In this issue, we highlight sisters exemplifying the HM Mission of bringing more abundant life to God’s people, especially the poor, through their work with marginalized or underserved populations.

All the peripheries, all the crossroads on the way: go there. And sow there the seed of the Gospel with your words and your witness.

—Pope Francis

SERVING ON THE MARGINS

In this issue, we highlight sisters exemplifying the HM Mission of bringing more abundant life to God’s people, especially the poor, through their work with marginalized or underserved populations.
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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.
Dear friends,

As the season moves from warm days to the crispness of autumn and into winter, we see evidence of change all around us. This cyclical movement of the earth around the sun provides us with both subtle transformations and extravagant images reminding us that changes and forward movements into the future are part of our life. Since our last issue of the *HM Voice* we celebrated the transition of community leadership, joyfully celebrating the installation of our new Leadership Team.

For several weeks now we have been hearing news about the devastation that was caused in recent hurricanes in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico and more recently the wildfires in California. It often takes a tragedy to bring to light the poverty and struggles that are part of daily life of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Hearing the news and seeing the images on our televisions night after night can leave us numb with helplessness about what can be done to help.

As Sisters of the Humility of Mary, we take our mission very seriously to bring more abundant life to God’s people, especially to those who are poor. While we often may take up collections to help those at a distance, we understand that we must bring more abundant life to the people right in the places where we live and minister — and often that means doing so one person at a time. Several of our sisters work on the margins, with people who are often invisible in our midst. In this issue of the *HM Voice* we highlight some of the work being done on a daily basis with people who are vulnerable and who live on the peripheries.

With our seasonal changes as a model for our own personal and communal transformation, we are invited to reflect on how we continue to offer ourselves in ministry to others even in the midst of societal and global changes and our own planning for a future filled with hope. Sister Carmen Sammut, MSOLA, the Executive Director of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) encourages us with her words:

“We need an open mind to see the world with renewed eyes and not to cling to old ways of thinking. We need an open heart so as to see the situation through the eyes of those who suffer and be able to show empathy. We need an open will to be able to let go of what is no longer necessary or appropriate to let the new come, to welcome new possibilities. At some point we can also get tired of change and hope we have gone through it all already. This is clearly not the message a constantly evolving universe sends us.


We pray for open minds, open hearts, and open wills as we move forward. We ask God’s blessing on all of you, our families and friends, our donors and supporters, and our partners and collaborators. May all we do continue to give glory to God who has done great things for us.

In Mary’s humility,

Sister Toby Lardie
Pastoral Leader
HM Sisters Continue to Serve Refugees

by Sr. Peg Cessna

HM Sisters have worked as family mentors and case workers with Cleveland Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugee Services for ten years. And for ten years HM Volunteers have worked alongside of our sisters in serving refugee families.

Featured here are faces of people who fled their homeland to escape fear, oppression, torture, death in search of new life. These are recent arrivals and most are families with single moms who struggle daily to learn a new language and to find their place in a new culture.

They deserve a soft place to land.

Sisters Susan Schorsten and Toby Lardie, as Pastoral Leaders, invited refugee families to enjoy Villa hospitality, open spaces, time to play, and time to relax. Sister Jane Marie Kudlacez as President and CEO of Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center hosted different groups four times with grace and dignity as they enjoyed a few days of respite at the Villa.

The Villa Sisters opened their arms because they have carved on their hearts: “whatever you do to the least of these, you do unto me.”

These refugees possess a magnetic goodness that is irresistible. Perhaps from surviving unspeakable terror. Not with bitterness but with stunning grace. They open their arms, too. It’s a beautiful match. Perhaps made in heaven.

And so, they came to the Villa and were invited to share our home and our blessings. And they are grateful.
Sisters of the Humility of Mary Immigration Statement

As a community of women religious who were welcomed to the United States as immigrants we, Sisters of the Humility of Mary, support refugees and immigrants from all countries. For more than 150 years, we have ministered alongside refugees, immigrants, and migrants. As citizens of the United States, we recognize that our diverse cultures and nationalities are an integral part of our heritage and the foundation of our democracy. As members of the human family, we echo Pope Francis who reminds us that, ‘migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet’s resources which are meant to be equitably shared by all.’

