Answering the Call

We are called to act with justice. We are called to love tenderly. We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

— We Are Called
David Haas

We are consistently humbled and eternally grateful to those who support our ministries. The generosity and love that we feel from every gift affords us the opportunity to be a prophetic presence in the Church and in the world.

As a congregation dedicated to Mary, we strive to ponder the Word of God in our hearts, to depend on God’s life and grace, and to respond to God’s call in freedom and faith. Your partnership in our mission means the world to us. Every gift given in faith, from a monetary donation, to a donation of time and service, to a simple prayer for our ministries, makes an impact far greater than you can imagine.

On Saturday, July 23, we welcomed our friends and partners in ministry to a special Benefactor Mass at Villa Maria. It was a small way to say thank you to those who offer their time, energy and gifts to our sisters and their ministries. We hope to have many other opportunities in the future for you to connect with the sisters you have so generously supported over the years.

In this issue of Milestones, you will see the hundreds of people who have answered the call to partner in ministry with the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. We could not do what we do without your faithful support.

On these pages, you will see examples of how your gifts are making a direct impact in our local community and in our world. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider how you can continue to support our mission to walk humbly with our God in these changing times while serving the needs of those on the margins of our society.

Please contact our development office for more information on how you can join in partnership with our mission and ministry.

Sister Toby Lardie, HM
Pastoral Leader
The Sisters of the Humility of Mary Welcome Visitors to the Villa

All throughout the year, the sisters open their home and welcome various groups to the Villa for spiritual respite and relaxation. Through the financial support of the sisters, these groups enjoy time away to relax, recharge and regroup. Recently, the sisters extended Villa hospitality to two special groups.

The Mary’s House Program, a ministry of Migration and Refugee Services, a department of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland, which provides support for refugee single mothers and their children, held a spring retreat at the Villa where mothers and children enjoyed time relaxing, swimming, and exploring the Villa grounds.

In August, a group of mothers, grandmothers, children and staff from HM Life Opportunity Services, a ministry of Humility of Mary Housing, enjoyed a fun, relaxing day at the Villa. They toured the farm and grounds, spending time learning about the gardens, farm animals, and land. After lunch, the children played games while the adults had time to relax and enjoy a craft. The day ended with an ice cream social with the sisters, including a spirited song by the group led by Sister Annie Solma, HM and the HMHI staff.

The sisters are grateful for the opportunity to support and host these groups in their home at Villa Maria, and thank you, our benefactors and partners in ministry, who in part allow these visits to happen through your giving.

Beauty Comes to the Villa

Marilyn Thompson answered the call to beautify the front circle and the beloved statue of Mary that welcomes so many visitors, residents, and staff to Villa Maria. Her generosity helped transform a space seen by thousands into a memorial tribute to Sister Denise Maher, H.M. Marilyn’s pledge to contribute over several years will allow the sisters to continue to upgrade and maintain this area near Magnificat chapel and the entrance to our conference center. We are so grateful for not only the transformation, but for the personal connection that was established to the sacred Villa land for Marilyn and those who knew and loved Sister Denise. “This project is bringing me great happiness. First, it was the voice inside saying, ‘You know you can do this.’ And then, with Denise’s death, the voice said, ‘Now you know why I asked you,’ ” says Marilyn.
The HM Leadership Team, at the advice of the Alternative Loans Committee, approved becoming a part of the RCIF (Religious Communities Investment Fund.) RCIF is a collaborative effort that ensures the legacy of community development investing will continue in the same prophetic, efficient and effective manner as when Religious Congregations independently managed their own funds for community investing.

**Mission of the Fund**

The Fund is a coordinated effort of various Catholic Religious Congregations who believe, as Gospel people, that they are called to use their financial resources as a ministry to assist in overcoming social and environmental inequities. The congregations pool their individual assets to support the mission of promoting economic justice through investments in low-income communities worldwide. By investing in nonprofit organizations that address the economic inequalities in low-income communities, the Fund seeks to promote an economy of solidarity and reflect the Gospel values of economic justice, compassion, human dignity and environmental stewardship. – *RCIF Mission Statement*

**Focus of the Fund**

The Fund is a portfolio of debt and equity investments in projects consistent with the Gospel mission of economic justice for all. The investments benefit the economically poor; especially women and children, concentrating on those who are unserved or poorly served through traditional financial sources. The funding recipients, usually intermediary agencies, are those seeking ways to give beneficiaries an effective voice in the planning and implementation of the given projects, as well as those who address the multi-cultural reality of our society.

