May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

— Romans 15:13

In Celebration: Seventeen 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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Sustainable stewardship of natural resources is part of the corporate witness of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. Please join us in making recycling a priority.
Dear Friends,

In early summer the Villa is alive with new signs of vibrant life as beauty settles over the campus. A different rhythm takes over with many visitors coming to spend time in the peace and calm of retreat time and outdoor activities. Newly plowed fields and planted gardens hold a special kind of promise for what is yet to be.

In July we will gather to celebrate a very special day, Jubilee Day, when we recognize the anniversaries of several of our sisters who have completed 50, 60, 65, 70 and 75 years of faithful witness as Sisters of the Humility of Mary. Their years of commitment give testimony to the deeper values of love, faithfulness and service to others, especially to those who are poor and vulnerable. You can read more about each sister in the pages that follow. We congratulate these women and are grateful for their fidelity and dedication.

In the 1940s, 50s or even the 80s and 90s, no one could have imagined the world as we know it today, marked by violence and chaos at the same time as we see remarkable advancements in technology and science. What does our world need from us today? It needs people of hope who will lift our voices for each other, for the common good, for those who struggle in poverty, to build bridges of understanding and solidarity. When we care about each other and work together for the common good, what might happen in our world?

Hope encourages us to focus on goodness that shines forth in people. Hope has an energy that invites us to take action. It is with hope that we continue in the planning process that we shared with you a year ago. Throughout this past year the sisters were very engaged in Pathways Into a Future Full of Hope, studying the current realities, visioning and sorting through many possibilities, and meeting with potential partners. In March we met to affirm several recommendations and are now immersed in the first steps of implementation. This issue of the HM Voice will bring you up-to-date with some of our new directions.

With grateful hearts we hold you in prayer, our partners, co-workers, benefactors, family and friends. Together in hope may we bring more abundant life to others.

In Mary’s humility,

Sister Toby Lardie
Pastoral Leader

“May you abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

(Romans 15:13)
Sister’s Art Ministry Encourages Creative Expression in Others

by Kylene Kamensky

The HM Community has always had its share of sister artists, and Sr. Colleen Ungashick is just one of many sisters who carry on that grand tradition today.

“Art is intimate,” said Sr. Colleen when asked the reason she enjoys it. “It’s very meditative and contemplative, and it is interconnected with prayer and spirituality.”

In addition to being an artist, Sr. Colleen is also a registered art therapist and she thought she could use that background to develop a program that would benefit the retired HM Sisters who live at the Villa. So in January of 2017, Sr. Colleen began offering art sessions at the Villa that combined concepts of art therapy, prayer, and relaxation.

According to The American Art Therapy Association, “art therapy uses the creative process of art making to improve and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of individuals of all ages.” Art therapy can also provide people alternative ways to communicate, which can be useful in working around language limitations or barriers. It is often used in a variety of settings, including hospitals, schools, and senior facilities to help explore personal issues.

Sr. Colleen offers two different types of sessions as part of her program at the Villa: One-to-One Creative Art Expressions and Group Art and Prayer. The best part is that no previous art experience is necessary to get enjoyment from participating. Sr. Colleen chooses projects that are fun and easy for everyone to do.

“I draw from what I know, but I’m always looking for new and interesting ideas on the Internet and in craft magazines,” she said. “I try to keep in mind the people I’m working with and I like to include a variety of different techniques like collage, painting, and coloring. I also like to try to theme projects around the holidays.”

In the One-to-One sessions, Sr. Colleen works with individual or pairs of sisters who sign up for a specific time slot. These sessions are usually held in Visitation Hall, which is the healthcare unit, but all sisters are welcome to sign up and attend.

According to The American Art Therapy Association, “art therapy uses the creative process of art making to improve and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of individuals of all ages.”
Sr. Cathy Joy Popoczy loves to attend the One-to-One sessions because she says it keeps her active and helps with her arthritis. “I like art because you can be innovative as well as creative,” she said. “I especially like to do collage projects because I like finding what fits together. It’s a good outlet.”

Sr. Marie Veres also likes to attend the One-to-One sessions. She retired to the Villa after teaching for many years, and she said she always got a lot of joy out of watching her students enjoy art. She now has that same enjoyment in creating her own art. “Art brings out life,” she observed while working on a recent project.

The Group Art and Prayer sessions incorporate a spiritual theme and may include brief prayer, music, a story, poetry, guided meditation, and conversation in addition to the art experience. These sessions take place in the Activity Room on certain days during the week and don’t require a commitment ahead of time. Sisters are encouraged to attend as they are able and as it suits their schedule.

According to Sr. Colleen, many of the Villa Maria Apartment Residents enjoy attending these sessions as well.

“There’s something about making art with other people,” said Sr. Colleen. “It creates a sense of community. It helps to be open to it and not be afraid of it. You don’t have to do something well to make something beautiful. You just have to start and allow something to come forth.”

“There’s something about making art with other people; it creates a sense of community.”
— Sr. Colleen Ungashick
Pathways Planning Process: Taking the Next Steps

by Sr. Carol Anne Smith

On March 24-25, over 100 Sisters of the Humility of Mary gathered at Villa Maria for the culmination of an 18-month planning process. With unanimous and nearly unanimous support the congregation enthusiastically delivered to the HM Leadership Team eleven recommendations for implementation.

