You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy.

—Psalm 16:11

In Celebration: Fifteen HM Sisters rejoice in milestone years of vowed religious life and dedication to living each day in response to God’s call.
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HM Voice
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Kylene Kamensky
Communications Coordinator
Editor
kkamensky@humilityofmary.org

Sisters of the Humility of Mary
225 Villa Marie Road
Villa Maria, PA 16155
humilityofmary.org

Cover Photo:
Wendy Wareham

Special thanks to Sister Joanne Gardner

Frequently Used Numbers
Main Line
724-964-8861

HM Development Office
724-964-8920, ext. 3291

The Villa Shoppe
724-964-8290, ext. 3249

The Villa Farm
724-964-8920, ext. 3385

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Dear friends,

I write this letter to you after we have just completed our Chapter of Affairs. A chapter is a major assembly held every four years. On March 10 we began the 25th Chapter in the history of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. Our Chapter is held in two sessions: the first session, the Chapter of Affairs, was a week-long gathering to set direction for the community for the next four years. The second part, the Chapter of Elections, will be held in May to elect a new leadership team for the community.

This year marks the 50th anniversary since “Community ‘67”, a congregational chapter that made sweeping changes for the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. The most notable for our publics was the change from the habit to wearing the ordinary dress of the day. That external change was evidence of a much larger transformation of religious life that was happening along with quite a paradigm shift moving through the Church after Vatican II.

Throughout our 163 year history there have been many changes, some subtle and others major. Now, 50 years after Chapter ‘67, religious life is again in a time of major transformation. In these past years we have seen obvious changes with fewer sisters in the hospitals and schools that were once the hallmark of our ministries. In many cases the sisters are now working more on the margins with the vulnerable and under-served in outreach to immigrants and refugees, teaching others about human trafficking and providing direct services to those in need.

Aware that the future will bring even more changes, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary are in the midst of a major planning process that we are calling Pathways for a Future Full of Hope. The main goal of this planning process is to help free the Congregation and its membership more fully for mission. This issue of the HM Voice has a feature article with the outline and details of the planning endeavor.

This issue also focuses on the incredible commitment and faithfulness of so many of our sisters who are celebrating their Jubilees. Sisters who have given 50, 60, 65 and 75 years will celebrate their anniversaries at celebrations in May or in July. We are blessed by the faithful witness of their lives, the years of commitment to ministries, and their ongoing prayer-filled presence today.

As the springtime transforms the world around us, may we together recognize both the subtle and the major blessings in our lives. And may all we do magnify God who has done great things for us!

In Mary’s humility,

Sister Toby Lardie, HM

Sister Toby Lardie
Pastoral Leader
HM Associate Community Offers Opportunities to Deepen Spirituality and HM Connections

by Kylene Kamensky

Have you ever wanted to belong to a community of people that could help you grow more deeply in your faith? Have you ever felt like you could be doing more to be of service to others? If the answer to either of these questions is a resounding yes, then the HM Associate Community may be the right place for you.

“Being an associate gives me the opportunity to share in a community of people who want to live out their faith through actions which support the charism and ministries of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary,” said Maura DeNuccio, HM Associate. “I learned of the Associates while attending the ‘Just One Year’ program at the Villa. I wanted to deepen my faith by helping other people; the HM Associates seemed the next logical step for me.”

Candidates wishing to join the Associate Community, a group of lay women and men, must be at least 21 years of age, understand and value the beliefs, charism, and ministries of the HM Congregation, and participate in the sisters’ mission and ministries. All candidates complete a one year formation program.

Associates are invited to share in the sisters’ mission of bringing more abundant life to God’s people, especially the poor, in a variety of ways and through many different activities. Associates are encouraged to attend community liturgies and celebrations to build that sense of community with the sisters and with each other. They are also encouraged to share in service with others through participation in Associate Community activities, such as serving at the Dorothy Day House in Youngstown or giving time to the Associate Community’s Haiti ministry.

The current Associate Community director, Associate Alexa Wanchick, oversees the associates
in collaboration with three area coordinators (Youngstown/Villa, Akron/Canton, and Cleveland). These area coordinators help foster a sense of community with the associates and the HM Sisters in their region through such things as prayer gatherings, book clubs, and volunteer opportunities. “There are many ways to share your faith with others through participation in prayer and shared missions,” Maura said. “I feel I am living out the life Jesus would ask of me. To love and be merciful to each person I meet.”