In response to the recent refugee ban, increased deportations, and anti-immigrant sentiments, we, Sisters of the Humility of Mary, commit ourselves to act with others on behalf of refugees, immigrants, and migrants by:

- deepening our awareness and understanding of policies and legislation which affect them;
- using our resources to help meet their needs for shelter, education, healthcare, protection, mentoring, and advocacy;
- calling on elected officials to enact comprehensive legislation and humane immigration policies that promote: a path to citizenship, the rights of migrant children, family unification, protection from unjust and inhumane detention and treatment of undocumented workers and other persons, control of our borders through compassionate initiatives, and equal access to the US refugee resettlement program regardless of ethnic and religious background.

We, Sisters of the Humility of Mary, join with others in prayer as we call upon concerned citizens to advocate for immigration policies that continue to promote the United States as a beacon of hope for our diverse, global community.
Collaborative Spirit Lives on at Neighborhood Ministry

by Kylene Kamensky

Catholic sisters don’t retire; they merely change ministries. Sr. Madeline Muller, HM, is a prime example of this adage because in 2014 she retired from St. Martin de Porres High School in Cleveland and almost immediately began ministering at Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries (CNCM), whose mission is “to be a presence of listening, learning, and responding to unmet needs.”

“I knew of the work CNCM was doing and I knew Sr. Mary Ellen [Brinovec, OSU, executive director],” Sr. Madeline said. “I wanted to work with the people they were helping.”

So she didn’t think twice about joining the ministry when a staff position came open. Sr. Madeline serves as executive assistant, where she does a little bit of everything, including helping out with CNCM’s programming.

“I write grants, oversee the community garden, help with the finances, help with various programs, serve as the board secretary of The Collinwood Nottingham Village Development Corporation, and serve as secretary of The East Central District of the Cleveland Diocese,” she said of her many duties.

The creation of CNCM was inspired by the 2010 Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America traveling exhibit sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, which showcased the story of Catholic sisters and their impact on and contributions to the American story.

Sisters from five religious congregations who serve in the Cleveland area [Congregation of
St. Joseph (CSJ); Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA); Sisters of Notre Dame (SND); Sisters of the Humility of Mary (HM); Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland (OSU) and lay partners worked together on the idea to bring a ministry to the east side of Cleveland that was similar to the West Side Catholic Center, which offers programs to assist those in need. Collinwood was suggested as a possibility by Sr. Mary Ellen Brinovec, OSU, who had ministered in the area for over 25 years.

Home to a diverse population, the Collinwood area of Cleveland was the center of heavy industry in its heyday but has suffered from the loss of that industry over the years. Today, over 30% of households are below the US Census Bureau’s standard of poverty, which is an annual income of $23,850.

After listening to the concerns of the people in the neighborhood, CNCM opened its doors in December 2012 in a renovated house on St. Clair Avenue offering programs and services tailored to address the needs that had been identified.

Some of these programs and services include an ID voucher program, record expungement clinics, assistance with computer skills, counseling, grief support, holistic healing, pregnancy support, and nutrition programs. Arts programs such as painting, cooking, quilting, knitting, and crocheting are also offered. A Little Free Library has been installed in front of the house and is kept well stocked by donations from churches in the community.

A new program this year was the establishment of a community garden where participants could grow and harvest their own produce. CNCM acquired an empty lot a few streets north of their center and worked with the neighborhood to cultivate the land. Participants have learned about sustainable gardening techniques and have harvested a variety of vegetables and herbs, which are available to the community.

Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries opened its doors in December 2012 in a renovated house on St. Clair Avenue offering programs and services tailored to address the needs that had been identified.
over from the St. Clair Avenue center and set up nine raised growing beds, a greenhouse structure, rain barrels, and a small shed for storing tools. The HM Community provided a grant to help with set up costs. Sr. Madeline hopes to continue and expand the program next year.