For more information and to read the success stories of this program, please visit the “How We Help” and “Resources” sections at www.rcif.org.
An Update from Sister Judy in Haiti

Sister Judy Dohner continues to manage the medical depot for all the medical programs for both St. Luc Foundation (for adults) and St. Damien Hospital (for children), in addition to the schools and clinics assisted by HM donations. She works with a Haitian staff of six wonderful men and women who have learned over the past few years how to receive, inventory, control and distribute medications and medical supplies. Twice a week, Sister Judy works at clinics run by the Missionaries of Charity who provide free medical care to the most destitute people in Port au Prince. Sister Judy shares her life in a strong faith community of Passionist Priests and dedicated lay women from Ireland and Argentina who pray and celebrate Eucharist together in shared community.

**The Malnutrition Program that Sister Judy helped establish through St. Damien Hospital continues to support over 400 children a month.** The children are given medical peanut butter that can turn around the malnutrition in three months. They are also seen by pediatricians and treated for parasites, skin disorders and other problems that arise from malnutrition. A faithful supporter of Sister Judy’s who formerly worked in pediatric nursing felt the call to pledge her support to this program by setting up a monthly gift stating, “I have focused on caring for children my entire career… I truly understand the importance of providing medication and food to children.”

Ferel Bruno continues to be a leader in his home community of Fonds des Blancs. Several years ago, he built a walking bridge over a stream so the people walking to the village or only hospital in the area would not have to walk through water. Last October, Hurricane Matthew’s strong winds blew the bridge over. Ferel is now working on re-building. He continues to provide purified water (provided by the HM Community) to a local bakery and to the hospital to provide fresh bread. He has a community garden, and a small community clinic. Ferel is associated with the Nos Petits Frères et Soeurs-Haiti NPH-Haiti and is a mission partner of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

Faced with challenges sometimes beyond comprehension, the Haitian people in a spirit of harmonious community persevere with resilience and determination. While there is still much to be done to help our Haitian brothers and sisters, Sister Judy and our Ministry Partners in Haiti are truly living the mission of the HM Community, responding to the needs of the time with vision, courage and generosity. We are so grateful to those who join with us to support these very important ministries.
A Note of Gratitude
From the Sisters of St. Antoine of Fondwa, Haiti

We are happy to share this letter of gratitude received by Sr. Toby from the Sisters of St. Antoine of Fondwa acknowledging the continued support they have received from the HM Community and you, our donors. This support has enabled them to provide vocational training for these recent graduates of their program.

Dear Sister Toby and the other Sisters of the Humility of Mary,

It has been two years since the start of the Vocational School with the Sisters of St. Antoine. In these two years our students have gained skills and knowledge in the arts of cooking, flower arrangement and sewing. These are skills they will continue to carry with them throughout their life and will hopefully be passed down from generation to generation. We are very excited for the future of our 2017 graduated students who graduated in July of 2017.

It is important to recognize that the new skills and hope-filled futures for our students were made possible with your sponsorship. The students of the Vocational School, the children from our Fatima Orphanage, the women’s group and the Sisters of St. Antoine would like to thank you for your support and dedication to the advancement of education and skills in the Fondwa community.

The community is looking forward to another two years of Vocational School. In October we will be adding two skills to our School. Along with flower arrangement, sewing and cooking we also hope to offer new skills in electricity and plumbing for our local community members. In our rural community many people do not have access to electricity or plumbing. For those who have access it can be difficult or impossible to fix the issues that can arise or to find a skilled electrician or plumber in the area. These new skills will assist our community in maintaining sanitation and hygiene.

As our Vocational School expands we would like to ask for your continued support and sponsorship. We have seen first-hand the education you have provided in our communities. If you also would like to see the education you have provided and will hopefully continue to provide, please let us know. You will always be welcomed into the homes and hearts of our community and with the Sisters of St. Antoine.

Thank you for your support in our Vocational School and we hope to continue to receive the blessings of your support in the future.

Sincerely,
The Sisters of St. Antoine
The HM Associate Community is very active at the Villa and beyond, being comprised of groups from the Akron/Canton, Cleveland and Youngstown areas. They have many different missions of service including outreach to the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, the HM ministries in Haiti, raising awareness about human trafficking, serving in their resident parishes, schools and hospitals, as well as other numerous good works. Their lives are formed by their Baptismal call to serve God and each other, and to carry forth the Humility of Mary Charism of “bringing more abundant life to God’s people, especially the poor.” (HM Mission)

This past Spring, the HM Associate Area Coordinators sponsored two HM Charism nights as an opportunity to learn more about, and contribute to, various HM ministries. The evenings included dinner, fellowship, and a movie. These special nights ultimately supported the following ministries:

- Sr. Judy’s ministry in Haiti
- Sr. Carolyn Capuano and Sr. Kathleen O’Donnell’s ministry at Mercy at St. Paul’s Square
- Sr. Jean Orsuto and Sr. Midge DiMatteo’s ministry at Emmanuel Community Care Center
- Sr. Kathy Limber’s ministry with the Princeton Rescue Squad
- Sr. Peg Cessna’s ministry with Mary’s House
- HM Associate Donna Humphrey’s ministry at Blessing House

If you would like more information about the HM Associate Program, please email Associates20@humilityofmary.org, or contact the development office and we will be happy to send you a brochure detailing the program.