These recommendations resulted from the final phase of a comprehensive six phase planning process initiated by the congregation’s Leadership Team in the Fall of 2016. The Pathways Into A Future Full of Hope endeavor focused on sustaining the mission of the congregation into the future and freeing members more fully for mission.

Active engagement of members throughout the year and a half long process, guided by KEB (Kerber Eck and Braeckel LLP) consultant Skip Hedger, brought the sisters together in six phases. Most significantly, the recommendations, questions, responses and input of sisters in each phase shaped the subsequent one.

Over the past year the congregation focused its efforts on the priorities identified in the March 2017 Chapter: healthcare delivery for sisters, land and farm, sustaining the mission, Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center, Villa Maria Residential Services, and space utilization at the Villa.

Visioning sessions in June and August 2017 resulted in sisters articulating over 1100 ideas, suggestions, and dreams to address these priorities. Notably, sisters named over 300 visions and hopes for healthcare and land and farm respectively.

The Exploration phase, July–December 2017, was guided by the sisters’ visioning. The planning committee personally contacted over 50 potential partners, collaborators...
Memorandum of Understanding with Presbyterian Senior Care Network to explore the development of assisted living/personal care center in Visitation Hall and the feasibility of senior services component;

- Taking concrete steps with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Western Pennsylvania Land Conservancy, and other like entities to preserve in perpetuity essential natural assets on portions of Villa Maria Land;

- Continuing to pursue an alternative future for Villa Maria Farm;

- Congregational Leadership and the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center Board of Directors engaging in dialogue about sponsorship and new opportunities to enhance the VMESC ministry that could stem from implementation of other Pathways Planning recommendations submitted to Leadership;

- Congregational Leadership integrating as possible Villa Maria Residential Services into implementation of other Pathways Planning recommendations intended to address the future of housing and healthcare at Villa Maria;

- Taking appropriate steps to best allocate the Congregation’s material assets in the future to fund and further the HM Mission; and

- Continuing exploration with other high-interest possibilities that were contacted but did not come to fruition during the planning process itself.

As the Sisters of the Humility of Mary concluded their March community meeting, amidst the enthusiasm and real joy over completing the planning process, many questions remained unanswered. One sister wisely commented, “How like our Founders we are in this moment. Their entire future was unknown to them as they boarded the ship from France to America. Their faith, perseverance, hope and tireless commitment has always inspired us, and they are our best models for this time.”
In Celebration

The HM Congregation is honoring 17 Jubilarians as they celebrate 50, 60, 65, 70, and 75 years of vowed religious life. These sisters have ministered in the fields of administration, administrative support, counseling, education, finance, healthcare and healthcare administration, hospitality, housing services, parish and pastoral ministry, prison ministry, social work, social justice advocacy, 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 Margaret Mary Siegfried, the former Dorothy Siegfried, entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary on September 8, 1942 from St. John the Baptist Parish, Canton, Ohio. The daughter of the late Clement and Clotilda Siegfried received the religious name Sr. Margaret Mary Alacoque, which made her very happy because of her devotion to The Sacred Heart of Jesus. She attended Notre Dame College for Women in preparation for becoming a science teacher, but her mission was changed during the summer of 1946 when Mother Mary Ignatia Pierson told her she was to become a pharmacist. Sr. Margaret Mary received her Bachelor’s in Pharmacy from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and served as a pharmacist for four years at St. Joseph Riverside Hospital, Warren, Ohio, and 39 years at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio.

After retiring from the pharmacy in 1994, she volunteered at St. Elizabeth in several different departments. She still volunteers one morning a week in the surgery waiting room where she visits with families waiting for their loved ones to recover from surgery.

Sr. Margaret Mary currently serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer. She also visits with the sisters in the health care unit and volunteers at the Villa reception desk once a week, extending hospitality to all who enter the Villa.

I am “prayerfully grateful” for all the graces and blessings that I have received during the past 75 years as a Sister of the Humility of Mary. Daily I offer myself as a follower of Jesus, endeavoring to remember that “Whatsoever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me.” Matthew 25:40

Jubilee to me means a time to take “a long loving look”

- at the past, with deep gratitude for all that the Holy Spirit has inspired me to be and to do;
- at the present, with patient trust in God’s Loving Providence;
- at the future, with joyful hope and longing for Jesus’ Kingdom of Justice, Peace, Love, and Beauty.

—Sr. Margaret Mary Siegfried, HM
Sister Rita Henley (Sr. Mary St. Edna, S.N.D.) has ministered as a teacher, principal, alcohol counselor, pastoral minister and volunteer. A 1949 graduate of St. Stephen High School, Cleveland she entered religious life in 1953 from Our Lady of Angels Parish. Sr. Rita completed her BSE at St. John College, Cleveland and earned her MEd from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo. She received certification as an alcohol counselor from the State of Ohio. Sr. Rita served in parishes in both the Cleveland and the Youngstown dioceses where she taught in the primary and intermediate grades. She served as principal at St. Brendan, Youngstown. Her ministry as a counselor from 1978-94 began at the Alcohol Clinic in Youngstown and continued at Rosary Hall at St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland. She was a pastoral minister at Our Lady of Angels, Cleveland from 1994-2007 where she continued to volunteer following her retirement. In recent years she has engaged in a phone ministry and visited shut-ins as she shared in the Ministry of Prayer. Sr. Rita is the daughter of the late Cornelius and Edna (Yeager) Henley.