The HM Sisters have also provided assistance for the ID voucher program. This program helps people get the necessary picture identification or birth certificates they need to secure affordable housing, enroll children in school, or apply for social assistance. CNCM works with individuals to make sure they have all the required documentation, and then a payment voucher is issued that the individual uses to purchase the ID. Participants have one month to take the voucher to the appropriate office to secure their ID or birth certificate.

“It’s a really nice program,” said Kathy Payerchin, a CNCM volunteer. “People are grateful and appreciative. You have to have an ID nowadays, and sometimes people can’t afford the cost. We have two bureaus in the area who work with us [on this program].”

Sr. Madeline is proud of the work CNCM is doing in Collinwood and enjoys being part of the collaborative spirit of the ministry.

“The best thing about being here [at CNCM] is meeting the people,” she said. “I find that my ministry here in Collinwood fulfills our HM Mission of giving more abundant life to God’s people, especially the poor. We help people gain a sense of self-worth by being a presence in the neighborhood.”

Learn more about Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries at www.cncmministries.org.
HM Sisters, Associates, Covenant Companions, and Partners in Ministry gathered in Magnificat Chapel on August 5 to participate in their annual Missioning. This year’s theme is “A future full of hope.” Missioning takes place each year as part of August Community Days, where the sisters come together to hear reports and conduct community business. This year’s ceremony also included the transition of community leadership. The sisters held their Chapter of Elections in May, where Sr. Toby Lardie was re-elected as Pastoral Leader, and Sisters Karen Bernhardt, Margaret Marszal, Carol Anne Smith, and Barbara Wincik were elected as councilors. The outgoing members of the Leadership Team, Sr. Mary Pat Cook and Sr. Carole Anne Griswold, were acknowledged during the ceremony for their service over the past four years.
HM Sisters Open Their Home and Their Hearts

by Kylene Kamensky

The Villa has been a place of peace and respite since the sisters first settled on the land and made it their home, and they have always shared it with their friends and neighbors.

In August, the sisters welcomed a group of mothers, children, and staff from one of their sponsored ministries, Humility of Mary Housing, to the Villa for a day of fun and relaxation. Tours of the farm, outdoor games, adults only craft time, and an ice cream social with the sisters made for a busy and fulfilling day for these families in the HM Life Opportunity Services [HMLOS] program.

Sr. Loretta Rafter, HM, founded HMLOS in 1987 to meet the needs of homeless, single parent families in the Akron, Ohio, area. A year later, the ministry was expanded and renamed Humility of Mary Housing in order to better support other areas of housing need. Today, HMLOS helps to break the cycle of homelessness “by helping families set goals to gain independence, stability, and to reconnect with the community for supportive services, housing, and employment.” Program participants work with a case manager to create an action plan that allows them to do this.

The initial idea for HMLOS to visit the Villa came from Sr. Jean Orsuto, HM, who is in charge of Emmanuel Community Care Center in Girard, Ohio, a ministry under the HM Housing umbrella.

“Sr. Jean thought all the sisters at the Villa would like to see how the ministry that was given the original seed money from the sisters has grown,” said Kimberly Fleischman, Director of Fund Development at HM Housing. “We brought all the Akron and Summit county families that could make arrangements to take off for the day.”

Sr. Toby Lardie, HM, Pastoral Leader, welcomed the group to the Villa, and Sisters Janet Burkhart and Jeanne Thurin escorted two groups around the Villa property. They
visited the farm, the steer barn, the sheep barn, the organic garden, and the labyrinth. For a lot of the group, it was the first time they’d ever seen farm animals up close and personal.

Jacqueline, an HMLOS client, made the trip to the Villa with her two children. They found HM Housing through an emergency assistance referral when Jacqueline found herself on her own last December. She had heard about the Villa trip and decided she wanted to bring her kids to where the sisters live. Her family normally participates in the arts and crafts classes offered by Sr. Mary Slattery, HM, and they were curious.

“When I heard about it, I didn’t want to miss it,” Jacqueline said. “We loved hanging out with the sisters and doing crafts and singing.”

