HM Sisters follow a call to make a difference in Cleveland’s Slavic Village

Neighborhood ministry allows sisters to live their mission
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.

FEATURE:

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Sisters Collaborate to Serve the Needs of Cleveland Neighborhood

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

www.humilityofmary.org

Cover Photo:
Staff at Slavic Village Development collaborate with Sr. Ann Solma (second from left) to help build a better neighborhood for all residents.

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
724-964-8920, ext. 3249

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

To correct your address or be removed from the mailing list, contact the HM Development Office at hmdevelopment@humilityofmary.org or the above phone number.

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Dear friends,

“The earth is full of the goodness of God.” (Psalm 33) Our recent Harvest Day was a wonderful celebration of God’s generous outpouring of gifts upon the land and upon us. Starting with perfect autumn weather, families and friends spent a day of outdoor fun that included food and craft vendors, games, activities, hayrides, a reptile show, a scarecrow display and musicians. The farm was proud to sell our organic produce and many people went home with pumpkins and mums. We have been blessed through the gift of our land and farm and we are grateful to be able to share the bounty and harvest with others.

Each year we renew our commitment to the mission of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, sharing in the mission of Jesus to bring more abundant life to God’s people, especially to those who are poor. Every sister, associate, covenant companion, and Villa employee shares in this one central mission, but each one carries it out in a particular way, in a ministry, in a specific way of service.

Although we have experienced many changes in our traditional ministries of education and health care, we are blessed with new opportunities to respond to the needs of the day. In this issue of the HM Voice, we are featuring several of our sisters who are now ministering in the Slavic Village area on the southeast side of Cleveland.

While many of our ministries have been through direct service, there has been a growing focus on taking actions that affect conditions at the systemic level. This type of ministry relies on our influence or specific actions to encourage change at the level of making policies or decisions. The article about our Shareholder Advocacy Committee demonstrates how many sisters are working together with other partners to allow our HM voice and values to be heard in the corporate world.

We meet the needs of today’s world in so many different ways. Whether it is an older sister crocheting a lap robe for cancer patients, a volunteer welcoming new refugees to the United States, or associates serving a meal at the Dorothy Day House, we look for opportunities to bring more abundant life to God’s people.

In the spirit of Mary’s Magnificat, may the God of mystery guide us as we move together into the future, that God will keep our minds and hearts open to the challenges before us, that God will bless us with courage and strength as we walk surrounded by God’s love, and we will bring more abundant life to God’s people. Amen.

(2018 Missioning Prayer)

In Mary’s humility,

Sr. Toby Lardie, HM
Sister Toby Lardie
Pastoral Leader

Leadership Team
Sr. Karen Bernhardt
Sr. Margaret Marszal
Sr. Carol Anne Smith
Sr. Barbara Wincik
Sr. Toby Lardie, Pastoral Leader
Preserving the Past for Future Generations

By Kylene Kamensky

Archives serve as the memory of place or institution. According to King’s College in Cambridge, archives provide evidence of and tell the story of an individual or institution; archives can also increase the sense of identity and understanding of cultures and can even ensure justice. They can often be portrayed as dusty basement rooms filled with piles of unorganized papers, and perhaps that was true at one time. But modern archives are quite different and those who run them are committed to preserving the records and items with which they are entrusted.

The HM Community Archives are indeed housed on the first floor, the basement if you will, but it is no dusty room nor is it filled with piles of unorganized papers. Formally established in 1977, the HM Archives contain a meticulously organized collection of the non-current records that tell the story of the HM Community.

Sr. Joanne Gardner is the current Director of Archives and Records Management and has been involved with the archives since 2004. She straddled responsibilities between the communications office and the archives for 10 years until she went to archives fulltime in 2014. According to her, the initial establishment of the HM Archives came out of a directive from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) asking communities to establish an archives if they did not already have one.

“Sr. Rosemary Murray [major superior at the time] approached Sr. Mary-Joanna Huegle as someone she felt was in a good position to do that initial gathering, organizing, and establishing,” said Sr. Joanne.

Sr. Mary-Joanna set about learning all she could about archives, attending workshops and trainings, and even learning French because so many of the early community documents needed to be translated.

“She was given a small space and boxes of materials that appeared to have been dumped from drawers. There was no organization—that we have what we have is pure miracle. When I think of the amount of work that she did herself, it’s just amazing,” Sr. Joanne said. “I took a course at Duquesne University on the principles involved in archives, but because the collection is different from one organization to another, I’d work with Sr. Mary-Joanna on how we did it. She was able to organize based on a parallel with the Dewey Decimal system in the libraries. We have a 10 category system, but that

Sr. Joanne delicately handles this original composition by Mother Anna Tabourat, which is on permanent display in the Heritage Room. Mother Anna’s music is still used by the HM Community during celebrations.
isn’t necessarily what anybody else uses. It works for us because she thought it through so clearly.”

Since no archive could house every piece of paper, artifact, or photograph, Sr. Joanne has guidelines she works with to determine what will be collected for the HM Archives.