The Associate Community began in 1983. The HM Chapter of Affairs in 1981 recommended that lay women and men be invited to become an HM Associate to share in the mission and ministry of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. Sr. Madeline Shemo (deceased) was appointed as the first director and conducted the first formation program. The first group of associates made their initial commitment in 1985.

“I feel I am living out the life Jesus would ask of me. To love and be merciful to each person I meet.”

— Maura DeNuccio, HM Associate

If you would like more information about the HM Associate Community, visit humilityofmary.org/join-us/hm-associate-community or contact Alexa Wanchick at PO Box 706, Villa Maria, PA 16155; 724-964-8920, ext. 3075; or associates20@humilityofmary.org.
Sisters Plan for the Future

Adaptability is a key trait to ongoing viability. And if there is one thing the Sisters of the Humility of Mary are good at, it’s adapting to the needs of the times.

The sisters have recently undertaken a planning process to assess the congregation’s needs as they move into the future. The main purpose of this process, entitled Pathways into a Future Full of Hope, is to help free the sisters to focus more fully on their mission of bringing more abundant life to God’s people, especially the poor.

“Villa Maria has been our home in the U.S. since 1864—153 years,” said Sr. Toby Lardie, Pastoral Leader. “Our demographics are changing—sisters are getting older and there are not as many sisters as we once had. However, we believe strongly in the future of religious life and we know it will continue to change. This planning process engages all the sisters to look together at our reality and to envision changes that are needed to strengthen our mission into the future.”

The process began in June 2016 with the formation of an initial planning and search committee. This committee was tasked with finding a consulting firm who could assist the sisters through the project. The committee developed a request for proposal, narrowed the field to two candidates, and after interviewing the finalists, chose the firm of Kerber, Eck, and Braeckel LLP (KEB) to move the project forward. KEB has previous experience in consulting with other religious congregations. A new planning committee was established to work with the consultants. This committee includes Sisters Meg Leslie, Annette Solma, Barbara Wincik, Toby Lardie, Carol Anne Smith, Andriene Ihnot, and Carolyn Marshall and Cathy Bender, Director of Finance at Villa Maria. Sr. Carol Anne Smith chairs the committee.

“While speaking to the Italian churches in Florence, Italy, Pope Francis made this comment ‘We are not living an era of change, but a change of era.’ The life of women religious has never been static,” said Sr. Barbara Wincik. “The planning process is important because we are being challenged to plan beyond where we came. The time now calls us to look into the future, visioning and planning how our mission will continue to bring more abundant life to those who come to us.”
“To move forward, we need to look at what we have been blessed with and to ask the question: ‘How do we further our HM Mission?’”
— Sr. Sharon Cahill, HM

Expected to take 18 months, *Pathways into a Future Full of Hope* is divided into six phases which will help the sisters focus on the needs and challenges they may face in the future. Phase one (Preparation Phase) began in October 2016 with the establishment of the planning committee, the definition of the scope of the project and the development of the details related to assessments to be carried out by the consultant group (KEB). Phase two (Assessment Phase) consisted of KEB carrying out assessments of HM Community assets as defined by the scope in the Preparation Phase.

KEB’s assessments of areas identified by the committee began in December 2016 and were completed in February 2017. These areas included space utilization and land use at Villa Maria; health care delivery; finances and membership; and the sustainability of major ministries on the Villa Maria campus, including, The Villa Maria Farm, Villa Maria Residential Services, Inc., and Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center, Inc. The results of these assessments were presented to the sisters at their Chapter of Affairs in March, which continued on next page

**Goals of Pathways into a Future Full of Hope**

1. To exercise stewardship over the Congregation’s material assets in a way that allows the HM mission and charism to be enhanced, expanded, and sustained into the future.

2. To assure that all sisters have access to the care and support they require into and through their retirement from active ministry.

3. To identify and make the changes needed to position Villa Maria so that it remains vibrant and viable into the future.
Pathways into a Future Full of Hope

Overview and Timeline

Phase 1: Preparation Phase (Oct.-Nov. 2016)
Development of detailed planning process; planning committee established; final decisions about the scope of and approach to assessments.

Assessments of specific areas conducted as outlined in Phase 1; conclusions based on information gathered during assessments developed by consultants to be distributed to sisters.

Phase 3: Statements of Congregational Reality and Priorities Phase (March-April 2017)
Formal Statements of Congregational Reality prepared by consultants and presented to sisters; processing of statements by sisters begins at Chapter of Affairs; priorities based on statements gathered from congregation.

Phase 4: Visioning Phase (May-June 2017)
Using the formal Statements of Congregational Reality and the priorities established based on them, the HM Sisters engage in creative visioning about the future using brainstorming criteria established by the planning committee.