Today, HM Life Opportunity Services helps to break the cycle of homelessness “by helping families set goals to gain independence, stability, and to reconnect with the community for supportive services, housing, and employment.”
Humility of Mary Housing Celebrates 30th Anniversary
by Sr. Joanne Gardner

The project at hand on October 5 was celebrating the work of the past 30 years! Over 100 community members and guests gathered to recognize the foundational work of Sr. Loretta Rafter leading to this milestone anniversary.

After studying needs that were “slipping through the cracks,” she began the housing ministry of the HM Sisters in 1987 by establishing HM Life Opportunity Services [HMLOS] in an eight unit apartment building on Copley Road in Akron, Ohio.

HMLOS set out to provide transitional housing and supportive services to homeless, single parent families in the Akron area. With encouragement and support in multiple areas, HMLOS fosters these parents in their own goals of gaining the education, the skills and the stability to obtain employment and to be able to support their child or children.

Sr. Loretta’s background as an educator, guidance counselor and her work in establishing a women’s shelter in Cleveland gave her the experience and insight in creating the new program. She served as president and CEO of HMLOS during its first 16 years, from 1987 to 2003.

Humility of Mary Housing has expanded from this single focus into a ministry that also addresses the needs of homeless young men ages 18-24, and low income seniors in Cuyahoga, Lorain, Summit and Trumbull counties. Local communities that are now served include Akron, Garfield Heights, Girard, Lorain, Northfield Center, Wellington, and Youngstown.

Congratulations, Sr. Loretta, as you bring abundant life to others in their particular circumstances!

Allison is another HMLOS program participant who didn’t want to miss the opportunity to visit with the sisters at their home.

“I really wanted to see the history of the sisters and show how grateful we are for the opportunities that have been given to us [through HM Housing],” she said. “My favorite part of the day was during meal time when we could just talk with the sisters. The kids really enjoyed themselves.”

Allison came to HM Housing after being in the shelter system with her five children. After working hard the past two years, Allison and her family will soon transition out of the program as they have successfully achieved their program goals.

“My kids are very active in band, cheerleading, and track, so it was an end of summer trip for us as well,” Allison said. “I was able to take time off work so we could do this visit as a family.”

“It is always important to get people outside of their own situation and troubles,” Kimberly Fleischman said of the experience. “Traveling to the Villa, filled with so much love, is a perfect place to forget troubles. We hope to make the trip every summer!”

You can learn more about HM Housing at www.hmhousing.org.
“It is always important to get people outside of their own situation and troubles… Traveling to the Villa, filled with so much love, is a perfect place to forget troubles. We hope to make the trip every summer!”

— Kimberly Fleischman
Director of Fund Development at HM Housing
Sister’s Ministry Gifts Her With Small Moments

by Kylene Kamensky

“Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor, so that they are not abandoned to the laws of an economy that seems at times to treat people as mere consumers.”

—Pope Francis

When Sr. Kathy Limber went to minister in rural West Virginia in 1994, she never imagined the impact the people there would make on her own life.

“My desire to live and minister in Appalachia goes way back to my high school years at John F. Kennedy [High School] in Warren, Ohio,” said Sr. Kathy. “As a student, I participated in fund raisers, as well as packing cleaning supplies after a flood had occurred in Appalachia areas of West Virginia and Kentucky.”

Sr. Kathy kept that idea close, even when she began her ministry as a teacher in the Cleveland Diocese. After earning an Associate degree in Emergency Medical Technology from Cuyahoga Community College and serving as an EMT with Action Ambulance in Warren, she decided to put that experience to use in an area where emergency medical services were few and far between.

So she went to the southern counties of McDowell, Mercer, and Wyoming, W.Va., which are all in the Appalachia geographical region as defined by the U.S. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

According to 2017 data collected by ARC, Wyoming and Mercer counties are classified as economically at-risk and have poverty rates of 21% and 22% respectively. McDowell County is classified as economically distressed with a poverty rate of 35%. The per capita income for all three counties falls under $20,000 per year.

Sr. Kathy currently serves as education director at Princeton Rescue Squad in Princeton, W.Va., where she instructs students learning about Emergency Medical Services (EMS); she also works on their Mobile Critical Care Transport ambulance as a paramedic/RN.