The HM collection contains items that are historically significant to the HM story, including papers, artifacts, Fr. Begel’s original documents in his handwriting (both in French and English), photographs, and cultural examples brought back by HM Sisters who served in foreign countries to remember their time outside the United States. Items related to the early history of the community are permanently displayed in the Heritage Room outside the dining room at the Villa. Those display cases include artefacts such as Mother Anna’s violin, examples of lace made by sisters, and other tools used during those early years in the United States. The display tells the story of the community in France and in the U.S. from the founders’ perspectives.

“Because the archives is really the place where the story of the community is maintained, if it contributes to the story in a major way [it goes in the collection],” said Sr. Joanne. “The rule of thumb is if you don’t have room for it or if you can’t conserve it—if you can’t put the money into maintaining something—then it doesn’t belong.

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What’s wonderful, I think, is that we have photographs of the earliest sisters. For whatever reason, as poor as they were, formal photographs were taken. That is a wonderful thing that we have.”

The archives is particularly important to the community because the records and items contained in the collection really cast light on the origins of the community. Primary documents, such as journals and other documents, tell the story from those first 10 years in a way that wouldn’t be possible if they did not exist. And having those items is especially helpful in tracing the HM Charism from the beginning.

“We know when the community was started in France in the 1850s, the foundation of the community initially revolved around meeting the need for educating young women,” Sr. Joanne said. “And that’s the thread that I’ve seen continuing through: seeing a need, determining if that need can be met, and then addressing that need. Sharing in Jesus’ mission of bringing abundant life remains at the foundation of our ministries and into the ministries that are in the future.”

As she continues her work in the HM Archives, professional organizations such as Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) have been an invaluable resource for Sr. Joanne. This national organization was first established as a roundtable in 1990 at the Conference for the Society of American Archivists. Its mission is “to assist lay and religious archivists in the management, interpretation, and preservation of the historical record of Catholic sisters and nuns in the United States and worldwide.”

ACWR provides educational opportunities for members and resources to help archivists deal with issues such as conservation of documents, the loss of records resulting from community closures/mergers, and digitizing records, among others.

“One of the topics at the [ACWR] triennial conference in recent years, especially because of [Hurricane] Katrina is what do you do in the case of water damage or any other damage? In New Orleans, they had diocesan records on the second floor but that didn’t protect them. There are lots of things that can be done, but they can be cost prohibitive too,” said Sr. Joanne.

Naturally, with the age of some of the items in the collection, Sr. Joanne has worries about being able to keep them in good condition. Among some of her favorite things are also some of the most fragile pieces: Fr. Begel’s journal, Mother Anna’s violin, and an original sketch of the Villa property done in 1865 by Mother Odile Philbert, one of the original sisters to emigrate from France. But despite these concerns, she still chooses to share pieces of HM history in the Heritage Room with those who visit the Villa.

“The items in the [display] cases—they’re so three-dimensional, they’re so visual. Those should not be tucked away in some corner. They need to be on display. Mother Anna’s violin is in need of refurbishment, but to have it, to have copies of her music that she wrote and that she played—that’s priceless.”
Care for God’s Creation

By: Katie Higgins and Sr. Helen Jean Novy, HM

Inspired by the HM community’s commitment to care for the environment, Magnificat High School is proud to share the following updates related to sustainability and environmental education.

**Green Ribbon School**

In May, Magnificat High School was designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a 2018 Green Ribbon School. This award acknowledges Magnificat’s commitment to sustainable practices and for leadership in facilities, health, and environmental education. Magnificat is representative of promising practices to improve achievement and equity, not only for aspiring green schools, but for all schools.

“Sustainable practices have been a priority for our school community for many years as we are aware of our impact on the world. We intend to do everything we can to reduce our carbon footprint while teaching our young women the importance of environmental sustainability and care for our Earth. Our students have already taken significant leadership roles in pushing our school community forward in these initiatives, including recycling, composting, and the elimination of plastic water bottles on campus,” said Moira Clark ’77, President of Magnificat High School.

**Yellowstone Wildlife Ecology Project**

In partnership with Ecology Project International (EPI), eight Magnificat students traveled with two Magnificat science faculty members, Heidi Paul and Beth McBride, to Yellowstone National Park, the nation’s first national park. The group participated in scientific research alongside national park biologists, collected pond data for the U.S. Forest Service, assisted with invasive species removal and conservation projects in the park, and traveled in environmentally conscious ways.

The group left with a deepened sense of awe and wonder for the gift of God’s creation manifested in Yellowstone’s incredible biodiversity and landscapes. They also took away a heightened awareness of the interconnectedness between Northeast Ohio and the Yellowstone ecosystem, while recognizing the positive and negative impacts that they can have on this precious natural resource.

As EPI’s first all-female group, Magnificat will also be featured on EPI’s pioneering page on Women in STEM as part of EPI’s efforts to bridge the gender gap in the science and engineering workforce and empower young women to pursue careers in STEM.
In a tradition that can be traced back to their beginnings in France, the HM Sisters have faithfully served both the communities in which they minister and the people who live there. Sometimes sisters are called to move on and serve elsewhere, but HMs have been a consistent, hope-filled presence in Cleveland’s Slavic Village neighborhood since the 1990s.