Phase 5: Exploration Phase (July-Dec. 2017)
Directed by the planning committee, contact established with potential partners, collaborators, and others to determine the viability of the best possibilities identified during the Visioning Phase; periodic progress reports communicated to sisters.

Phase 6: Recommendations Development and Evaluation Phase (Jan.-March 2018)
Planning committee identifies and develops specific recommendations based on Exploration Phase and presents them to Congregational Leadership and congregation; planning committee evaluates feedback on recommendations and describes action steps required to implement each recommendation; final recommendations are affirmed at March Community Days and delivered to Congregational Leadership for decisions and implementation.

As of this writing the first three phases have been completed, and the sisters are moving into phase four.
The HM Congregation is honoring 15 Jubilarians as they celebrate 75, 65, 60, and 50 years of vowed religious life. These sisters have ministered in the fields of administration, education, health care and health care administration, parish and pastoral ministry, social work, spiritual direction 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 Grace Marie Kalal**, formerly Sister Marcella, serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer at Villa Maria Community Center.

While serving in the ministry of education she taught at St. Martha, Akron; St. Raphael, Bay Village; St. Paul, Canton; Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland; St. Patrick, Hubbard; St. Barbara, Massillon; Our Lady of Grace, Pittsburgh; St. Brendan and St. Edward Jr. High, Youngstown; and was principal at St. Louis, Louisville. Sister Grace Marie was director of teacher personnel at the Diocesan School Board Office, Cleveland for 23 years and was school secretary and then administrative assistant at St. Bartholomew Academy, Parma Heights. Prior to returning to Villa Maria Community Center in 2011 she volunteered with Heartbeats in Rocky River and with Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugee Services, Cleveland.

Sister Grace Marie graduated from Garfield High School, Garfield Heights, Ohio. She received her BS Ed from St. John College, Cleveland and her M Ed from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. The daughter of the late Emil and Ada (nee Trepanier) Kalal, she entered the HM Community from St. Therese Parish, Garfield Heights.

“The Lord has done great things for me. Holy is God’s Name.”

For my 75 years as a Sister of the Humility of Mary I am truly grateful. Our Loving God and the HM Community have gifted me with many blessings and opportunities. I wish to thank them and all the Sisters that I have lived with for the numerous kindnesses showered on me throughout these years.

In 1940 I graduated from Garfield High School. Then, on September 24, 1941, after working a year at Macy’s, I entered the HM Community. With God’s grace and guidance I ministered for 23 years teaching in the Youngstown, Pittsburgh and Cleveland dioceses. For the next 23 years I was the Director of Personnel in the Cleveland Diocesan Education Office. This was followed by an additional year as the Registrar. It was after that time that I began volunteer work at Heartbeats in Rocky River. Later, when I moved to the Villa, I was able, for a time, to pursue my talents in sewing and crocheting.

“Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord,” —Sr. Grace Marie Kalal

continued on next page
65 Years

Sister Jeannette Abi-Nader, formerly Sister de Sales, serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer and has been involved with the former St. Joseph Riverside Hospital and then HMHP St. Joseph Health Center. She began her ministry as a teacher serving at Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland; St. Agatha, Ellwood City, Pa.; St. Patrick, Kent; St. Christopher, Rocky River; and St. Pius X, Warren. She also was a home visitor for Upjohn Home Care, Cleveland. Sister Eileen received her BS Ed from St. John College, Cleveland and her M Ed from Kent State University. She received training in clinical pastoral education at St. Luke Medical Center, Cleveland and Sacred Heart Retreat Center, Youngstown.

A graduate of Lourdes Academy, Cleveland, Sister Eileen entered religious life from Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Cleveland. She is the daughter of the late John and Ann (nee Corrigan) Corrigan.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Henaughan, formerly Sister Agnella, serves as a cosmetologist and sacristan at Villa Maria Community Center. She also serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Mary Elizabeth has ministered as a teacher at Mother of Sorrows, Ashtabula; St. Ambrose, Brunswick; St. Mary, Conneaut; St. Patrick, Hubbard; St. Patrick, Kent; St. James, Lakewood; St. Stephen, Niles; and Our Lady of Grace, Pittsburgh. She has done social work at the Center City Mission, Cleveland; was a nurse’s aide for Visiting Care, Canton; was a patient service aide for Mercy Medical Center, Canton; and a cosmetologist at the JC Penney Styling Salon, Canton.