The most challenging thing Sr. Kathy encounters in her current ministry is trying to help her EMT students further their education and encourage them to pursue paramedic training.

“The paramedic program is now a two year process at the cost of about $10,500 to $11,500, which is not equitable to the starting average wage of a paramedic in this geographical area ($11-$15/hour). Each year we...
have fewer paramedics because those who can get financial aid [to attend school] are going into nursing so they can make a living for their family.”

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paramedics are both able to transport patients and provide emergency care. The differences between the two jobs is the amount of training each completes—EMTs complete their training in 120-

150 hours of instruction whereas training to be a paramedic can take anywhere between 1200-1800 hours of instruction—and the scope of their practice—EMTs are not allowed to provide treatment that breaks the skin (i.e. no needles).

But even through the challenges, Sr. Kathy has been able to help bring more abundant life and address the needs of the people in the region through generous support from the HM Community.

Since Sr. Kathy arrived in 1994, grants from the HM Sisters have helped establish an adult learning center that offers GED, job training, and parenting classes and a prison outreach program; established an affordable medical transportation program that takes people to dialysis and doctor appointments; purchased critically needed equipment for long distance ambulance transports, such as portable ventilators; and assisted in educating EMTs, paramedics, and First Responders.

“I have come to believe the reason why one may come to an area to minister is never the reason why you stay,” Sr. Kathy said of her experiences in West Virginia. “It is the connectedness with the people and their way of life. Many of my gifted moments in community, ministry, and prayer have come with the shared life with the people of McDowell, Mercer, and Wyoming counties. The mission of the HM Community calls us to be active ministers of the Gospel. It is my hope that over these last 24 years here in southern West Virginia, my life has reflected the Gospel message of faith in God, hope in life, and charity to others.”

Sr. Kathy Limber teaches an EMS student how to use a blood pressure cuff.

Sr. Kathy Limber with a transport patient.

“Many of my gifted moments in community, ministry, and prayer have come with the shared life with the people of McDowell, Mercer, and Wyoming counties.”

– Sr. Kathy Limber

Sr. Kathy Limber with a transport patient.
Items of Interest

Sister Honored With Heart of the Mission Award
Sr. Margaret Ebin was honored by the Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley with their Heart of the Mission award at the 7th Annual 1911 and Healthcare Visionary Awards Luncheon on May 10. The award recognizes individuals who embody the mission of Mercy Health and contribute to advancing the way healthcare is delivered in the Mahoning Valley. “I was surprised when I found out I was nominated,” said Sr. Margaret, “but I felt very honored because my work with people in healthcare has always been special to me. I have a very deep love for nursing.”

Sister Celebrates First Profession
Congratulations to Sr. Eilis McCulloh who celebrated her First Profession of Vows on June 3 in Magnificat Chapel. Sr. Eilis currently serves as a case worker for Cleveland Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services.

Magnificat High School Welcomes New President
Congratulations to Moira Clark, who was appointed the sixth president of Magnificat High School in Rocky River, Ohio, earlier this summer. Moira joined the Magnificat faculty in 1994 as a theology teacher and later served as director of campus ministry and, most recently, as dean of student life and formation. She is the third lay leader in Magnificat’s 62-year history.
Mercy Health Lorain Celebrates 125 Years

On September 20, Mercy Lorain celebrated 125 years of service to Lorain County and honored the Sisters of St. Francis and the Sisters of the Humility of Mary who founded and sponsored the organization as well as former and current employees and volunteers.

The event kicked off with a community leader luncheon which featured, among others, Sr. Carole Anne Griswold, HM, [pictured] a Mercy Board of Trustees Member, who reflected on Mercy’s Mission and heritage.

“I am proud to see the many parts that make Mercy one quality, compassionate organization with a rich history and tradition contributed by each part,” said Sr. Carole Anne. “I believe Jesus and all those on whose shoulders we have stood for 125 years are with us today in spirit and would say to us: ‘well done, good and faithful servants. Go and do the same . . . show compassion as you move into a future filled with hope.’”