Sister Barbara Herrmann (Sister Leo) has served as a teacher, administrator and business office staff in her 61 years of active ministry. She graduated from Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa. in 1951 and entered the Humility of Mary Community from St. Joseph Parish, Sharon, Pa. in 1953. She completed both her BSE and MSE at St. John College, Cleveland. Sr. Barbara taught in the primary grades for 12 years in the Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Youngstown dioceses. For 23 years she served as school principal at Annunciation, Akron; St. James, Lakewood; and St. Patrick, Hubbard. In 1992 she joined the Finance Office team at Villa Maria Community Center taking on responsibilities as payroll manager for 15 years. She has since provided transportation services for the sisters in residence at Villa Maria.

The daughter of the late Francis L. and Bertha (Wilhelm) Herrmann she continues to enjoy her regular walks in Buhl Park, Sharon, Pa. and participates in several annual 5K events.

Sister Marjorie King, formerly Sister Luellen, is currently a volunteer in the HM Archives Office where she assists with various projects; she also serves in the HM Prayer Ministry. Sr. Marjorie dedicated 36 years to educating elementary school children in the Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Youngstown dioceses at a number of Catholic schools. She has served in many diverse
65 Years continued

ministries after she retired from teaching. Among those she found rewarding were ministering at facilities in Michigan and Ohio that housed women reclaiming their lives after being released from prison or rehab; working with migrant farmers and their families at the DelMarva Clinic on the East Coast; offering hospitality to visitors at the Villa Maria Retreat Center; serving in the Transportation Office at Villa Maria Community Center; and ministering at St. Anthony’s Point in Sharon, Pa. in their children’s program.

Sr. Marjorie graduated from St. Mary High School in Akron, Ohio and entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary from Annunciation Parish. She received her BSE from St. John College, Cleveland and her MSE from Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Ind.

Sister Dolores Strah, a native Clevelander, graduated from East High School in 1951. She received her BSE from St. John College, Cleveland and her MSE from the University of Dayton.

She served as a cook at several convents, a responsibility that also entailed added duties, prior to entering the classroom where she taught in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. From 1996-2006 she was the administrative secretary at Villa Montessori Center in Slavic Village, Cleveland. She served as a staff member for the Heartbeats Ministry at the HM Ministry Center, Rocky River and from 2006-17 was the receptionist at the HM Ministry Center.

Sr. Dolores is the daughter of the late Anthony J. and Christine (Hren) Strah. Many will attest that there are few who can bake better cookies and Sr. Dolores is always ready and willing to provide them for numerous occasions and meetings.

60 Years

Sister Joanne Bormet (Sr. Mary Josetta, S.N.D.) graduated from Notre Dame Academy, Cleveland in 1958 and entered the Sisters of Notre Dame that same year. In 1970 she joined the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

She received her BSE from St. John College, Cleveland and her MEd from Kent State University. As an educator, she taught the upper grades in parish schools in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses for 42 years. Her longest tenure was at St. Ambrose, Brunswick for 16 years after which she served on the parish staff for two years. From 2006-15 she gave computer and technical assistance to Villa Montessori Center in Slavic Village, Cleveland. In 2017 Sr. Joanne returned to Villa Maria Community Center where she crochets as a member of the prayer shawl ministry, volunteers in the Development Office, and serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

The daughter of the late Joseph and Katherine (Brown) Bormet, her home parish is St. Joseph, Randolph.

Sister Margaret Cessna, formerly Sister Mary Philip, is a family mentor volunteer with Catholic Charities Department of Migration and Refugee Services. She ministered for 27 years in education as a secondary teacher in several high schools in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. In 1991, Sr. Margaret helped found Heartbeats, Inc., a nonprofit
organization that helped promote the works of women, minority, and developing world artists; she acted as executive director of the organization until 2001.

Writing is a big part of Sr. Margaret’s life and she has a 30-year history as a published author: She has written two books, The Parrot Lady and Other Moments of Everyday Grace in 2007 and Home to Each Other and More Moments of Everyday Grace in 2010. She has also authored many articles on different topics for publications such as The Cleveland Plain Dealer, Momentum: Journal of the National Catholic Educational Association, Human Development, and National Catholic Reporter.

Daughter of the late Robert & Mary (Suddes) Cessna, Sr. Margaret graduated from Ursuline High School in Youngstown, Ohio, and entered the HM Community from St. Edward Parish. She received her BA from Ursuline College in Cleveland and her MA in Religious Studies from the University of Detroit, Detroit, Mich.

Sister Rosemary Hammer, formerly Sister M. Cyril, currently serves on the Villa Maria Residential Services Board of Trustees. She has ministered in diverse fields since she entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary from St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village, Ohio, including education, healthcare administration, congregational leadership, pastoral ministry, and finance. Among the many roles Sr. Rosemary has taken on to help serve God’s people are teacher and principal in the Cleveland and Pittsburgh dioceses; President/CEO at Rose-Mary Center, Euclid, Ohio, and The Assumption Village, North Lima, Ohio; councilor on the HM Leadership Team; pastoral minister and coordinator of Mission Effectiveness at Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio; and director of finance at Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center and the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking.

Sr. Rosemary has also served on numerous boards and committees over the years for hospitals, the HM Community, and a regional consortium providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Sr. Rosemary received her BA from Ursuline College, Cleveland, her MA from Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., and her MBA from Cleveland State University. She is the daughter of the late Peter G. and Kathryn (Reed) Hammer.