Sister Mary Elizabeth, a graduate of Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa., received her BS Ed from St. John College, Cleveland and her M Ed from Ohio University, Athens. She is certified as a cosmetologist by the Ohio Board of Cosmetology. Sister Mary Elizabeth is the daughter of the late James and Bridget (nee Gourley) Henaughan and entered the HM Community from St. Sebastian Parish, Akron.

Sister Rose Marie Kramer, formerly Sister Gilmary, serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer and continues involvement in several areas.

She has ministered in education teaching at St. John High School, Ashtabula; Erievew High School, and Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; Magnificat High School, Rocky River; and Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa. She has served as a volunteer on the Villa Maria Farm at Villa Maria, Pa.

Sister Marjorie Haidet, formerly Sister Jerome, serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer. Until last year she was a volunteer on the Villa Maria Farm at Villa Maria, Pa.

Sister Marjorie taught at St. Paul, Canton; St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. James, Lakewood; St. Joseph, Massillon; St. Stephen, Niles; St. Christopher, Rocky River; and St. Paul, Salem. She was principal at St. Patrick, Hubbard; St. Paul, Salem; and St. Brendan, Youngstown where she served for 14 years. Sister Marjorie was the administrative assistant at Emmanuel Community Care Center, Girard for 14 years, retiring in 2010.

Sister Marjorie received her BS Ed and MS Ed from St. John College, Cleveland. The daughter of the late Robert and Aurelia (nee McKimm) Haidet, she entered the HM Community from St. Louis Parish, Louisville and is a graduate of Central Catholic High School, Canton.

Sister Eileen Corrigan, formerly Sister Colman, is a chaplain at Mercy Health St. Joseph Warren Hospital where she has served for the past 27 years when it was the former St. Joseph Riverside Hospital and then HMHP St. Joseph Health Center.

An educator, she started teaching as a substitute at St. Brendan, Youngstown and then taught at St. Pius X High School, Atlanta, Ga.; Central Catholic High School, Canton; Magnificat High School, Rocky River; and Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa. She was an assistant professor during 10 summers at the University of Notre Dame; and a staff member at the University of Pittsburgh. During her 24 years at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash. she was an associate professor for 14 years then adjunct professor for 10 years, retiring in 2012. Sister Jeannette served on the HM Leadership Team as general secretary.

Sister Jeannette graduated from Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa. and received her BA from then Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa.; her MA from the University of Notre Dame; and her PhD from Georgia State University, Atlanta. She entered religious life from All Saints Parish, Masontown, Pa. and is the daughter of the late Boutros Rashid Abi-Nader and Mary (nee Azizzy) Nader.

Sister Eileen received her BS Ed from St. John College, Cleveland and her M Ed from Kent State University. She received training in clinical pastoral education at St. Luke Medical Center, Cleveland and Sacred Heart Retreat Center, Youngstown.

IN CELEBRATION
Sister Elaine was elected to serve on the HM Council as director of community life and development.

Sister Elaine received her BS from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo. and her MSc from the University of Notre Dame. She earned a certificate in Theological Studies from the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, Calif. A graduate of Lourdes Academy, Cleveland, Sister Elaine entered the HM Community from St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish, Cleveland. She is the daughter of the late Leonard F. and Ursula (nee Walsh) Wellinger.

60 Years

Sister Susan Gauntner, formerly Sister Mary Blaise, is a volunteer at St. Luke Parish, Boardman and serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

She has ministered at Villa Maria Convent in the kitchen and as a housemother at Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa. She was assistant housekeeper and then housekeeping supervisor over 16 years at the former St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown. Sister Susan served as assistant director then director of housekeeping at Villa Maria High School and Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa. For 23 years she served as director of environmental services at Villa Maria Community Center, retiring in 2012.

Sister Susan graduated from Patton High School, Patton, Pa. and entered the HM Community from St. George Parish, Patton, Pa. She is the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (nee Churella) Petrunyak.

IN CELEBRATION
60 Years continued

housing needs, she established HM Life Opportunity Services, Inc. in Akron where she served as president and CEO for 16 years, retiring in 2003.

Sister Loretta graduated from Hoban Dominican High School, Cleveland and received her BS Ed from St. John College, Cleveland; her MA from John Carroll University, Cleveland and her MSW from Catholic University of America, Washington DC. The daughter of the late John Joseph and Anna Marie (nee Klinger) Rafter, she entered the HM Community from St. Cecilia Parish, Cleveland.

Sister Barbara Sitko, formerly Sister M. Dolorosa, serves as an organist for Villa Maria Community Center and is on the library committee.