The HM Associates with some sisters at the HM Community Days in August 2017 – A day of planning and visioning for the future.
Sister Kathy Limber expressed her gratitude for the support her ministry received:

I wanted to inform you of how your support has made such a positive effect on the ability of my EMT students to pass their WV State EMT exam. Earlier this year the HM Associates had a fund raiser for my ministry of EMS education here in Southern West Virginia. I wanted to share with you what we did with your support and how it impacted the success of this particular class that just took their exam. Instead of buying the students EMT review workbooks this year, three weeks prior to their exam we chose to purchase a phone app with 4,000 possible questions they could possibly see on their State Exam. What was great about this phone app, if a student answered the question wrong the app would not only provide the right answer, but would also give an explanation as to why that specific answer was right and why their answer was wrong. Today, I received the students’ results from the West Virginia Office of EMS that 11 of the 14 students passed the exam. This is not only the best passing ratio we have ever had, but also the highest passing grade percentages we have ever had. Some students passing the exam will now be able to obtain employment and some students will be able to move from a minimum paying job, to a job that can pay them $3.00 to $4.00 more per hour.

The passing of these students is also so important for our State of West Virginia. The population of West Virginia is 1,831,000 individuals. Today in the state we have approximately 900 EMTs and 400 paramedics active to respond to the emergency needs of individuals in the state. Most of the EMTs and Paramedics work in the larger cities and not in rural areas such as ours in Southern West Virginia. Students from this class will be serving in three different counties, McDowell, Wyoming and Mercer. McDowell & Wyoming are two of the poorest counties in the state and have a very low number of EMTs & Paramedics.

Once again “Thank You” for both your prayerful support and your financial assistance that allowed me to get those few extra education items that helped in the learning process of our students here at Princeton Rescue Squad EMS Education & Training Center.

– Sister Kathy Limber, HM
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Sister Barbara Wincik, HM

In honor of
The 2017 Jubilarians
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Sister Marie Bohn, HM
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Mr. Gary Miller & Dr. Linda Miller
Darlene Morrison
Sister Cheryl Rose, HM

In honor of
All the IHM Sisters that
taught at St. Gregory
School in Detroit, MI
Michael & Kathryn Delaney

In honor of
The HMs at St. Raphael School,
Bay Village, OH
Mary Lou Toler

In honor of
Magnificat High School,
Rocky River, OH
Ralph & Christine Higgins

In honor of
The Sisters of the
Humility of Mary
Peggy Wolfe

In honor of
The Sisters who taught at
St. Sebastian, Akron, OH
Stephen & Generose Marks

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Joanne M. Sawyer  
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Sister Dorothy Zwicker, HM  
Barbara Walko

In memory of  
Sister Madonna Kohlbenschlag, HM  
Susan Spring Sidley

In memory of  
Sister Jeanne Koma, HM  
Mary Ann Ziak

In memory of  
Josephine Kostohryz  
The Kline family

In memory of  
Leo & Libby Lardie  
Mike & Cheryl Lardie

In memory of  
Sister Denise Maher, HM  
John & Laura Bertsch  
Rev. Richard Brobst  
Jamie Smith & Ingrid Brooker  
Theresa Buie

In memory of  
Sister Mary H. Manak  
Barbara Manak Baehr

In memory of  
Catherine T. McConnell  
Anonymous (7)

In memory of  
Mr. & Mrs. John S Marshall  
William Marshall

In memory of  
Sister M. Jeanne Gutzman  
Rosemary Sutter

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Marguerite Jeffers '27  
Thomas & Ursula Coyne

In memory of  
Josephine M. Jones  
Carol Lair

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Elaine Plichta Lassite
In memory of Joseph Planey
The James Corbett family
Anne Gardner
Carrie Mastrorocco
William & Jean Saylor

In memory of Sister Maria Crucis Polk, HM
Joan Scott

In memory of Henry & Olive Potopsky
Daniel & Patricia Potopsky

In memory of Sister Therese Quinn, HM
Rev. Richard Brobst
George F. Burke
Jean Burke
Donna Marie Dannemiller
Michael Drohan & Joyce Rothermel
Mary Lou Eicher
Bob Hennessy
David & Mary Anne Hughes
Karen Millberg
Paulette Moriarty
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Nancy Snyder
Patricia Steward
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Patricia Shaughnessy
Ken & Sara Shubeck
Mary & Ralph F. Miller
Mary Ann Miller
Dr. Rosalie Politsky

In memory of Leo Metzger
Patricia Metzger
Charlotte Milcetic

In memory of Rena & John F. Milcetic
Mary & Ralph F. Miller
Mary Ann Miller

In memory of Gertrude Bossong Mooney
Patricia Levins

In memory of Carmel Morris

In memory of Sister Marcia Murdoch, HM
David & Agnes Murdoch

In memory of James & Mary Murphey
Nikki Cooper

In memory of Patty Murray
Ken Murray, Jr.

