown, and St.
Pius X Parish, Warren. She has served as a
campus minister at Kent State University,
Kent, as a pastoral associate in campus
ministry at Northern Illinois University,
DeKalb, Ill., and as assistant director of the
Women’s and Children’s Project in Lorain.
Sr. Carla served the HM Congregation
as director of vocations and formation
director, and also co-directed the HM
Associate Program for two years. Sr. Carla
served as a child advocate with Beatitude
House, an organization that works to
help women and children break the cycle
of poverty and homelessness. Sr. Carla
currently serves as a member of the
HM Membership Team and is the novice
director.

It seems unbelievable to be celebrating 50
years as a Sister of the Humility of Mary.
When I was new to the community all those
years ago, I recall two thoughts I had about
the golden jubilarians. The first was that they
were “so old!” And the second was more of
a question: “How could they be faithful to
God for 50 years?” It seemed like such a
long time!

Yet as I now celebrate my golden jubilee I
realize that a jubilee is not so much about
my own faithfulness to God, but rather
about God’s steadfast faithfulness with me.
I am like any other human being, someone
with gifts and talents while also having my
“shadow” side. Yet God loves me just as I
am and is always faithful. And that is really
something to celebrate! So I am overflowing
with gratitude. Throughout these past 50
years some days have been easier than
others, of course. But the bottom line is that
they have shaped me into the woman I am
today. And I wouldn’t trade any of it. So let
the next 50 begin! —Sr. Carla Rutter, HM
Mercy Health Youngstown President and CEO Bob Shroder was recently honored by Sr. Toby Lardie and the Leadership Team on the occasion of his retirement. Sisters gathered in the Villa Maria Community Center Conference Center to wish him well and welcome Don Kline as the new president/CEO. After Sr. Toby and Sr. Carole Anne Griswold offered some remarks to those assembled, Bob was presented a copy of one of Sr. Mary-Joanna Huegle’s historical paintings. “It’s really special,” Bob said as he thanked those assembled. “I have so much gratitude for so many people in this room who trained me. I’m not attached to the role, but I’m attached to the mission. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.”

Don offered a few remarks after being introduced to the sisters who had gathered. “I know that following Bob is stepping into big shoes, but my biggest job is going to be making sure we’re following the founders and the mission.”

Bob grew up in Kettering, Ohio, and attended Miami University of Ohio where he earned his undergraduate degree. He became interested in hospital administration while completing an internship at McCullough-Hyde Hospital in Oxford, Ohio, during his senior year of college. After working for a time as an accountant while his wife finished her internship, he went back and completed his Master’s in Hospital Administration at Xavier University in Cincinnati. He started his career as an administrator at Barberton Citizens Hospital in Akron, and also served at Detroit Medical Center, a large teaching hospital, and St. Joseph Hospital in Warren, Ohio, before moving to St. Elizabeth Youngstown in 2002. He is the second longest serving CEO with 14 years of service, surpassed only by Sr. Consolata Kline, HM, who served 17 years as hospital administrator.

“He really thought about the mission,” said Sr. Celine Metzger: “The Mother Anna story about taking just one more orphan really inspired him and he applied it to what he was doing.”

“He would meet with the sisters, even the ones who didn’t work there anymore, once a month to keep us updated on what was going on at the hospital. We really appreciated that,” said Sr. Margaret Ebin.

“He was more of a friend to us and so good to the sisters,” added Sr. Margaret Mary Siegfried. “He always mentioned us at every event.”

Sr. Toby Lardie and the sisters assembled offer a blessing for retiring Mercy Health Youngstown President/CEO Bob Shroder.

Don Kline [left] succeeds Bob Shroder as the new President/CEO of Mercy Health Youngstown.
Sisters’ Handiwork Serves Greater Purpose

by Kylene Kamensky

Working with their hands is not a new venture to the HM Sisters — the founding sisters in France created lovely lace that helped them advance their ministry both in their homeland and once they arrived in the United States. The sisters today continue that tradition by using their hands to create prayer shawls to bring comfort to those in need.

Prayer Shawls, Etc. (PSE) is a group of about 10 sisters, organized by Sr. Cheryl Samblanet and Sr. Susan Gauntner, that gets together once a week in the Visitation Hall third floor community room at Villa Maria to work on items such as prayer shawls, lap robes, hats, and scarves. They then donate these items to those in need. Sr. Susan had been in discussion with the head of Sister Services about beginning the group and Sr. Cheryl had some previous experience in organizing such efforts through her work with The Gabriel Project and other organizations, so they were a natural fit to help begin the outreach.