Slavic Village is located on the southeast side of Cleveland and was originally home to Central European immigrants, mainly those of Czech and Polish origin. Once a middle class neighborhood, the area centered on Fleet Avenue and Broadway now faces issues that trouble many inner city neighborhoods: job loss, aging housing, and an increased poverty rate. The neighborhood was particularly hard hit by the foreclosure crisis in 2007-2008.


The story of HM service in Slavic Village begins in the early 90s when Sr. Ann and Sr. Marie Veres were looking to establish an early childhood education program in the Cleveland area. While they were doing their initial research, information in the City of Cleveland’s City Vision 2000 publication caught their attention. While most of the neighborhoods they were reading about weren’t viable options, Slavic Village was one to stand out to them.

“‘There was energy and there was life in this neighborhood,’” said Sr. Ann when asked why Slavic Village was chosen. “‘There were block clubs that empowered the residents that the other neighborhoods didn’t have. It was very easy to establish—to get rooted—in that kind of environment and serve the need at the same time.’”

Villa Montessori Center, a preschool program based on the Montessori education model, opened its doors in September 1995. The school provided high quality preschool seats to the residents of the neighborhood and opportunities for those children to excel.

Gail Glamm, a parent whose child attended Villa Montessori Center, was
appreciative of the education her son received there.

“It was great because they [Sr. Ann and Sr. Marie] recognized a need in a needful neighborhood. It was a good partnership and a great fit,” she said.

Villa Montessori Center closed in 2015 after 20 years in operation as it had become more difficult to sustain a Montessori program in the changing education landscape.

“The face of education changed,” said Sr. Ann. “Charter schools didn’t exist back then, and our enrollment began to drop.”

But even though they had closed the program they didn’t end the mission and Slavic Village wasn’t yet done with Sr. Ann.

“We are living the mission going forward in different ways,” said Sr. Ann. “We’re not the drivers of the bus anymore. We’re collaborating with organizations whose missions are compatible with our own.”

So after “passing on the mission baton” and facilitating the transfer of Villa Montessori Center’s license and building to a new preschool program, CEOGC Villa Head Start, Sr. Ann began working with Slavic Village Development (SVD).

She currently serves as a senior advocate and collaborates with SVD’s housing stabilization program where she provides outreach to seniors to improve their quality of life. Sr. Ruthmary Powers works alongside Sr. Ann with her clients.

SVD is one of nearly two dozen community development corporations throughout the city of Cleveland. It is a nonprofit organization and its mission is to “work with and for its residents, businesses, and institutions to promote civic engagement, community empowerment, and neighborhood investment.” SVD receives most of its funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

According to Executive Director Chris Alvarado, community development corporations are focused on three things: housing, commercial development, and community organizing. How each organization goes about accomplishing these goals is different from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Because of the foreclosure crisis in 2007-2008, SVD has made household stability a large part of its mission.

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"We feel like you can’t have a stable neighborhood without stable households," Chris said. "And we had a lot of predatory lenders and corporations that took advantage of first-time home buyers, primarily African-American first-time home buyers, that changed the neighborhood fairly significantly."

The SVD neighborhood stabilization staff provides a number of services, such as direct outreach, assistance navigating the “alphabet soup” of government organizations, and nuisance abatement to name a few, but since each resident’s situation is unique they often have to get creative.

“What we find is taking a person-centered approach makes the most sense. We get a lot of fairly out-there questions and our goal is to say we’ll figure this out. We don’t ever want to turn anyone away if we can help,” said Chris.

“We’ve come up with an acronym for that,” said Lynn Rodemann, Outreach Specialist. “OHAT—one home at a time. Sometimes it’s connecting residents with resources for city programs; sometimes it’s teaching people to use an angle grinder on a Thursday night so they can maintain their homes. Sometimes we come across a situation that requires a social worker and that is where Sr. Ann has been wonderful. She can come in and go knock on doors to do outreach for people who really need a little extra help. When we find things that are beyond our reach, luckily we have her to help us tease out some of the more intimate details that help us help them [residents] move on to the programming they need.”

Another way that Sr. Ann is involved in the neighborhood is through an initiative called Slavic Village P-16. This initiative is “a pre-birth to career initiative that strengthens the Slavic Village neighborhood by collaboratively addressing barriers to academic achievement while connecting young people and their families to their community and to quality programs, resources, and opportunities.” It was founded through a partnership between the Third Federal Foundation and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and has expanded over the years to include over 70 partner institutions, including SVD.

The Third Federal Foundation, a charitable arm of Third Federal Bank which was founded in Slavic Village in the 1930s and remains headquartered in the neighborhood, has invested millions of dollars in programs to support education, housing, and other family-centered projects.

According to Kurt Karakul, Executive Director of the Third Federal Foundation, a large part of the P-16 initiative involves the promotion of literacy.

“So many of the people in urban areas drop out of high school and do not take advantage of the education that the school system can provide to them. So what we’re trying to do is change the mindset, change the
culture. The idea is to bring people in that try to solidify families, stabilize them, and try to remove those barriers that stop education from going forward.”

An example of one of the programs is Reach Out and Read, a collaboration with Broadway Metro Health. Medical providers use well child visits to inform new moms about the importance of reading aloud to their children. The provider then “prescribes” a book that is both age and developmentally appropriate for the child.