Contributed by Mercy Health Lorain

Sister Margaret Mary Siegfried, HM, Ambulatory Pharmacy Opens Its Doors

The new pharmacy facilities named for Sr. Margaret Mary Siegfried at Mercy Health-St. Elizabeth Boardman Hospital were blessed and dedicated on September 8 to coincide with the beginning of her 75th Jubilee year. The Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley project was created to ensure patients could receive their medications before being discharged from the hospital. The second phase of the project is the expansion of pharmacy facilities at Mercy Health-St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital.

Sister’s Stitching Wins Honors at Local Fairs

Congratulations to Sr. Jeanette Dufek, whose cross stitch projects won first, second, and third place honors at both the Lawrence County Fair and the Canfield Fair this year.
Local 4-H Club Delivers Blankets to Sisters

As part of their annual service project, seven members of the Plain Grove 4-H Kids Creation Club, along with their parents, delivered handmade blankets to the sisters who live in the healthcare unit at the Villa on September 6.

“The Plain Grove 4-H Kids Creation Club forms a Community Service Project Committee annually,” said Pam McConnell, a club leader and Villa employee.

After the committee decided on the type of project the kids would complete, the club members worked on them at one of their regular meetings. They created nine tie lap blankets in total and arrangements were made to deliver them to the Villa.

“They enjoyed socializing with the sisters and giving them the blankets,” Pam said.

“It was cool to see them smile and appreciate the blankets. They were very friendly and appreciative.”

“It was a nice experience to meet and talk to them.”

Contributed by Pam McConnell
Humility of Mary Sisters Condemn Racism

The Sisters of the Humility of Mary of Villa Maria PA wish to add our collective voice to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), and all the individuals, groups and organizations that condemn racism in all its forms. A country that espouses life, liberty and happiness for all must model those values at all levels of citizenship. Unfortunately, the recent events in Charlottesville are bringing to light the racism that was not eradicated when slavery ended, but rather has continued to boil beneath the surface. With presidential leadership in this country legitimizing hate rhetoric, the path to violence and hatred has only grown. We urge our leaders and citizens to follow the words of Pope Francis in his address to the US Congress, as he urged us as leaders and citizens of this country to follow the values that our country was built on. In his concluding remarks he said: “A nation can be considered great, when it defends liberty as Lincoln did, when it fosters a culture which enables people to dream of full rights for all their brothers and sisters as Martin Luther King sought to do, when it strives for justice and the cause of the oppressed as Dorothy Day did by her tireless work, the fruit of a faith which becomes dialogue and sows peace in the contemplative style of Thomas Merton.” –August 2017

Sister Honored With Manifesting the Kingdom Award

Congratulations to Sr. Jane Marie Kudlacz, who was honored with the Diocese of Pittsburgh’s Manifesting the Kingdom Award on September 24. The award is given to laywomen and laymen and to consecrated women and men “who demonstrate the presence of Jesus in their lives and have participated in an exceptional service to the Church.” Sisters who receive the award are nominated by their major superior. Sr. Jane Marie is the fifth HM Sister to be honored with this award.
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**

The Gift of a Lifetime

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: _________
Phone: __________________________________________________

☐ 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

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**2018 Programs at a Glance:**

**March 10:** A Day of Mindfulness

**March 16 – 18:** Cheryl Rose, HM
Empty Bowls Weekend Retreat

**March 22:** Taizé Prayer (Lent)

**April 13 – 15:** Br. Mickey McGrath, OSFS

**May 3:** Taizé Prayer (Easter)

**June 7 – 10:** Diarmuid O’Murchu

**June 17 – 24:** Individually Directed Retreat

**July 8 – 15:** Spiritual Direction Formation

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**July 22 – 28:** Maureen Wild, SC and Joyce Rouse
Cosmic Symphony of Love Unfolding