The group is a mix of knitters and crocheters, some who are just learning for the first time and some who have been crafting for years. They began the ministry last fall as a way to get together for community building and to help spread encouragement and warmth to those who need it.

"After we are all present, we ask for prayer intentions because we pray as we make them," Sr. Cheryl said. "The idea is that the prayers then wrap around the person who receives the items." The group also plans to include a card with each item donated.

But they don’t limit themselves to just prayer shawls. The group also made hats and scarves for the Villa heartwarming collection in December. This annual clothing drive sees the sisters, employees, and apartment residents collect items of warmth (coats, hats, scarves, etc.) that are then donated to area organizations for distribution during the cold winter months. They also plan to create lap robes for those who may be confined to wheelchairs.

"It’s nice to be here and do it," said Sr. Margaret Burgess, who is just learning to crochet after learning to make hats on a loom. "Cheryl and Susan are marvelous teachers," added Sr. Rose Mary Schmidt. "And getting together like this is fun." And so the act of serving others brings the sisters closer in community at the same time.

From top: 1. Sr. Mary Elizabeth Henaughan is all smiles as she works on her project next to Sr. René Parman. 2. Sr. Susan Gauntner helps Sr. Margaret Burgess learn to crochet. 3. Sr. Rose Mary Schmidt, Sr. Marguerite Holz, Sr. Linda Valasik, and Sr. Mary Pat Leopold work on their projects. 4. Sr. Margaret Mary Siegfried, Sr. Cheryl Samblanet, Sr. René Parman, and Sr. Mary Elizabeth Henaughan are hard at work.
Community Kudos

**Sr. Carol Joy Cincerelli** was featured in the January issue of “Akron Life” for her outstanding work teaching the enrichment art class at St. Hilary School in Fairlawn, Ohio, a position she has held for 21 years. The class provides comprehensive exposure to the arts with lessons focusing on the works of writers, artists, composers, saints and others. By the time the children are in fourth grade, they are familiar with the life and works of Renoir, Van Gogh, Mozart, Grandma Moses, Michelangelo and many others. “Through the people we study, we discuss times that are difficult in life as well as recognizing our own gifts in healing and helping those with whom we share our journeys and our world,” Sr. Carol Joy said. “Respect for others, kindness and leadership extend from learning how others have traveled with us.”

**Sr. Pat Flores** received a bachelor’s degree in religious studies from Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio.

**Sr. Maryann Golonka** had the honor and privilege of performing the opening song for the 21st Annual Samuel Meyer Memorial Lecture. The song, “One God The Lord of All,” was written by Fr. George J. Balasko.

A comprehensive article on the Blessed Virgin Mary as told by **Sr. Helen Jean Novy** was featured in the April/May issue of “Northeast Ohio Catholic Magazine.” Sr. Helen Jean, who serves as vice president of mission at Magnificat High School in Rocky River, Ohio, detailed Mary’s faithfulness, courage and humility. Magnificat High School, a ministry of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, is the only high school named after Mary’s Canticle.
The following programs are provided by Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (VMESC) and will take place at Villa Maria. Please contact Dana Stiger at 724-964-8886 for more information or visit vmesc.org. Additional programs and information are listed on the VMESC website.

Upcoming Programs

Contemplative Exploration into Evolutionary Christianity
*Presented by Nancy Sylvester, IHM*
**Date:** Sun., June 12, 7 p.m to Fri., June 17, noon  
**Cost:** $465

One’s cosmology shapes one’s theology. Many of us, having embraced an evolutionary cosmology, still stumble in terms of how it shapes our theology. Come and be part of this retreat rooted in communal contemplation and dialogue to explore our experience of being evolutionary Christians and the theology that is taking shape within us. This retreat is experiential involving personal reflection, communal contemplation, presentations, and processes.

The Grace of Acceptance
*Presented by Jan Novotka and Marie Larkin*
**Date:** Sun., July 10, 7 p.m to Fri., July 15, noon  
**Cost:** $435

The Grace of Acceptance is a silent retreat that invites us to acknowledge and embrace the things in our lives which we are having a hard time embracing. When we come to “accept what is as it is” a deep peace comes over us. It is as if we let go of our need to change things, fix things, avoid things and our demand that life unfolds according to “our plans.” This surrendering to “Life” as it is in this moment is actually a way of entering into union with each moment and with God, bringing not only peace but a sense of well-being at the deepest level. Integral to this retreat is input, experiential processes, group sharing, time for personal reflection, and plenty of singing.