Natalie Friedl, Executive Director of MyComm and P-16 Initiatives, said that P-16 has three buckets where they concentrate their energy: programs and services, family stability, and engagement.

“We really take seriously our family stability initiatives,” she said. “We know that if a student is not safe, they’re not going to attend school and they’re not going to learn. We have a network of partners that can help people get back on their feet after a job loss and also provide referrals to social service agencies to address other problems in order to keep people in their homes.”

“With the family stability initiatives, 350 kids have been able to stay in their schools instead of having to move around and that has been huge for the neighborhood,” said Kurt.

The Third Federal Foundation and P-16 Initiative are also involved in a major way with Cleveland Central Catholic High School. Through Third Federal, CCC students are able to participate in a work scholarship program where they do volunteer work in the community. This volunteer work is then converted into tuition assistance.

“What we’re trying to do is change the mindset, change the culture. The idea is to bring people in that try to solidify families, stabilize them, and try to remove those barriers that stop education from going forward.”

—Kurt Karakul, Executive Director of the Third Federal Foundation

“If we don’t produce kids that can take jobs of the future, businesses are going to leave and our economy will be greatly impacted. So it’s really a matter of building the talent for the future and providing a hope,” Kurt said.

CCC was established in 1969 after the merger of the four founding schools: St. Stanislaus, St. Michael the Archangel, Our Lady of Lourdes,

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and St. John Cantius. All four school buildings were maintained after the merger, but as enrollment decreased the campuses were closed until finally St. Michael’s and Sr. Stanislaus consolidated into one campus on the St. Stanislaus block in 2003. The current enrollment is approximately 545 students.

Three HM Sisters are currently serving at CCC in various capacities.

Sr. Madeline Muller and Sr. Elaine Schindler have both been at Cleveland Central Catholic since the 2017-2018 school year. Sr. Madeline is a part-time consultant to the librarian and also works with students to help them write their college entrance essays. Sr. Elaine has a more flexible schedule and works as a “push-in” in English and history classes where she assists students in the classroom with whatever the teacher needs her to do.

“I was drawn to Slavic Village, and CCC in particular, because of the HM Mission of bringing more abundant life to God’s people, especially the poor,” said Sr. Madeline. “They [CCC] needed some help and I have expertise in library science, so I knew I could help with the library and work with the students. I was able to attend the faculty/staff retreat this year and the theme was ‘Be a Beacon of Hope.’ The faculty is really committed to helping the students become the best they can.”

Sr. Elaine came to CCC after she heard about the HM Community’s effort to support the school and had been encouraged to attend one of the monthly Lunch and Learn programs that CCC offers visitors to tour the school, participate and observe classes, and enjoy lunch with the students. After that experience she thought she might want to be a part of it.

“‘In my own discerning as a sister who has worked with youth all my life, I found it was time to turn back to the schoolroom,’” she said. “I had been living in residence with kids [at Girls Hope in Pittsburgh] over the past 10 years. I was impressed with the CCC students and the vitality of the school.”

Sr. Carole Anne Griswold has worked with the CCC Advisory Board since last spring as a consultant and committee member, but she also helped the board with its strategic planning back in the late 90s when the school was going through a rough patch and needed to increase enrollment.

“Leo Hyland [CCC President] is committed to hardwiring mission into all aspects of the school community so it will always be what they espouse it to be as a Catholic school. I am assisting the Advisory Board in creating and implementing a Mission Effectiveness Committee to assure accountability for mission into the future,” she said of her current work.
“The draw [to CCC] for me was the importance of Catholic Education for many vulnerable students who may not otherwise be able to access a Catholic education.”

“Having religious vocations involved in the school is a blessing and it matters,” said Leo Hyland, CCC President, of the HM involvement.

“This school really easily could have closed 20 years ago. All the writing was on the wall: enrollment was declining, the families that were here couldn’t pay, it was a very, very difficult situation. The reality is the combination of vouchers and the help we get here, certainly from Third Federal, provides the opportunity.”

The Sisters of the Humility of Mary have also provided support for CCC over the past few years in the form of grants to help with tuition assistance and CCC staff development. A particular initiative the HMs have helped fund is one through the Cleveland Clinic that helps teachers develop programs and services for the special needs students at CCC, who make up 20% of the school population.

Another way the HM presence is helping in Slavic Village is that Sr. Ann is getting involved with other efforts to break down barriers. She recently helped a committee put together by the City of Cleveland’s Department of Community Relations called Hands Across Cleveland: Unity Through Diversity. Their goal was to bring together residents from the east and west sides of Cleveland to make connections that will build community and friendships to help make the city a safer place. Three events were held to promote this goal: Hands Around Public Square in April, Hand Around Mall C in June, and Hands Across the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge in September.

“I felt that it [my participation in the event] was worthy of what we’re trying to do with our mission,” said Sr. Ann. “It’s the connectedness. What better than a bridge?”

Through their work, SVD, P-16, and CCC are trying to make Slavic Village a better place by treating the root causes of issues in the neighborhood, not just the symptoms. And through their work and presence in Slavic Village, the HM Sisters help contribute to that work of bettering the quality of life for neighborhood residents.