Sister Rose Huber, formerly Sister Mary Donnarose, SND, currently ministers as a chaplain in the Diocese of Youngstown in the Pastoral Care Department at Northside Regional Medical Center.

Over the years, Sr. Rose has been involved with diversified ministries in four states: teaching in Ohio; religious education in Georgia; ministry with persons with disabilities, especially the hearing impaired/blind, in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and social work and chaplain supervisor at Albert C. Wagner Correctional Facility for men in Bordentown, N.J. As the field supervisor for interns with Princeton Theological Seminary, she was able to enhance her ministry as a chaplain with more programs in the prison. In Youngstown, Ohio, she served five years at Holy Apostles Parish as pastoral minister and as a police chaplain with the Youngstown Police Department.

The foundation Sr. Rose received from her faith-filled parents, friends, religious community, and others prepared her to collaborate and reach out to the marginalized—especially the hearing impaired and the incarcerated.

Her volunteer work has included EMT service, ecumenical programs, services to the poor at community kitchens, and outreach to the elderly in public housing units where she lived.

Sr. Rose is grateful to be called to live Matthew 25:35-40 and be the Good News to all of God’s holy people.

Sister Kathleen Lackamp has had the privilege to call religious life her journey for 60 years. During 45 of these years, her life was spent teaching primary-aged children in many schools in the Cleveland Diocese. Their laughter and smiles gave her such joy and she so loved her children. She spent five years working for LifeBanc, an organization for organ donation, from 2005-2010.

Her love of gardening and travel draws her closer to the Lord. Spending hours in the yard reminds her of her dad, who shared his love of flowers and the great outdoors with her.

Sr. Kathleen graduated from Notre Dame Academy in Cleveland and entered the HM Community from St. Jerome Parish. She received her BSE from St. John College, Cleveland. Sr. Kathleen is the daughter of the late Leo and Florence (Murphy) Lackamp.

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In Celebration

Sister Jane McDowell
(Sister Mary Gael) has served as a teacher, principal, and pastoral minister in the Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Youngstown dioceses. She served as principal at St. Patrick, Kent and was pastoral minister at St. Barbara, Massillon.

For 18 years she focused her ministry on the particular needs of rural Appalachia serving in the dioceses of Charleston-Wheeling, Richmond, and Steubenville.

She was a member of the staff at Emmanuel Community Care Center in Girard, Ohio until her retirement. She now serves in the ministry of prayer at Villa Maria Community Center.

Sr. Jane graduated in 1957 from Canton Central Catholic High School. She completed her BSE at St. John College, Cleveland; her MEd at Xavier University, Cincinnati; and her MPS (Pastoral Studies) at Loyola University, Chicago.

The daughter of the late Levi and Helen (Nieporte) McDowell, she entered the HM Community from St. Joseph Parish, Canton.

Sister Barbara Noble, formerly Sister Joellen, has ministered as a registered nurse in the Cleveland Diocese at St. Joseph Hospital, Lorain and Rose-Mary Center, Euclid, and in the Youngstown Diocese at St. Joseph Riverside Hospital and St. Joseph Health Center; Warren, and St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown. At St. Joseph Health Center; Warren, and Humility of Mary Health Partners Youngstown/Warren/Boardman, she was coordinator of patient-family education and staff educator.

Presently she continues to serve as archivist for Mercy Health-St. Joseph Warren Hospital and is a member of the Development Foundation Board and nursing committees for Mercy Health. She is a member of the Diocesan Conference of Religious for the Diocese of Youngstown, and is also a Eucharistic minister for a retirement community.

Sr. Barbara, a graduate of Roosevelt High School, Kent, Ohio, received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Kent State University, Kent, and her Master of Science in Health and Human Services from Columbia Pacific University, San Rafael, Calif. She is the daughter of the late Joseph and Helen (Zalewski) Noble and is one of eight children, six living. She entered the HM Community from St. Patrick Parish, Kent.

Sister Marie Veres (Sister M. Mercedes) is a 1956 graduate of Elyria Catholic High School. She earned her BSE from St. John College, Cleveland and her MEd from Xavier University, Cincinnati. She also received training in Montessori teaching techniques and in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Sr. Marie ministered as a teacher, principal, and Montessori educator in the Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Steubenville, Wheeling-Charleston and Youngstown dioceses. She served the HM Community as a member then director of the Formation Staff working with newer members. Following a feasibility study in early childhood education, she worked with Sr. Annette Solma in establishing Villa Montessori Center in Slavic Village, Cleveland. She served as president/CEO of VMC for 20 years. She now serves in the ministry of prayer at Villa Maria Community Center.

She served on the Sisters Senate of the Diocese of Cleveland and as a committee member of the International Forum for Sisters (Hungary group) which brought together sisters in the USA of Eastern European descent and sisters from European countries for retreats and exchange. She received a Pope Pius X Award for catechesis in 1965 and was honored as a special senior for her contributions, commitment, and wisdom as an older American by the Cleveland Department of Aging in 2007.

The daughter of the late John J. and Theresa (Skorsky) Veres, she entered the HM Community from St. Francis Xavier Parish, Medina, Ohio.
50 Years

**Sister Clara Chandler**
is currently a volunteer in the Transportation Office at Villa Maria Community Center; she also serves in the HM Prayer Ministry.