Women on Whose Shoulders We Stand
*Presented by Susan Schorsten, HM, and Gay Rowzie, HM*
**Date:** Sun., Aug. 7, 7 p.m to Fri., Aug. 12, noon  
**Cost:** $375

The retreat will focus on becoming acquainted with women in the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. Given the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with some of the women, the participants will come to see the women as role models for our times. The time will be divided between short presentations, personal reflective time and group sharing. It is hoped that one’s creative and imaginative skills will be stimulated and enhanced by time spent with the women from scripture on whose shoulders we stand.

Third Annual Nostra Aetate Lecture: “Violins of Hope”
*Presented by James A. Grymes, Ph.D.*
**Date:** Tues., Aug. 11, 7 p.m.  
**Cost:** Free Will Offering

This special offering is sponsored by Rev. George Balasko. Musicologist James A. Grymes will discuss his book, Violins of Hope: Instruments of Hope and Liberation in Mankind’s Darkest Hour.

Blending stories from Violins of Hope with scenes from the documentary Amnon’s Journey, Dr. Grymes will discuss the various roles the violin played in Jewish lives during the Holocaust. For some musicians, the instrument was a liberator; for others, it was a savior that spared their lives. For many, the violin provided comfort in mankind’s darkest hour; and, in at least one case, helped avenge murdered family members. Above all, the violins of the Holocaust represented strength and optimism for the future. Wherever there were violins, there was hope.

At the end of his presentation, Dr. Grymes will answer questions from the audience. A reception will follow.
In Loving Memory

Sister Genevieve Burke, H.M., formerly Sister Eucharia, 91, died Fri., Dec. 25, 2015 at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa. She was born April 8, 1924, in Niles, Ohio, a daughter of Frank Burke and Mary (nee Kochis) Burke Schrecengost. She graduated from Niles McKinley High School in 1942 and entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary in 1943 from St. Stephen Parish. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland.

Sr. Genevieve served as a teacher of the primary grades for forty years. Her assignments included St. Martha, Akron and St. Mary, Painesville in the Cleveland Diocese; Our Lady of Grace, Scott Township, in the Diocese of Pittsburgh; and Mother of Sorrows, Ashtabula; St. Anthony, St. John, and St. Paul, Canton; and St. Barbara, Massillon, in the Diocese of Youngstown. For 32 years Sr. Genevieve was involved in various ministries at St. Barbara School and Parish in Massillon including 18 years as Church Coordinator, caring for the sacristy and the church. She served with her sisters at Villa Maria Community Center in the HM Ministry of Prayer from 2009 until her death.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, William and Carl. Sr. Genevieve is survived by her brother Frank Burke of Niles, Ohio, nieces and nephews, and her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation with whom she shared her life for 72 years.

Sister Jeanne Koma, H.M., (Sr. Thomas More), 84, died Mon., Feb. 29, 2016 at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa. Born in Cleveland, she graduated from Notre Dame Academy and entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary Congregation in 1950 from St. Catherine Parish, Cleveland.

Sr. Jeanne completed her BSE at St. John College, Cleveland. She was certified in pastoral ministry through St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo and in pastoral counseling through the Gestalt Institute. In 1999 she was recognized as a Fellow by the Midwest Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

For 15 years she served as a teacher and principal in elementary schools in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. From 1968-73 she served the Better Homes for Cleveland Foundation at Lexington Square Community Center as their director of family education. She dedicated the next 18 years as a director of religious education and pastoral minister at St. Angela Merici, Fairview Park; St. Charles Borromeo, Parma; and St. John Neumann, Strongsville.

Sr. Jeanne ministered as a spiritual director and pastoral counselor from 1992 until her retirement in 2003 offering a listening ear; an open heart and encouragement to many. With music always a great love in her life, she sang with the West Shore Chorale in Cleveland for 20 seasons. In 2008 she returned to Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa where she joined in the ministries of prayer and faith-filled presence until her death.