“One single organization cannot have the dramatic impact that everybody collectively can,” Sr. Ann said. “When you come together as a neighborhood and people work together and you have strong leaders, it’s possible to help raise the quality of education and everything else.”
August Community Days and Missioning

Contributed by The HM Anti-Racism Task Force

HM Sisters, HM Associates, HM Covenant Companions, and HM Partners in Ministry gathered in Magnificat Chapel on August 4 to participate in their annual Missioning. Missioning takes place each year as part of August Community Days, where the sisters come together to hear reports and conduct community business.

Following the Charlottesville riots of August 11-12, 2017, the Leadership Team of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary issued a statement condemning racism. This was published in the 2017 HM Voice. As the rhetoric and incidents continued nationally, the HM Leadership Team invited sisters, associates, covenant companions, and partners in ministry to form an anti-racism task force. In response to the call of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the HM anti-racism task force began meeting monthly with the goal of addressing the root causes of racial injustice and our own complicity in it. The task force invited Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, and Sr. Anne-Louise Nadeau, SNDdeN, from Pax Christi to facilitate a day long presentation on racism at the HM Community Day for sisters, associates, covenant companions and partners in ministry on August 3.

Following this day, the task force met and discussed the need to invite others involved in their communities to join the anti-racism task force. At the recent meeting Oct. 6, three invitees joined the discussion. The initial first step is to explore what groups in Youngstown, Warren and Western PA.; Akron/Canton; and Cleveland and surrounding areas are already engaged in addressing racism in their local communities.
AUGUST COMMUNITY DAYS AND MISSIONING

15 Sisters of the Humility of Mary HMVoice • Fall 2018 • humilityofmary.org

The term ‘People of Color’

- When we use the term ‘People of Color’ we are referring to:
  - Asian American
  - African American
  - Hispanic/Latino
  - Native American
  - Indigenous

PEOPLE NEED TO SELF-IDENTIFY
Items of Interest

**Sister Honored for Her Service to Parish**
Sr. Mildred Ruffing, HM, was honored by St. Luke Parish, Boardman, for her 30 years of service at a retirement Mass and party on August 19.

**Collaborative Luncheon 2018**
The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking held its annual luncheon on September 13 in Cleveland. The Collaborative has pulled together more than 40 organizations who are working together to respond to human trafficking in Northeastern Ohio. The HM Community was involved in the creation of the collaborative 11 years ago, and HM Sisters are still active in the organization today.

**Sister Recognized for Service at Akron Children’s Hospital**
Sr. Linda Valasik, HM, was acknowledged for her contribution of 500 hours of service in the Special Care Nursery at the 2018 annual spring Volunteer Recognition Brunch at Akron Children’s Hospital of the Mahoning Valley. “Working in this department helps extend our Humility of Mary commitment to support women and children, especially those mothers and infants who have unmet special needs,” Sr. Linda said.

**Sisters Honored with Children’s Advocate Award**
The Sisters of the Humility of Mary were honored by Akron Children’s Hospital with their Children’s Advocate Award at the 8th Annual Champion for Our Valley’s Children celebration on May 8. The Children’s Advocate Award recognizes organizations and individuals who work to make a difference in the lives of children in the Mahoning Valley and who express a spirit of caring.
Sister Receives Award for Support of Newman Campus Ministry

Sr. Mary Ann Spangler, HM, received the Goudreau Award, presented by the Newman Foundation of Northern Ohio, in recognition for her service and support of Newman Campus Ministry on October 5 at the annual Newman Foundation Dinner. Sr. Mary Ann has been engaged in Newman Ministry since 1999 giving Busy Student Retreats, spiritual direction, and facilitating other spiritual activities. In acknowledging the award, which was received at St. Michael’s Woodside, Sr. Mary Ann spoke of the collaborative effort among the Newman Foundation, religious congregations including the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, the campus ministers, spiritual directors and the student leadership teams. The focus of everyone’s efforts is to companion young adults spiritually and provide presence and resources to students in their faith journey while on the college campuses. Both Sr. Mary Ann and Sr. Kathleen Hine, SND, also a recipient, spoke with appreciation for the support and encouragement of family, friends, and each person attending the awards dinner.

“This ministry is so meaningful to me because it touches the hearts and minds of young adults and provides opportunities to deepen their faith,” said Sr. Mary Ann. “During times of challenge and transition, students are grateful for a listening presence to explore and ponder. I’ve also had the privilege of assisting young people with decisions about next steps in their lives through prayer and reflection.”

The Newman Foundation supports the Campus Newman Ministry at Ashland University, Baldwin Wallace University, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State and the College of Wooster.

Students Establish Memorial Garden to Honor Teachers and Mentors

Sr. Mary Catherine Blooming, HM, reports that students in the Farm Club at St. Joseph High School, Natrona Heights, Pa., recently completed work on a small memorial garden to honor three St. Joseph teachers/mentors who had passed away during their service at the school.

The students worked for two years, patiently enduring setbacks as the plans and proposed site were changed. The garden finally became a reality over the summer as the students bought the statue of St. Joseph and other supplies they needed to finish the project.