Sister Barbara has ministered in the field of education at St. Pius X High School, Atlanta; Magnificat High School, Rocky River; and Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa. She was an instructor at Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh and was a faculty member for 16 years at Washington State University, Pullman Wash., serving as an assistant professor and then associate professor of English. Sister Barbara was the first president and CEO of Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center; Villa Maria, Pa., from 2005 until 2008. She was also elected to serve as a councilor on the HM Leadership Team.

Sister Barbara received her BA from Notre Dame College, Cleveland; her MA from Bucknell University, Lewiston, Pa. and her PhD from Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh. The daughter of the late Joseph V. and Julia (nee Mejak) Sitko, she entered the HM Community from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Parma and is a graduate of Lourdes Academy, Cleveland.

Sister Laurel Smith, formerly Sister Mary Shamus, serves in the ministry of presence in Fairview Park and regularly participates in activities at the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Youngstown. She also serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Laurel’s ministry in education sent her to teach at St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Joseph, Massillon; St. Christopher, Rocky River where she then served as principal; and St. Pius X, Warren. Sister Laurel was principal at St. Joseph, Ashtabula and became director and principal of Ashtabula Catholic Elementary School System. As a certified chaplain she served at Boysville of Michigan which became Holy Cross Children’s Services, Clinton, Mich.

Sister Laurel received her BS Ed from St. John College, Cleveland and her M Ed from Kent State University. She received certification as a chaplain from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. The daughter of the late James E. and Florence (nee Champion) Smith, she is a graduate of St. Mary High School, Warren. She entered the HM Community from St. Mary Parish, Warren.

Sister Mary Ann Warner, formerly Sister Mary Benet, SND, recently left her position as volunteer chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington, Ky. where she served for the past five years. She also had volunteered as Delegate for Religious for the Diocese of Lexington. She serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Mary Ann served as a teacher at Holy Trinity, Avon; St. Peter, Canton; St. Mary, Chardon; St. Benedict, Cleveland; St. Albert the Great, North Royalton; and St. Brendan, Youngstown. For nine years she was a pastoral minister at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Smyrna, Ga. She served as a campus minister and associate pastor at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala. and at St. John Student Parish, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. At St. Leo Church, Versailles, Ky. she was a pastoral associate before being named to serve as parish life director from 2004-2011.

Sister Mary Ann graduated from Elyria Catholic High School, Elyria and received her BS Ed and MS Ed degrees from St. John College, Cleveland. She earned a MM in Ministry from Seattle University, Seattle, Wash. She entered religious life from St. Joseph Parish, Lorain and is the daughter of the late Andrew and Margaret (nee Walters) Warner.

50 Years

Sister Janet Burkhart is a program assistant with the Farm-Based Environmental Education program of Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center at Villa Maria.

An educator, she taught at St. Sebastian, Akron; Mt. Pleasant Catholic Elementary School, Cleveland; Archbishop Lyke Catholic School, Garfield Heights; St. Brendan, Youngstown; St. Michael Indian School, St. Michael's, Arizona and San Xavier Mission School, Tucson, Ariz. In addition to teaching middle school students, she led the student body in...
liturgical singing at each of these schools. Sister Janet has served the Sisters of the Humility of Mary as a member of the Leadership Team, General Treasurer, Assistant Director and later Director of Vocations.

Sister Janet received her BS Ed (magna cum laude) from Youngstown State University and her MRS (in religious studies) from La Salle College, Philadelphia. Sister Janet, who entered religious life from St. James Parish, Waynesburg, Ohio, is the daughter of the late Leonard and Nellie (nee Kuhn) Burkhart and is a graduate of St. Edward High School, Carrollton, Ohio.

“With beauty before me, with beauty behind me, with beauty above me, with beauty below me, with beauty I walk.”

These words of the Dine’ (Navajo Indians) have become a prayer for me as well as for my students for many years. In some ways, they are a version of the Magnificat: “My soul proclaims the greatness of our God!” Beauty is part of my life. I start the day asking God for the graces of the day. This prayer is one of the many God-given blessings from the 17 years I taught children of two different tribes in Arizona.

All of the junior high students I have taught over many more years have helped me love and learn. Add to that the deep privilege of being able to play the guitar and lead a church full of children singing, drawing us all into God. Indeed, “My soul proclaims the greatness of our God!”

Not only have I made vows, but vows have continued to make me. I have lived community life with other HMs, and also over the years, with 7 sisters from 6 other religious communities. All of these women, along with my family and friends, have enriched me and encouraged me to grow and change. It is with great joy and reverence that I celebrate 50 years with my HM sisters. I thank God for guiding and sustaining me in religious life and in this community. With beauty I walk.