A daughter of the late Michael and Mary (nee Zebe) Koma, and sister of the late Bettie Smith and Robert W. Koma, she is survived by her twin sister Janet Glowik, Sagamore Hills, 13 nieces and nephews and their families, and by the Sisters of the Humility of Mary with whom she shared 66 years of her life.

See complete tributes at humilityofmary.org
Sister Marilyn Ruflin, H.M., (Sr. Mary Esther), 76, died Fri., April 1, 2016 at Villa Maria Community Center; Villa Maria, Pa. Born in Canton on July 6, 1939, she graduated from Canton Central Catholic High School in the class of 1957 and entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary Congregation later that year.

Sr. Marilyn completed her Bachelor of Science in Education at St. John College, Cleveland in 1968. Her love of art already very strong, in 1975 she completed a Bachelor of Arts in art from Siena Heights College in Adrian, Mich.

From 1962-77 she taught in elementary schools in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses including St. Cecilia, Cleveland; St. Martha, Akron; and St. Louis, Louisville. While teaching in Louisville she pioneered in the creation of the first art department in Catholic elementary schools. She then served St. Louis Parish as the facilitator of parish liturgy and began her concentration and involvement in the area of prayer and liturgy. Other parishes in the Youngstown diocese that benefitted from her pastoral ministry included St. Pius X Parish, Warren and St. Joseph Parish, Mantua. She was liturgy coordinator at St. Edward Parish, Youngstown from 2008-11.

Sr. Marilyn was an active member of the Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of Youngstown from 1977-2002 serving as chairperson and secretary for many years. She again served on the commission from 2009 until becoming ill in November 2011. She also shared her talents as Director of the Office for Worship for the Diocese of Youngstown, the first woman to serve in that capacity.

She had a special interest in church art and architecture and consulted with a number of parishes on the renovation of their worship space. When Magnificat Chapel at Villa Maria Community Center was undergoing renovation in the mid-90s she served on the chapel renovation committee, working closely with the architect, Richard Podulka, and the other artists involved.

Her involvement with the Diocese of Youngstown also included coordinating the RCIA process. She was a consultant with the National Forum on Catechesis especially regarding the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children.

She was tapped in 1992 to coordinate the comprehensive pastoral planning project of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary and in 1993 was elected to the first of her two terms in HM leadership. She served on the HM Council from 1993-97 as coordinator of communications and wholistic development and from 1997-2001 as first assistant on the leadership team.

Following her eight years in leadership, she returned to liturgical ministry as Director of Worship for the Adrian Dominican Sisters in Adrian, Mich. On her return to Ohio she served for one year as interim formation director for the HM Sisters. She also provided the spiritual environment for the former Humility of Mary Health Partners (now Mercy Health) facilities including St. Elizabeth, Youngstown, St. Elizabeth, Boardman and St. Joseph, Warren from 2006 to late 2011.

In 2012 she returned to Villa Maria Community Center where she joined in the ministries of prayer and faith-filled presence until her death.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin and Loretta (nee Dwyer) Ruflin and her brother Ronald. She is survived by her brother Richard of Louisville and her sister Betty Cook of Collingswood, NJ along with three nieces and two nephews and their families and the Sisters of the Humility of Mary with whom she shared her life for 58 years.

Help us to continue providing more abundant life for God’s people by including the Sisters of the Humility of Mary in your will. To receive your free personal finance planner and information on the Heritage Society, please return the form below:

Name: __________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________
City: ______________________  State: ___________ Zip: _________
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☐ Please send my personal finance planner and information on
  how I can become a member of the Heritage Society.
☐ I have already included the Sisters in my will.

Sisters of the Humility of Mary
PO Box 534
Villa Maria, PA 16155
What’s Happening At Villa Maria

Greenhouse: Now Open
- Hanging Baskets
- Patio Flower Pots • Geraniums
- New Guinea Impatiens
- Gerber Daisies • Pansies
- Petunias • Snapdragons
- Zinnias • Vegetable Starts • Herbs
- Perennial Flowers

Farm Market: Opens June 25
Seasonal produce, including
- Lettuce • Onions • Zucchini
- Fresh Cut Herbs • Escarole • Garlic
- Cucumbers • Blueberries • Peppers
- Tomatoes • Eggplant • Broccoli • & More
Naturally grown without synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides

Villa Maria Community Center
2016 Harvest Day
11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1
Information: 724.964.8920, ext. 3348

humilityofmary.org