“Though it is a memorial to all those who passed during their service to St. Joe’s, it was most specially dedicated to our religion teacher, Frances Woytek, who died in August 2016, our guidance counselor who died in May 2018, and our Farm Club advisor, Chuck Kunkel, who died last fall,” said Sr. Mary Catherine.
Sister Designs Banners for Youngstown Diocese’s 75th Anniversary Celebration
Sr. Paulette Kirschensteiner, HM, designed the banners used at the opening celebration for the Diocese of Youngstown’s 75th anniversary. The seven panel design features a different color for each county in the diocese that flank a center panel which represents St. Columba Cathedral. The name of each parish in the diocese is watermarked onto the bottom of the county panels. Parishioners that were present from each county processed in with their county’s banner during the celebration at St. Columba Cathedral. Sr. Paulette worked with Ann and Tricia from GE Signs N More in Streetsboro, Ohio to bring her vision to life.

Bee Healthy Camp Teaches Children about Nutrition
This summer, campers and teen volunteers from Canton Central Catholic and St. Thomas Aquinas high schools participated in the Bee Healthy Day Camp at Mercy St. Paul Square in Canton, Ohio. This day camp for children 8-10 years old taught children about making healthy food choices by making special food creations under the direction of one of the Mercy Medical Center cafeteria chefs. The program was made possible through a grant from the HM Community (Salmon Memorial Fund Grant). “The grant allows us to provide many outreach programs to people in urban Northeast Canton,” said Sr. Carolyn Capuano, HM, Vice President of Mission and Ministry at Mercy Medical Center.

Oops!
In the Summer 2018 issue of the HM Voice, Sr. Mumbi Kilgutha’s last name was misspelled and her congregation initials were listed incorrectly in the Item of Interest titled, “Sister Cycles for Awareness during National Catholic Sisters Week.” In the caption below the photograph of the sister cyclists, it should have read Sr. Mumbi Kilgutha, CPPS.

Youngstown Dorothy Day House to Celebrate 10th Year
The Youngstown Dorothy Day House will begin their 10th anniversary celebration on December 9, 2018 by honoring all their devoted team leaders at a Sunday brunch. “We begin in this manner to hold tight to our simple, heartfelt commitment to be more personal in our appreciation for the gift of each other and the gift of all our guests,” said Sr. Ann McManamon, HM. Other events to celebrate the anniversary are being planned for next year. The Youngstown Dorothy Day House opened its doors in November 2009 to serve those in need. Monthly roundtable discussions of social justice topics are held the fourth Thursday of the month on topics such as human trafficking and refugees.
Magnificat High School Students Help Bring More Abundant Life to God’s People

Rooted in the HM’s commitment to bringing more abundant life to God’s people, Magnificat High School is proud to share the following updates related to service and justice programs that foster solidarity with those living in poverty and on the margins.

Service Retreat

Magnificat juniors and seniors spent three days at the Villa, participating in service projects and reflecting upon the integral role service plays as a part of our lives and practice of faith. Students worked alongside Sr. Ann McManamon, HM, at the Dorothy Day House in Youngstown. They assisted with cleaning the house, preparing and serving the daily meal, and visiting with the people who came for the meal. Sr. Ann shared insights and wisdom about the Catholic Worker’s focus on hospitality and justice, and the need to create a welcoming community alongside any effort to work for justice.

The group also spent time with Habitat for Humanity of Mahoning County, putting the finishing touches on a house in Struthers, Ohio. Finally, students helped on the Villa Farm, harvesting chestnuts, gourds, and pumpkins and planting broccoli and cilantro for the coming year. The Service Retreat participants left with a deepened understanding of the different ways we are called to serve in our daily lives.

Collaborative to End Human Trafficking Luncheon

In September, Magnificat students and faculty participated in a luncheon with the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking.

HM Ministries Represented at Regional Conference

Two HM Ministries participated in the “Caring for Our Common Home: Laudato Si’ and Integral Ecology” Conference sponsored by the Social Action Office of the Diocese of Cleveland on September 29, 2018 at John Carroll University.

Sr. Barbara O’Donnell, HM, VMESC staff member, responded to the keynote presentation by Doctor Vincent Miller, based on the book, The Theological and Ecological Vision of Laudato Si’. She also reflected on the spirit of humility throughout the encyclical.

Karen Morley, theology teacher at Magnificat High School, and Sr. Barbara led a session entitled, Opportunities In and Beyond the Classroom with Laudato Si’ Integral Ecology. Karen offered personal, professional, and institutional ideas, examples, and challenges to living a more sustainable life in and out of the classroom. She is the co-moderator of Magnificat’s Seeds of Service co-curricular, in which students learn about organic practices by growing produce in the Campus Hoop House, built in part with a grant from the Humility of Mary Sisters.
Upcoming Programs

The following programs are provided by Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (VMESC) and will take place at Villa Maria. Please call 724-964-8886 for more information or visit www.vmesc.org. Additional programs and speaker information can be found on the VMESC website.