—Sr. Janet Burkhart

Sister Carol Anne Smith currently ministers in Catholic Healthcare and Education Governance and serves on numerous boards including Mercy Health Corporate Board, Partners in Catholic Health Ministries Board, Foundation Boards and the boards of Cleveland Central Catholic High School and Beaumont School, Cleveland Heights. Additionally she offers spiritual direction and directs retreats in various locations in northeast Ohio and at Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center. Villa Maria, Pa.

She has been an adjunct consultant for ACE (Alliance for Catholic Education) at the University of Notre Dame and is the former Superintendent of the Diocese of Cleveland Catholic Schools and the Bishop’s Secretary for Education. Sister Carol Anne was president of Magnificat High School, Rocky River where she earlier had taught and served as assistant principal and principal. Prior to that position she was the executive director of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Foundation. She taught at Canton Central Catholic High School and established the Alumni Office at the school.

She has served the HM Congregation as a member of the Leadership Team, director of the Development and Public Relations Office and through membership on various committees.

Sister Carol Anne, a graduate of Lourdes Academy, Cleveland, earned her BA from Ursuline College, Cleveland and her M Ed from John Carroll University. The daughter of Anne Marie Smith of Rocky River and the late William J. Smith, she entered the HM Congregation from St. Mark Parish, Cleveland.

“God who is mighty has done great things for me and Holy is God’s name…”

To celebrate this Jubilee, fifty years, for me is totally about thanksgiving to God and countless others. Every memory is a blessing as I see God’s hand in the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries of my life as a Sister of the Humility of Mary.

My litany of thanksgiving reflects God’s lavish goodness in filling my life with those who formed and taught me; who lived and served with me; who offered unexpected opportunities to minister; who supported and loved me: my loving parents and family, my sisters in community, colleagues, benefactors, partners in numerous ministries, and dear friends from near and far, from as close as home to as far as Africa.

When I professed vows nearly a half century ago, I said these words:

“Strengthened by Your promise of divine fidelity… the support of my sisters in community and others in the human family, I will strive to share the love of Jesus through the message of the Gospel and the witness of my life.”

What plans God has had in mind for me and how clearly God has guided me to places of service and people who have blessed my life immeasurably.

On my Jubilee, with humility and love, I thank God and those who have been faithfully with me on the journey of my life. Truly, “God who is mighty has done great things for me and Holy is God’s name.”

—Sr. Carol Anne Smith
Sister Receives Award from National Catholic Education Association

Sr. Helen Jean Novy was one of 30 educators from across the country to be honored for her work in Catholic education by the National Catholic Education Association. She received the Lead, Learn, Proclaim award at their annual conference in April. Sr. Helen Jean has ministered in education for 51 years; 41 of those years have been at Magnificat High School in Rocky River, Ohio, where she currently serves as Vice President of Mission.

Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Sister

Congratulations to Sr. Carol Joy Cincerelli for being honored by the Knights of Columbus of St. Hilary Parish with their Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sister Honored with Special Project Name Designation

Mercy Health has named a new project for Sr. Margaret Mary Siegfried to honor her for her more than 40 year ministry in the hospital pharmacy, where she served until 1994.

The Sister Margaret Mary Siegfried, H.M. Ambulatory Pharmacy will consist of the construction of an ambulatory pharmacy at Mercy Health Boardman and an expansion of the pharmacy facilities at Mercy Health Youngstown. “I was approached about the project in October and I think it’s a great honor,” said Sr. Margaret Mary. “In my eyes, this pharmacy project will be a valuable extension of our legacy of bringing more abundant life to God’s people.”

The project is an initiative of the Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley to make it easier for patients to get the medication they need before they leave the hospital and to reduce the number of readmissions.

“Nurses have learned that frequently, discharged patients have not obtained their new prescribed medication for several days after discharge,” said Barry Shick, Chief Pharmacy Officer at Mercy Health Youngstown. “Problems taking new prescribed medication or other medication are the cause for up to 40% of readmissions to the hospital or an additional visit to the emergency department.”

The opening of the Boardman Campus pharmacy is projected for later this year.
VMESC Program Celebrates Longevity

Coffee and Contemplation, a monthly program offered by Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (VMESC), is entering its 28th year in 2017. Begun by Sr. Carolyn Capuano and Sr. Leonilla Landgraf (deceased) in late 1989, the program’s goal was to offer presentations that would provide spiritual enrichment to its participants. Sr. Baptista Frutkin (deceased) also assisted with the program when she retired from active ministry.