Sr. Clara spent 25 years educating young minds in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses at Magnificat High School, Rocky River; Erieview Catholic High School, Cleveland, and St. John High School, Ashtabula. She ministered as director of religious education at St. Joseph Calasanctius Catholic Church in Jefferson, Ohio, and St. Victor Parish, Calumet City, Ill. Sr. Clara also served as a pastoral services liaison with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in West Virginia.

Sr. Clara considers it a great blessing in her life to have met Saint Teresa of Calcutta at a workshop she attended in Washington, D.C. many years ago.

The daughter of the late Luther and Aleyne (Dryden) Chandler entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Ashtabula, Ohio. Sr. Clara received her Bachelor of Science from Morehead State College, Morehead, Ky., and her MSE from St. John College, Cleveland.

As a woman religious, I give witness to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. My faith journey is rooted in my upbringing in The United Methodist Church and the culture of The Appalachian Mountains of southern Ohio and eastern Kentucky. However, during college in Kentucky I met the Glenmary priests who introduced me to the Catholic Church.

And after graduation I received instruction and became a member of the Church.

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**Sister Jo Marie (Josie) Chrosniak** is the coordinator of Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment which is an organization of 22 religious communities across a three-state region whose work is to engage corporations through shareholder advocacy. She serves as the coordinator of the Peace, Justice, and Integrity of Creation office of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, and she is a speaker/presenter for the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking.

An educator by profession, Sr. Josie has taught at Magnificat High School, Erieview Catholic High School, and Cuyahoga Community College. She worked as associate director and then director of Heartbeats, a nonprofit organization networking women, developing world, and minority artists.

Sr. Josie has served on a number of boards including the Diocese of Cleveland Catholic Commission Office, the Cleveland Diocesan Global Solidarity Council, the 8th Day Center in Chicago, and the Pax Christi National Council, where she served as chairperson from 2010-2015. She is currently a Trustee on the Board of Directors for Martin de Porres High School in Cleveland.

Sr. Josie, a graduate of Lourdes Academy, earned her BA from Cleveland State University and her MST from the University of Dayton. The daughter of the late Clarence and Angela Chrosniak, she entered the HM Community from Our Lady of Mount Carmel (West) Parish.

Blessed is she who believes that the promises made her by our God would be fulfilled.

*When I entered the Humility of Mary Community in 1967, I believed I was attempting to respond as the apostles did when Jesus said “come follow me” and like the apostles, I really had no idea what that would actually mean. I have been blessed over these past 50 years to have had people in my life to support, to guide, and to share the journey. I have been called to respond to ministries that both challenged and energized me to move the mission of our HM Community forward. The message of Micah “to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God” has been a continuous call, especially in these most recent years. Responding to the call of the Gospel to follow the non-violent path of Jesus is especially challenging in today’s global reality. But, again, initially formed by the example of my parents and family, and now joined by my sisters in community, colleagues in ministry, and friends, this has become possible.*

As I celebrate these 50 years within the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, I am truly blessed because those who have been, and continue to be, a part of my life, have helped me believe that the promises made by our God have been fulfilled. So rejoice with me for as Mary realized, it is true... with God all things are possible.

—Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM
10 Years...Both a Milestone and First Step for the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking

Submitted by The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking Staff

The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking marked its tenth year in 2017. During this time, significant inroads have been made since a small group of HM Sisters gathered with others to respond to the need for information and action in northeast Ohio regarding the crime of human trafficking.

With the support of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, and under the leadership of Sr. Toby Lardie, HM, and Karen Walsh, members of seven religious communities of women joined with other professional colleagues in 2007 to address the complexities of human trafficking. The communities included: Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Dominican Sisters of Peace, Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Sisters of the Incarnate Word, Congregation of St. Joseph, Sisters of Notre Dame, and Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland.

This small group became the Steering Committee of the Collaborative, and their combined expertise in education, health care, law, and social service provided a multi-disciplinary foundation to the Collaborative. This multi-disciplinary, collaborative approach was aimed at systemic change and empowerment of our societal systems for creation of major coordinated responses to human trafficking and its eventual abolition.

The steering committee developed the mission of the Collaborative which is at the heart of all of its work—to educate and advocate for the prevention and abolition of human trafficking while connecting services on behalf of trafficked persons.

As the work of the Collaborative increased, it recognized the need to sustain its work by becoming an independent 501(c)(3) organization. Michael Shemo, brother of Sr. Madeline Shemo, HM, [deceased] was key to this significant point in the Collaborative’s history. He was instrumental in incorporating the Collaborative in November 2014 and developing its founding board of directors.

Today, Michael Shemo is the chair of the board and Karen Walsh is president and CEO. Members of the original steering committee, Sr. Toby Lardie and Sr. Cheryl Keehner, CSA, are members of the current board of directors. HM Sisters also serve as part of the Collaborative staff. Sr. Anne Victory is the education director and Sr. Ruthmary Powers is an education specialist. Sr. Rosemary Hammer served as the Collaborative’s first finance director.
“Little did we know in 2007 how simple first steps in educational awareness, advocacy and connecting services for victims would grow to the significant partnerships and teamwork that are the hallmark of the Collaborative’s work throughout Northeastern Ohio.”
— Sr. Toby Lardie

Educational awareness is key to the Collaborative’s work because so many across Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the rest of the nation believe that human trafficking happens only in far-away places. Through the past ten years, the Collaborative has developed educational awareness programs for diverse audiences and has also trained interested individuals to assist in giving presentations primarily in Northeast Ohio. To date, the Collaborative has given over 2,000 presentations and informational displays reaching nearly 100,000 individuals.