Reclaiming Advent
Presented by Sr. Ruthmary Powers, HM
Date: November 30-December 2
Cost: $165
A prayer retreat to encourage and deepen our Advent and Christmas season. Retreat will include input, reflection, prayer, ritual, and time for interaction.

Taizé Prayer-Advent
Date: December 6, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Cost: Free
With open and ecumenical hearts, gather around the cross for prayer in the tradition of the ecumenical monastery of Taizé, France. This Christian interdenominational prayer form includes music, scripture, and silence. Light refreshments and an opportunity for fellowship follow the prayer service.

Torah Studies for Christians
What is Jewish History?
Presented by Rev. George Balasko
Date: December 19, 1-3 p.m.
Cost: Free Will Offering
This Bible education series is an opportunity for Christians to reflect on the Scriptures using what is available on the Internet with professor Henry Abramson. Working closely with the biblical text, we will explore the methods and insights of the sages of the Jewish tradition, their love for Torah, their eye for detail, their incisive questions, debates, and creative storytelling (midrash). In this way we will deepen our appreciation of a Torah tradition that is at the core of Jewish life, which formed Jesus as a Jew, and which is the root of our biblical heritage as Christians.

Riding the Dragon: Strengthening Your Inner Life in Challenging Times
Presented by Dr. Robert Wicks
Date: March 23, 2019
One of the greatest gifts we can share with others is a sense of our own peace. However, we can’t share what we don’t have. By discussing spiritual and psychological approaches to maintaining a healthy perspective and enhancing resilience in challenging times, Dr. Wicks offers insights into how we can remain strong and, in turn, extend our warmth to others without losing our own inner fire in the process. Topics will include: maintaining a sense of perspective, chronic and acute secondary stress, developing a self-care protocol, knowing the “voices” we need in our circle of friends to have balance and courage in life, depth self-awareness, inner darkness, and developing a strong “rule of prayer” as well as your own framework of reflection and mindfulness.

Coffee & Contemplation
Our Lady of Guadalupe: Symbolism and Spirituality
Presented by Sr. Janet Burkhart, HM and Sr. Pat Flores, HM
Date: December 11, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Cost: $7
The Coffee and Contemplation series focuses on a variety of spiritual and holistic topics. The program provides participants with input from a presenter and includes time for reflection and discussion. Program participants are welcome to stay for lunch.
Using Investments to Advocate for Change
Contributed by The HM Shareholder Advocacy Committee

Sherwin Williams, PNC, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Walmart… what do they have in common? Human rights, health and safety, employee rights…and advocacy for these universal rights by the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

During the Congregational Chapter of 1985, under the leadership of Sr. Consolata Kline, the sisters agreed that the monies invested for our retirement needs should also be used to influence the operational values of the corporate world. To accomplish this goal, the Shareholder Advocacy Committee (formerly called the Investment Review Committee) was formed.

The committee draws its direction from HM Investment Policy, which states: “The Shareholder Advocacy Committee monitors the investment portfolio according to the moral and social guidelines in the HM Investment Policy. The members are active participants in the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) and LCWR Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investing (CRI).”

The ICCR is a coalition of faith and values driven organizations that view the management of their investments as a powerful catalyst for social change. Over 300 religious communities, churches, colleges and universities, unions, pension funds, foundations and asset management companies representing over $400 billion in investments promote more sustainable and just business practices through their joint activities.

The top issues for the ICCR membership today include climate change and environmental justice, human trafficking and the supply chain, the human right to clean water and access to nutrition.

On a more local level, Region VI CRI is a coalition of 22 religious communities in a three-state area—Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Currently Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM, is the Coordinator of the Region VI CRI.

Because they are geographically based, the members of CRI may choose to focus on issues and/or corporations that are more locally based. As an example, members have been active with Sherwin Williams in Cleveland, Wendy’s in Dublin, Ohio, and with Kroger’s, whose offices are in Cincinnati.

Change is pursued through investor engagement with corporations, dialogues, letters to heads of corporations and proxy voting. As actions are proposed, our Shareholder Advocacy Committee can decide to join the effort and add our voice to hundreds of other investors in seeking change. Depending on the issue, we sign on as a member of the CRI and/or we also will sign on as the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

Utilizing these efforts and on-going dialogue, Sherwin Williams, PNC, Dick’s Sporting Goods, and Walmart have made changes in their corporate policies. In many cases the dialogue continues.

While the sisters can effect change through the use of their investments, so can you as an individual.

The challenge is yours:
- attend an informational meeting on an issue
- sign a petition demanding change
- exercise your right to vote—an investment of $2,000 in a company for two years allows one to vote a company’s proxy or attend a shareholder meeting
In Loving Memory

**Sister Jane McDowell** (Sr. Mary Gael) entered eternal life May 8, 2018 at age 78. She served as a teacher and principal for 24 years before focusing her talents as a pastoral minister in a parish. The next chapter in her life was written in the hills of Appalachia where she gave 18 years serving in rural areas of West Virginia, Ohio and Virginia. In the Cleveland diocese she taught at St. Martha, Akron; St. Raphael, Bay Village; St. Cecilia, Cleveland, St. James, Lakewood and St. Albert the Great, North Royaltown. In the Youngstown diocese she taught at St. Barbara, Massillon and served as principal at St. Patrick, Kent. She served as a pastoral minister at St. Barbara parish, Massillon and was on staff at Emmanuel Community Care Center, Girard. In the Pittsburgh diocese Sr. Jane taught at Our Lady of Grace, Scott Township. She was a pastoral care volunteer at Villa Maria Community Center prior to joining her sisters in the ministry of prayer at the Community Center.