“We wanted it to be a free program so that folks would feel comfortable about coming to the Villa and everyone could afford it. In the spirit of hospitality, we always offered coffee, tea, and some kind of pastry,” said Sr. Carolyn. “We tried to keep the themes in sync with the liturgical year especially during Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, and we often included time for discussion and group reflective prayer. Quite a community of prayerful participants developed.”

That framework continues to guide the program today. Coffee and Contemplation is held on the third Tuesday of each month, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., running from September to May. The cost is $7, and an option for lunch is offered for an additional $5. The VMESC team rotates as presenters and topics can range from something seasonal (Advent, Christmas, etc.) to scripture to something not religious in nature (i.e. social justice or something timely).

Visit vmesc.org for more information.

Sisters Recognized for Commitment to Refugees and Immigrants

The Sisters of the Humility of Mary, along with Sr. Peg Cessna [right] and Sr. Eilis McCulloh [left], were recently honored by the Cleveland Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugee Services for their work with refugees and immigrants. The appreciation dinner was held in Cleveland in February.

Sister Presents Programs at Kick-Off Celebration and Doctrine Gathering

In January, Sr. Barbara O’Donnell participated in a Liturgy to initiate the year-long celebration of the 200th anniversary of St. Philip Neri Parish in Dungannon, Ohio—the first Catholic community established in Northern Ohio. At a reception after Mass, she offered a reflection on the chosen theme: “Rooted in Faith, God Calls us to live the Gospel Now and in the Future.” Sr. Barbara also presented at the Portage County Dinner and Doctrine gathering in Kent, Ohio, in February. The topic for that presentation was Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home. Her focus was on Information, Inspiration, Integration.
Chapter of Affairs

The sisters had their Chapter of Affairs on March 10-16, 2017. Held every four years, Chapter is divided into two sessions: Chapter of Affairs and Chapter of Elections. Chapter of Affairs sets the direction of the HM Community for the next four years.
Evening Presentation with James Finley
Presented by James Finley
Date: June 22, 7 p.m.
Cost: $20

In this evening gathering, James Finley will help us to understand how we can deepen our appreciation for our own moments of experiential salvation, how we can keep our minds and hearts open for the illuminations yet to come, and how we can become someone in whose presence others might experience the quiet light of God’s presence in their lives. The presentation is open to the public and is the first session for those participating in the “Exploring the Spiritual Dimensions of Healing” conference retreat.

All Things Mandala
Presented by Paulette Kirschensteiner, HM
Date: July 9-13
Cost: $325

During this retreat we will focus on our relationship with God, self and others. Retreatants will experience prayer using many different mediums such as coiling yarn and clothesline; white drawing on black paper; collage and mandalas.

We Mysticism: Encountering the Divine in a Shared Field of Awakening
Presented by Gail Worcelo
Date: July 23-28
Cost: $450

Gail Worcelo is a Catholic sister and co-founder of Green Mountain Monastery in Greensboro, Vermont along with Bernadette Bostwick and the late Passionist priest, cultural historian, and Teilhardian scholar Thomas Berry. Green Mountain Monastery is a new emergence in the Catholic tradition that seeks to give expression to a theology rooted in the evolutionary dynamism of an unfolding universe.

Weekend Individually Directed Retreat
Presented by Ardath Blake, HM, and Carol Anne Smith, HM
Date: August 11-13
Cost: $150

A weekend directed retreat is an opportunity for prayerful reflection, often with Sacred Scripture, in an environment of complete silence. Each retreatant meets with a director twice during the weekend. The director’s role is to support the retreatant in the movements of his or her journey. The retreat begins with a welcome, opening prayer and a brief group session with a director. Retreatants will join the HM Sisters for the celebration of Sunday Liturgy.

Villa Maria Land Retreat: The Continuity Between Soil and Life…An Experience of Spirituality and Sustainability
Presented by Barbara O’Donnell, HM, and Frank Romeo
Date: August 22-26
Cost: $285

Explore the diversity and beauty of land at Villa Maria. In a contemplative spirit, learn more about the continuity between soil and life, spirituality and sustainability. Share in presentations and walk a portion of the land each day. Conversation, contemplation and ritual are integrated along with options for personal enrichment and creativity. Celebrate God’s gift of creation while deepening an awareness of local and global ecological concerns.