“Little did we know in 2007 how simple first steps in educational awareness, advocacy and connecting services for victims would grow to the significant partnerships and teamwork that are the hallmark of the Collaborative’s work throughout Northeastern Ohio,” said Sr. Toby. “We are grateful to the many people who have helped this become a reality.”

The Collaborative leads a multidisciplinary group of nearly 40

continued on next page
What Can I Do?

LEARN
about the issue by visiting one of the Collaborative’s websites. www.collabtoendht.org and www.happensheretoo.org

SHARE
what you know with family and friends, and arrange for a speaker to come to your workplace, neighborhood, church, or civic group.

SUPPORT
local advocacy groups working on the issue by volunteering or making a financial donation.

PAY ATTENTION
to things that just don’t seem right. Watch for the red flags of human trafficking. If you see something, report it.

organizations that have partnered together to develop a comprehensive and coordinated response to the crime and its victims in northeast Ohio. This group is commonly referred to as Greater Cleveland’s Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking.

The Collaborative, along with these response partners, has developed the Human Trafficking Happens Here Too public awareness campaign. Since July 2016, the campaign has included signage at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, on Greater Cleveland RTA buses, and on billboards throughout Cuyahoga County. The campaign includes printed materials distributed across Northeast Ohio by the Collaborative and its response partners.

“Collaboration—it’s at the heart of all we do!” said Sr. Anne Victory, HM, Director of Education.

“Collaboration is challenging, a bit messy at times, and most rewarding when our diverse partners bring their gifts and passion to address this pressing human rights issue. Together we can make a difference.”

A health care training video and manual, Guidelines for Treating Human Trafficking Victims: A Resource for Healthcare Professionals in Northeast Ohio, has been produced as part of an effort to support the local health care systems’ response to trafficking victims. Other projects underway, in concert with the Collaborative’s multi-disciplinary partners, include:

- the building of a local “Continuum of Care” for trafficked individuals which is intended to identify victim needs and those agencies best able to provide particular services for such needs.
- the creation of “Suggested Best Practices for Law Enforcement” has been completed in order

Finding ways to help our communities recognize the issue, addressing the complex needs of suspected victims, and working towards systemic change of this horrific wrong are daily challenges… challenges that will require further steps and bold milestones.
to provide guidance for law enforcement when addressing suspected or identified victims of trafficking.

- the updating of a “Resource Guide of Supportive Social Services for Trafficked Victims,” designed to reach a six county geographical area.

The work of the small group that gathered ten years ago continues to grow. Today, the Collaborative has the potential to significantly increase its reach and impact. To do so, its board and staff continue to raise awareness, lead in empowering systems, and reach out to those willing to support the mission and offer resources.

Human trafficking is complex and has devastating impact on those subjected to the crime, their families, and society at large. Finding ways to help our communities recognize the issue, addressing the complex needs of suspected victims, and working towards systemic change of this horrific wrong are daily challenges... challenges that will require further steps and bold milestones.

Moira Clark, President of Magnificat High School, Karen Walsh, and Colleen O’Neil, chair of Magnificat High School’s Board of Directors.

Congratulations to Karen Walsh, President and CEO of the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking, for being honored with Magnificat High School’s 2018 Alumnae Award of Excellence. Karen is a 1965 graduate of Magnificat High School and was honored for her work with the Collaborative at Magnificat’s Annual Gala on March 3. Magnificat High School is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.
New Shelter Named in Sister’s Honor

Congratulations to Sr. Stella Schmid who was honored at Someplace Safe’s February fundraising event where it was announced that a newly acquired building off Tod Avenue in Warren will be named “The Sister Stella Shelter for Domestic Violence, Someplace Safe.” The organization is currently running a capital campaign to raise funds to help with the relocation to the new facility.

Someplace Safe is the only domestic violence shelter in Trumbull County and has been in existence for nearly 40 years. Sr. Stella has been involved with Someplace Safe for over 30 of those years in a number of volunteer leadership roles.

This building is not at all new to Sr. Stella nor to the HM Community since at one time it was the convent for the sisters serving at St. Joseph Riverside Hospital. Sr. Stella was Director of Nursing from 1982-90 at St. Joseph Riverside. In more recent years the facility was used primarily by Beatitude House’s transitional housing program. With cutbacks in HUD funding for transitional housing, Beatitude House could no longer sustain the Warren facility.

Sister Participates in Event Organized for National Catholic Sisters Week

Sr. Barbara O’Donnell was a featured speaker at Standup Sisters: Green Habits, a free public event that was held during National Catholic Sisters Week 2018. The event was produced by HM Associate Jennifer Jordan of Unabridged Press and hosted at St. Thomas More Church Family Life Center in Pittsburgh. Five Catholic sisters shared their stories which were centered on the event’s topic: the environment and conservation. About 250 school children attended a special morning presentation and 125 adults attended the evening event.

“With a focus on creation, Standup Sisters was a day of positive energy, shared spirituality, and fun,” said Sr. Barbara. “Sharing with the school children, attending parish liturgy, eating pizza with the youth group, and being with the adults in the evening were all great blessings. I shared my vocation story, my call to HM Community because it is filled with gratitude for God’s presence each day. And I am always glad to talk about the gift of community life and the land of Villa Maria.”