In memory of Robert & Mildred Naegeli
Cindy Orlandi

In memory of Sister Alice Nalley, HM
Thomas & Helen Paolucci

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Eileen Blair

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Sister Marcia Murdoch, HM
Lenora Plott

In memory of Michael Piero
Judith A. Piero

In memory of Carol Ann Cahill Pilz
David & Linda Rogers

In memory of Joe & Leslie Scaletta

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Bob Hennessy
David & Mary Anne Hughes
Karen Millberg
Paulette Moriarty
Randy Notare
Nancy Snyder
Patricia Steward
Mr. & Mrs. Tsambarlis
Margaret Varley
Jack Zeigler

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In memory of
John J. & Anna M. Rafter
Catherine Rafter

In memory of
The Rainey family
Kathy Roba

In memory of
Marianne Remark
Robert Remark

In memory of
Annette Rex
Roslyn DeGregorio

In memory of
The Roba family
Kathy Roba

In memory of
Michael Salata
Mary Ellen Salata

In memory of
Michael & Margaret Salata
Dr. Sally Salata Brenner

In memory of
Sister Sheila Salmon, HM
Toni Kline

In memory of
Al & Loretta Samblanet
Melinda Dannemiller

In memory of
Bill Sarich
Anonymous

In memory of
Sister Mary Ida Schafer, HM
Timothy & Carol King
Delores Vinkler

In memory of
Sister Mary Rose Scheetz, HM
Rev. Deacon Robert Bubnick & Lois Van Tilburg Bubnick & family

In memory of
Walter & Helen Schumann
Marilyn Raeth

In memory of
The Simon family
William Terwoord

In memory of
The deceased members of the HM Sisters and my deceased Lourdes Classmates
Frank & Mary Stepic

In memory of
Sister Jenni Skerk, HM
Marilyn Baker
Rev. Richard Brobst
Dr. Renaldo Carolipio, M.D. & Lorna Carolipio
G. Richard & Linda Coblitz
Carlos & Mary Lynn Fuentes
E. James & Monica Gribus
Joseph Henson, Jr. & family
Alba Hull
John Hull
Mercy Health
Mercy Health Youngstown
Dr. Kathie Nelson, MD
Fely Puray
Cynthia Reardon
Bob & Susie Schreiber
Jon & Jean Schreiber & family
Craig & Madeleine Stevens
RoseMary Wakefield
Rev. Msgr. John A. Zuraw

In memory of
Anna & Raymond Srnick
Dave & Linda Zanders

In memory of
Evelyn B. St. Julien
Dr. Jacques St. Julien

In memory of
Richard & Pauline Stanco
Sister Mary Stanco, HM

In memory of
The Stanef family
William Terwoord

In memory of
Sister Noreen Stearns, HM
Elaine DiMatteo Ross
Judith Snyder

In memory of
Steve Synk
Adrian Staeven

In memory of
Sister Veronica Ternovacz, HM
Jim & Bonnie Smrcina

In memory of
The Terwoord family
William Terwoord

In memory of
Raymond J. Thomas
Mary Place Thomas

In memory of
Marilyn Thomson
Anonymous

In memory of
Marjorie Anne Vanasco
Cathlene Thompson

In memory of
Theresa Veres
Joan Francis

In memory of
Mary Ann Verostek
Andrew Verostek, Jr.

In memory of
Charles & Helen Waldman
Daniel & Patricia Potopsky

In memory of
Martha Gavin Wright
Mary Gavin

In memory of
Clara Yerage
Robert Neate

In memory of
Nellie Metzger Young
John & Julieta Young

In memory of
Andrew & Catherine Zoldak
Richard Zoldak
The Heritage Society

The Sisters of the Humility of Mary established the Heritage Society to honor those who make legacy gifts in support of our mission to bring more abundant life to God's people, especially the poor. The Heritage Society recognizes special friends whose vision and generosity have inspired them to donate to the sisters through a bequest or other planned gift.

We are grateful for those who have chosen to remember the mission of the sisters through an estate gift. For information on how you can include the sisters in your will or estate planning, please contact the Development Office at 724-964-8920 x3291.

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**Annual Nativity Display**

First two Sundays in December.  
More info soon on our Facebook page and Website.

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- Mercy Health Youngstown
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- Mercy Health Foundation – Mahoning Valley
- The MPB Charitable Foundation
- Reardon Charitable Fund

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- Estate of Virginia Alten
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