Call to Personal and Global Transformation
Presented by Edwina Gateley
Date: Sept. 8-10
Cost: $225

In the midst of our violent and hurting world we will explore how God as Lover, Healer, and Seducer ever invites us to new possibilities and to believe in our potential to make a difference. Through scripture and contemporary stories, we will explore how we are called to recognize and nurture God’s presence in our world and in ourselves.
In Loving Memory

Sister Consolata Kline, H.M., the former Rita Kline, died Mon., Nov. 7, 2016, at Villa Maria Community Center. Born in Cleveland on Oct. 8, 1916, she graduated from Lincoln High School in 1935 and entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary in 1943 from Blessed Sacrament Parish in Cleveland. Sr. Consolata served in the Diocese of Youngstown for 32 years at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown including 19 years as administrator. Sr. Consolata responded to the call of her religious community to serve as major superior of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary from 1981-89. She then served for 11 years in the Diocese of Youngstown first as associate vicar and then as vicar of social concerns from 1990-95 when she became executive director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Youngstown from 1995-2001. Following her retirement from Catholic Charities she offered her time and interest as an active volunteer at the West Side Catholic Center in Cleveland which honored her with their Dorothy Day Volunteer Award April 28, 2006.

Among her other honors, she received the papal honor “Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice” in 2000 for her decades of service to the Church. She was recognized in 1978 as one of the first inductees in the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame. She is a Life Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives. Sr. Consolata participated in the HM Ministry of Prayer and the Ministry of Faith-filled Presence with her sisters at Villa Maria Community Center from 2001 until her death.

She is survived by her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation; her brother, Joseph Kline, Fairview Park; her sister, Mary Knapik, Olmsted Township; and many nieces and nephews and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Catherine (Ryan) Kline; her brothers, Thomas Kline, Rev. John J. Kline, and Rev. Robert W. Kline; and her sister, Betty Ondus.

Sister Mary-Joanna Huegle, H.M., formerly Sister Mary-Arlene, died Sat., Jan. 14, 2017 at Villa Maria Community Center. Born in Cleveland as Mary Josephine Huegle on Jan. 27, 1927, she graduated from St. Joseph Academy, Cleveland, in 1945 and entered the HM Community from St. Ann Parish, Santa Ana, Ca., in 1949. Sr. Mary-Joanna was a woman of many talents which she generously shared. As an artist she was sought out to draw or design and execute many religious subjects using various media over a 60 year span.

Her first ministerial assignments included teaching in the Diocese of Cleveland at St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. Christopher, Rocky River and Magnificat High School, Rocky River. As a clerk in the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Cleveland Public Library she personally selected materials for clients. In the Youngstown Diocese she taught third graders at St. Patrick, Hubbard. In 1977 she returned to the Diocese of Pittsburgh and was asked by the HM Community to organize materials for the HM Archives at Villa Maria. Many workshops gave her the needed knowledge of archival practices that she applied to materials dating back to the mid-19th century in France when the Congregation of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary was founded. She was active in her ministry as “Curator of the Archives” until 2011. Sr. Mary-Joanna joined her HM Sisters in the Ministry of Prayer in which she served until her death.

She is survived by her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation; her brother, Peter W. Huegle, Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; and nieces and nephews and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents, Edwin and Irene (Werthmann) Huegle; and her sisters, Arlene Morton, Jeanette Stewart, and Grace Ann Fitts.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Development Office, PO Box 534, Villa Maria PA 16155

A 1947 graduate of North High School in Youngstown, she entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary Congregation in 1956 from St. Francis Parish in Youngstown.

Sr. Jenni served 59 years in active ministry as a dedicated teacher, pastoral minister, director of religious education, and hospital chaplain. She served at St. Patrick, Hubbard and St. Elizabeth Health Center and Mercy Health/St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital, most recently as a chaplain volunteer in the Emergency Department.

While in the Cleveland diocese she served at St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Cecilia, and Mt. Pleasant Catholic Elementary Center, Cleveland; St. Eugene Parish, Cuyahoga Falls; and St. Mary, Painesville.

Her ministry in the Youngstown diocese also included St. Joseph Parish, Ashtabula; Mercy Medical Center; Canton; St. Mary, Conneaut; St. Louis Parish, Louisville; St. Joseph Parish, Mantua; and St. Joseph Parish, Suffield.

The daughter of the late John and Rose (Baleskie) Skerkavich, she is survived by her brother, John Skerkavich of Youngstown; her nieces and nephews and their families; and her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation, with whom she shared her life for 61 years.

She was also preceded in death by her sisters, Rosella Clement, Eva Bendokas, Lucille Schreiber and Florence Cheatham and brothers, Richard and Ralph Skerkavich.
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 Mid-Late June
Call 724-964-8920, ext. 3385
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
2017 Harvest Day
11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 30
Information: 724.964.8920, ext. 3348
humilityofmary.org