Standup Sisters is in its third year and is made possible by support from various groups like National Catholic Sisters Week, the Paulist Fathers, and other individuals. Learn more about how you can help with future events at www.unabridgedpress.com.
Sister Cycles for Awareness during National Catholic Sisters Week

Sr. Eilis McCulloh took part in a cycling event designed to raise the public’s awareness of Catholic sisters during National Catholic Sisters Week 2018. The event was organized by Giving Voice, an organization for women religious under 50 years old to which Sr. Eilis belongs. Participating sisters cycled for a set number of miles in various locations around the country—adding up to a total of 100 miles cycled between them.

“This year, Sr. Mandy Carrier, RSM, asked other Giving Voice sisters if anyone would be interested in participating in a century-ride during National Catholic Sisters Week,” said Sr. Eilis. “A number of us thought it would be a fun (and different!) way to participate in the week. I travelled to Chicago to ride with Sr. Mary Therese Krueger, PBVM, Sr. Mumbi Kigutha, CSSP, Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM, and Sr. Miriam Arizpe, CSC. We asked our friends and family to send us questions that we would answer while riding. We even stopped Chicago police officers and other people to interview them! It was a great way to spend time with each other, meet new people, and spread the word about Giving Voice and religious life!"

Relive the journey at www.facebook.com/sistercycling where the sisters chronicled their adventures in a series of short videos.
Prayer Shawls Etc. Continues to Wrap People in Prayer

Prayer Shawls Etc. is a group of HM Sisters who are retired from active ministry that meets weekly at the Villa to crochet prayer shawls, blankets, and other items to donate to various organizations. The sisters began the ministry in the fall of 2015 as a way to build their own sense of community with each other as well as to offer the warmth and comfort of prayer to those who need it.

Donations have kept their ministry thriving, and they now have cupboards full of yarn in every color of the rainbow that they lovingly turn into useful items. While some sisters stick to a favorite pattern, others try to do a different pattern or stitch on each new project.

And as they have done since beginning the ministry, the sisters continue to pray for people as they crochet—weaving intentions into every stitch they make.

The sisters have donated finished items to The Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley in Youngstown, Ohio, various shelters, and Villa Maria Community Center’s annual Christmas clothing drive among others. Their current projects will be sent to Hospice of the Valley in Youngstown when they are completed.

Sr. Margaret Mary Siegfried and Sr. Susan Gauntner show some of the group’s finished projects.

Sr. Cheryl Samblanet (left) and Sr. Rose Mary Schmidt work on their current projects during the group’s weekly gathering.

Sr. Joanne Bormet makes progress on her cheery yellow shawl.

Sr. Susan Gauntner helps Sr. Midge DiMatteo fix a pattern mistake.

Sr. Linda Valasik uses stitch markers to keep track of her pattern.
Chapel Dedicated in Sister's Memory

On April 5, the newly renovated chapel at Mercy Health St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital was blessed and dedicated in memory of Sr. Consolata Kline, HM, [deceased] who served 32 years in ministry at the hospital. Sr. Consolata served in various roles throughout her ministry at St. Elizabeth, but she might best be remembered for serving as the hospital administrator for 19 years (1962-1981) when the hospital experienced the greatest physical development to its facilities. Sr. Consolata entered eternal life on November 7, 2016 at the age of 100.

Lunch and Learn Programs Promote Healthy Habits

Mercy at St. Paul Square in Canton, Ohio, offers monthly Lunch and Learn programs where area residents can learn more about various health topics to help improve their quality of life while enjoying a healthy lunch. This program is offered on the last Friday of each month, January-November; in December a Winter Wellness Open House is held instead. Topics covered can range from health maintenance and wellness to food insecurity. HM Associate Dr. Melinda Smith, MD, presented at the most recent Lunch and Learn on March 23 and covered the topic of bone health. This program is offered to the public free of charge through the support of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary’s Salmon Grant. Several HM Sisters and HM Associates are involved in ministry at Mercy Medical Center, Canton, including Sr. Carolyn Capuano, Vice President of Mission and Ministry; Sr. Kathleen O’Donnell, chaplain; Sr. Maureen Piersol, nurse case worker; and Carolyn Blabac, HM Associate, Wellness Coordinator/Health Coach. Learn more at www.cantonmercy.org/stpaulsquare/.
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.

Incarnation: The Contemporary Search for Embodied Meaning
Presented by Diarmuid O’Murchu
Date: June 7-10
Cost: $350

Drawing on his recent book, Incarnation: A New Evolutionary Threshold, Diarmuid O’Murchu will explore the enlarged horizons of faith that engage us today, along with the challenges on how to embody that faith in the culture and world of our time.

Fifth Annual Nostra Aetate Lecture
Presented by Lawrence H. Schiffman
Date: July 12 at 7 p.m.
Cost: Free Will Offering

“70 years of the state of Israel and the Dead Sea Scrolls, do they matter?” The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls on the eve of the declaration of the State of Israel served as a harbinger for the unbelievable new knowledge that we would gather about Second Temple Judaism and the transition from biblical to rabbinic Judaism and the background of early Christianity. This illustrated lecture will present the scrolls and the basic scholarly conclusions that have been drawn from them, explaining also the modern story of the delays in their publication and the role of Israel in bringing about their complete release, properly conserving the scrolls and making their significance known to the wider public.