**Sister Jean Babeaux** (Sr. Mary Irene) entered eternal life May 18, 2018 at 91. She dedicated her 49 years of ministry as a teacher, principal, high school librarian, minister of hospitality for Villa Maria Retreat Center and Director of the Villa Maria Circle at Villa Maria, Pennsylvania. While in the Cleveland Diocese Sr. Jean taught at Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; Magnificat High School, Rocky River and was a tutor for the Akron Board of Education. She served as a librarian and Director of the Learning Center at Akron Firestone Jr. High School for 19 years. Her 17 years in ministry in the Diocese of Youngstown included teaching assignments at Central Catholic High School, Canton; St. Patrick, Hubbard; St. Paul, Salem; and at St. Edward, St. Edward Jr. High and Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown. Sr. Jean was the administrator of St. Mary School in Marietta, Ohio. Upon her return to Villa Maria Community Center in 2000 Sr. Jean served at Villa Maria Retreat Center as hospitality coordinator at Begel Hall, was the Director of the Villa Maria Circle and, until her death, served in the ministry of prayer.

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**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
Sister Barbara Sitko (Sr. M. Dolorosa) died May 27, 2018 at age 79. She was a gifted woman with many talents and interests. She taught at the secondary and university levels, engaging her students and drawing out the best in them. She played the piano by ear; loved to read and attend live theatre and the movies and to discuss these widely. She also loved to cook. She completed her BA in English and French graduating magna cum laude from Notre Dame College of Cleveland in 1962. Her MA in literature in 1976 was from Bucknell University, Lewiston PA. She was awarded her PhD in rhetoric in 1990 from Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh. In the Cleveland Diocese she taught at Magnificat High School, Rocky River; In the Pittsburgh diocese Sr. Barbara taught at Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria PA and later was an instructor at Carnegie-Mellon University. While serving at Washington State University, Pullman WA she served as a council member on the Leadership Team of the HM Sisters travelling the long distance as needed. She was the first president/CEO of Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center. In the Archdiocese of Atlanta she taught at S. Pius X High School in Atlanta. In the Diocese of Spokane Sr. Barbara was an assistant professor at Washington State University at Pullman and then became an associate professor of English there. After 2008 Sr. Barbara never considered herself totally retired as she offered her time and attention at Villa Maria as a hospitality volunteer for VMESC, a library volunteer and periodically as organist for Mass and other services.

Sister Grace Marie Kalal (Sr. Marcella) entered eternal life May 28, 2018 at 96. She generously served for 42 years in the ministry of education and an additional 13 years as a volunteer. In the Cleveland Diocese Sr. Grace Marie was known by many during her 23 years as Director of Teacher Personnel in the Diocesan School Board Office. She also served as a teacher, school secretary, and administrative assistant at schools in the diocese. Sr. Grace Marie later volunteered with Heartbeats and Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugee Services. She taught and served as a principal in the Youngstown Diocese and was also an educator in the Pittsburgh Diocese. In 2011 she returned to Villa Maria Community Center where she shared in the Ministry of Prayer until her death. Sr. Grace Marie had celebrated her 75th jubilee as a Sister of the Humility of Mary in 2017.

Sister Lucy Copeck (Sr. Mary Theola) died August 22, 2018 at age 76. She ministered in elementary education for 37 years. While in the Cleveland Diocese, Sr. Lucy taught at St. Sebastian and St. Martha in Akron and also at Sr. Joseph in Cuyahoga Falls. Her service in the Youngstown Diocese included teaching at St. Patrick, Hubbard; St. Stephen, Niles; St. Paul, Salem; and St. Pius X, Warren. She taught CCD to students enrolled in the Conneaut public schools, and she also taught for a year at St. Anthony in Port Redding, New Jersey. Sr. Lucy was a long-time active member of AA, a frequent speaker and sponsor for many women even during her last months of illness. She had a great love for cats, especially the strays and those in need of a temporary or permanent home. Sr. Lucy served with her sisters in the HM Ministry of Prayer at the time of her death.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Development Office, PO Box 534, Villa Maria PA 16155.
**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. 2 & Dec. 9

Villa Maria Conference Center, Villa Maria, Pa.

*Free admission to display ● Group tours available upon request*

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**The Villa Farm** will offer fresh poinsettias, swags, wreaths & more

**The Villa Shoppe** will offer Fair Trade items, nativities & unique Christmas gifts

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**Meatloaf Dinner:** 12 to 4 p.m., Sun., Dec. 2
Large $10 ● Small $7

**Spaghetti Dinner:** 12 to 4 p.m., Sun., Dec. 9
Large $8 ● Small $5

**Children 4 & under free ● Take-out available**

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For more information:
[humilityofmary.org](http://humilityofmary.org)
724.964.8920 x3208

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