**August 16 – 19:** Cheryl Rose, HM
Empty Bowls Retreat

**September 7 – 9:** Fr. John Dear

**September 23 – 30:** Individually Directed Retreat

**October 7 – 12:** Tom Ryan, CSP – “The Yoga Priest”
Prayer of Heart and Body

**December:** Ruthmary Powers, HM
Reclaiming Advent (Date TBD)
In Loving Memory

**Sister Denise Maher** entered eternal life May 11, 2017 at age 69. She shared her many talents in active ministry for 34 years as an educator, initial formation director, peace and justice coordinator and executive in the ministry of housing for those in need. She was the founding director of Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. [HMHI], Akron and was parish action coordinator for the Catholic Commission of the Southern Region of the Diocese of Cleveland in Akron. She taught at St. James, Lakewood; St. Brendan, Youngstown and, following her retirement from HMHI, was a volunteer mentor at Holy Family School, Stow. Sr. Denise was tapped in the 1980s by her religious community to serve as director of initial formation and coordinator of justice concerns. In 2004 she returned to Villa Maria Community Center where she participated in the Ministry of Prayer and Faithful-filled Presence until her death.

**Sister Geraldine Koerner** (Anna Mae Koerner) died May 31, 2017 at 89. For 45 years she served as a teacher, principal, pastoral minister and volunteer. She taught and was principal at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Ashtabula and taught at St. Raphael, Bay Village; St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. James, Lakewood; St. Al bert the Great, North Royalton; and St. Edward Jr. High, Youngstown. She served as principal at St. Louis, Louisville. She was a pastoral minister at St. Christopher; Rocky River prior to becoming director of ministry to the sick, aging and bereaved there. She thoroughly enjoyed her volunteer time with the horticultural therapy program at Kethley House in Cleveland. Sr. Geraldine also served in the pastoral care departments at the former St. Joseph Riverside Hospital, Warren and the former St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown. When she returned to the Villa in 2006 she served as a volunteer initiating a green room for plants and continued to serve in the HM Ministry of Prayer until her death. Ever generous, thoughtful, and caring, she donated her body to the University of Pittsburgh Medical School.

**Sister Therese Quinn** (Sr. Mary Nicholas) joined her sisters in glory at the age of 101 on June 20, 2017. At the time of her death she was the oldest HM Sister. She dedicated herself to ministerial service in education and healthcare-related fields for 62 years. She taught at Mt. Marie Academy and at St. John High School, the Boys’ Division of Central Catholic High School, Canton; Lourdes Academy, Cleveland and Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria. She was coordinator of the Library and Audio-Visual Center at Magnificat High School, Rocky River. She was administrative assistant at St. John High School, Ashtabula and principal at Central Catholic High School, Canton. She also was librarian at Canton Central Catholic. Sister Therese turned her attention to healthcare-related ministry when she became Director of the Media Resource Center at the former St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown. In 1987 she established the HM Guest House at the former St. Elizabeth Health Center which she directed for eight years and for which she served as Assistant Director from 1995-2003. She returned to Villa Maria Community Center in 2003 where she volunteered as a receptionist. She served in the HM Ministry of Prayer until her death.

See complete tributes at humilityofmary.org
In Loving Memory

**Sister Mary Conrad Walsh** (Kathleen Walsh) began her life eternal at the age of 92 on June 27, 2017. She ministered in the field of education for 25 years teaching at St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. Mary, Conneaut; St. Patrick, Hubbard; Our Lady of Grace, Scott Township, Pittsburgh; St. Edward Jr. High, Youngstown; and St. Paul, Salem where she also served as principal. She served the HM Community at Villa Maria Community Center for 34 years in various capacities including 12 years as director of the Gift Shop. Beginning in 1997 she served in the HM Ministry of Prayer until her death.

**Sister Mary Ann Sebian** (Sr. Mary Elizabeth) entered eternal life July 9, 2017 at age 88. Over 53 years she shared her gifts and talents in many venues. During the 1960s she served as a missionary in the Diocese of Temuco, Chile where she taught English at a local university. She taught music at St. Stephen, Niles; St. Christopher, Rocky River; St. Brendan, Youngstown and St. Edward, Youngstown. During the 1970s she was Director of the Speech Pathology Department of the Lake County Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Painesville. She served as a speech therapist and speech and language pathologist at the former St. Elizabeth Health Center; Youngstown for 19 years. In her “retirement” she visited the sick of nearby St. James the Apostle Parish, New Bedford bringing Holy Communion to them. She also visited with the other retired and infirm sisters at Villa Maria Community Center. She shared in the HM Ministry of Prayer until her death.