Cosmic Symphony of Love Unfolding
Presented by Maureen Wild, SC with the musical support of Joyce Rouse
Date: July 22-28
Cost: $525

This retreat opens the doorway to our revelatory cosmic scriptures so that we may better know the deep time story of love’s emergence and unfolding. It invites resting in cosmic love and relaxing within one’s contemplative, mystic self. Conferences integrate the legacy and identity we share as Cosmological-beings, Earth-beings, Christ-centered beings, and beings within the universal heart of love that is continually carried forward. Conferences will also integrate parallel themes from Pope Francis on integral ecology; the urgency for protection and compassion highlighted within Laudato Si: Care of our Common Home.

A Day of Mindfulness
Presented by Maureen Lauer-Gatta and Dena Deluco
Date: August 11
Cost: $50

Our world is in turmoil. War; outrage, political polarity, terrorism... the list can seem endless. How do you remain grounded and collected in such challenging times? In A Day of Mindfulness, we will explore and apply such practices as: sitting quietly, following our breath, walking meditation, relaxing our body and mind, eating mindfully, and practicing easy yoga. Each time you uncover the peace within you, it becomes more natural to access. The tools and practices you learn in our precious time together will easily integrate into your daily life.

Jesus and the Mission of Peace, Love and Nonviolence
Presented by Rev. John Dear
Date: September 7-9
Cost: $250

Our fragmented and polarized world is out of sync with nature. The ancient Greeks knew that awareness of the cosmos was essential to right living. By renewing an understanding of catholicity today as it originated among the Greeks, we have an opportunity to awaken to a new sense of wholeness with God at the center. We will explore the meaning of catholicity in its relation to cosmos and consciousness to see how a renewed understanding of catholicity can empower a new world.

Prayer of Heart and Body
Presented by Fr. Tom Ryan, CSP
Date: October 7-12
Cost: $450

The focus will be on meditative prayer in the Christian tradition and the role of the body in prayer: A devotional approach to meditation and to yoga postures linked in graceful, flowing movements to song prayers is taught as a way of anchoring one’s practice in the soil of Christian faith and praying through the full expression of one’s being. Your prayer life will be both refreshed and deepened.
In Loving Memory

**Sister Agnes Clare Snyder**
(Clara Snyder) entered eternal life November 11, 2017 at age 97. It was 70 years ago that Sr. Agnes Clare stepped into her first classroom, a mixed classroom of first and second graders. She then served 54 years in the ministry of elementary education. In the Cleveland diocese she taught at St. Sebastian, Akron; Blessed Sacrament and St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; and St. Christopher, Rocky River; in the Diocese of Youngstown Sr. Agnes Clare taught more primary grade students at Mt. Carmel, St. Joseph, and Mother of Sorrows, Ashtabula; St. Paul, Canton; St. Patrick, Kent; and St. Joseph, Massillon. She also served as assistant to the director and later as assistant librarian and tutor at Ashtabula Catholic Elementary School System, Ashtabula. For six years prior to her return to Villa Maria Community Center in 2002, Sr. Agnes Clare volunteered as an educational assistant at St. Paul, Salem. She participated in the HM Ministry of Prayer and the Ministry of Faith-filled Presence until her death.

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**Sister Mary Patricia Leopold**
(Sr. Chaminade) died November 24, 2017 at 85. She served 57 years in active ministry including 44 years in education as a teacher, principal and consultant and 13 years in parish and pastoral ministry. In the Cleveland diocese she served at Annunciation and St. Sebastian, both in Akron; St. Martin of Tours, Maple Heights; and St. Albert the Great, North Royalton. Her years in education in the Youngstown diocese included Mother of Sorrows and St. Joseph, both in Ashtabula; St. Pius X, Warren; and St. Edward, Youngstown. While doing course work toward a PhD in educational foundations, she served as a teaching fellow at Kent State University. She served as assistant to the parish leader at St. Ann, Sebring and was a chaplain at St. Joseph Health Center, Warren and volunteer pastoral minister at Humility House, Austintown. Sr. Mary Pat was elected to the leadership council and executive board of the HM Community in 1973. In the late 1980s she served as a primary grades consultant for the Archdiocese of Chicago. In 2013 she returned to Villa Maria Community Center where she shared in the ministry of faith-filled presence until her death.

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**Sister Louise Ramicone**
(Sr. Reginald) entered eternal life February 19 at age 90. She ministered for 59 years in the Cleveland and Pittsburgh dioceses. In the Cleveland diocese she provided meals and was housekeeper at St. Sebastian Convent, Akron; Lourdes Academy Convent, Cleveland; and Magnificat Convent, Rocky River. Sr. Louise was an aide in the audio-visual department at Mt. Pleasant Catholic Elementary Center, Cleveland and served for 25 years as a teacher’s aide and office aide at St. Martha School which then merged and became North Akron Catholic School. Her five years of service in the Pittsburgh diocese included Our Lady of Grace Parish, Pittsburgh where she was sacristan and assistant housekeeper. She also served in the kitchen at Villa Maria Convent, Villa Maria. Sr. Louise 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
Greenhouse: Now Open
- Hanging Baskets
- Patio Flower Pots • Geraniums
- New Guinea Impatiens
- Gerbera Daisies • Pansies
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Call 724-964-8920, ext. 3385
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Naturally grown without synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides

Villa Maria Community Center
Harvest Day 2018
11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 29
Information: 724.964.8920, ext. 3208

humilityofmary.org