**Sister Mary Ann Senia** (Sr. Vincent Marie) joined her sisters in glory September 1, 2017 at 82. She dedicated herself for 44 years to the ministry of elementary education as a teacher and principal. She taught at St. Raphael, Bay Village and she served as principal for 15 years at St. Ambrose, Brunswick. She also taught at St. Anthony and at St. Paul, Canton; St. Patrick, Hubbard, and St. Edward, Youngstown. She was principal at St. Pius X, Warren. Sr. Mary Ann served on the staff of the parish office at St. Ambrose and was an ambassador at the Cleveland Clinic in Strongsville. Since 2014 Sr. Mary Ann had served with her HM Sisters in the HM Ministry of Prayer.
Memorial contributions may be sent to the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Development Office, PO Box 534, Villa Maria PA 16155.

**Sister Patricia Rogers** (Sr. Mary Gemma, SND) joined her sisters in glory October 20, 2017 at 85. She entered the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1949 and transferred to the HM Sisters in 1970. She began teaching in 1953 and for 17 years she taught in the Cleveland, Youngstown and Arlington VA dioceses including St. Agnes in Arlington VA; St. Boniface, Blessed Sacrament, St. Michael, and St. Wendelin in Cleveland; St. Jude and St. Mary, both in Elyria; St. Paschal Baylon, Highland Hts; St. Gregory, South Euclid; and in the Youngstown Diocese, for a semester at St. Mary, Massillon. In addition she taught at the former St. Peter High School, Cleveland, and at the former Erieview Catholic High School, Cleveland. Beginning in 1977 she served as a congressional aide for Rep. Mary Rose Oakar. She was especially involved in the area of aging and gave talks on senior and elder care issues. In 1995 she was named by then Governor George Voinovich as one of 64 delegates and alternates to represent the state of Ohio at the White House Conference on Aging. She was a producer for Ms. Oakar’s radio broadcasts for many years. In 2011 she returned to Villa Maria Community Center where she joined her sisters in the Ministries of Prayer and Faith-filled Presence until her death.

**Sister Elaine Wellinger** (Sr. Mary Leonard) entered eternal life October 28, 2017 at 85. She served for 54 years as a beloved teacher, campus minister and spiritual director in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the dioceses of Cleveland, Columbus, Pittsburgh and Youngstown. Her teaching ministry included Lourdes Academy, Cleveland and Magnificat High School, Rocky River; Central Catholic High School, Canton and Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pennsylvania. She served as a campus minister at CWRU, Cleveland, The Ohio State University in Columbus and at Xavier University in Cincinnati. She was a retreat and spiritual director at the Christa Center, Cleveland; Sophia Center; Pepper Pike and maintained an office at the HM Ministry Center formerly in Rocky River. From 1981-85 she was a council member on the Leadership Team of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary serving as Director of Community Life and Development. She served in the HM Ministry of Faith-filled Presence with her sisters at Villa Maria Community Center from 2016 until her death.
Villa Maria Nativity Display

Indoor Advent tradition featuring hundreds of nativity sets from around the world with entertainment from musicians, choirs, & more

12 to 5 p.m.
Dec. 3 & Dec. 10
Villa Maria Conference Center, Villa Maria, Pa.
Free admission to display ● Group tours available upon request

The Villa Farm will offer fresh poinsettias, swags, wreaths & more
The Villa Shoppe will offer Fair Trade items, nativities & unique Christmas gifts

Roast Beef Dinners: 12-4 p.m., Dec. 3 & Dec. 10
Large $12 ● Small $8
Children 4 & under free ● Take-out available

For more information:
humilityofmary.org
724.964.8920 x3208

As Sisters of the Humility of Mary, we share Jesus’ mission of bringing more abundant life to God’s people, especially the poor, by responding to the needs of our times.