In Celebration

Look inside for Special Anniversary Features

Sisters of the Humility of Mary
150 Years in America
Celebrate the Legacy • Pursue the Vision
On Wednesday, June 1, 1864 nine professed sisters, two novices, four orphans and Fr. Begel set sail on the steamer Saxonia from Southampton, England, to become missionaries in America. Nearly two weeks later on Monday, June 13, the ship docked at Castle Garden, New York. The weary travelers continued their journey to Louisville, Ohio, in the Mahoning Valley and on to western Pennsylvania to the farm they would call home, Villa Maria.

This year we celebrate 150 years since those first sisters came to the United States. Our celebration is twofold: celebrating the wonderful legacy that is ours, and continuing to pursue the vision that draws us into the future. Over the years, many of the externals have changed. The clothing worn by the sisters has been modified to meet the needs of the times. The outward appearance of the Villa buildings and farm has grown and expanded. The ministries in which the sisters have served continue to evolve and change.

And yet there are constants throughout our history that have brought us to this moment in time. The mission and values hold us to the center as we continue the journey begun by our founders:

“We share in Jesus’ mission of bringing more abundant life to God’s people, especially to those who are poor, by announcing the liberating message of the gospel and by the witness of our lives.” (HM Constitutions)

Through the years it has become more clear that we stand, not only on the shoulders of the founders and all the sisters who have served in ministries throughout these 150 years in America, but also on the shoulders of the many partners, benefactors and friends who have supported and worked with us to bring more abundant life. We are grateful for the many people who have been part of the past 150 years.

The words of Joyce Johnson Rouse in her song “Standing on the Shoulders” speak of the legacy that has brought us to this day:

We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us,
We are stronger for their courage, we are wiser for their words,
We are lifted by their longing for a fair and brighter future
We are grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this Earth.

This issue of The Voice includes our congratulations to the sisters who celebrate jubilees in this anniversary year, some for 50 years, others for 60, 65, 70 and 75 years. Truly we are wiser also “for their words … for their toiling on this earth!” God has indeed done great things for us!

Thank you all for being a part of this legacy and for walking with us as we continue to pursue the vision.

In Mary’s humility,
Sister Toby Lardie
Pastoral Leader

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One of the most recognizable features on the grounds of Villa Maria is the beautiful statue of the Virgin Mother that stands in the circle in front of the Community Center. She greets those who arrive with a modestly bowed head, hands folded over her heart, in a posture of humility. The story of how she came to be placed there is a heart-warming story of faith, devotion, and family.

As a child, Margaret Kennelly Singleton grew up near West 25th Street in Cleveland. Her mother worked in the sacristy at Blessed Sacrament Church. Margaret and her sister Mary attended the parish school, where they formed a close relationship with the Humility of Mary sisters. The girls were devout Catholics, sometimes riding the streetcar to East 40th Street to make a Novena at the shrine there. Later, Mary and Margaret continued their educations at Villa Maria High School, and then at St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing in Youngstown.

Mary entered the HM community in 1920 and became known as Sr. M. de Lellis. Her ministry in health care took her to the Rose-Mary Home in Euclid and St. Joseph Hospital, Lorain. She later served as administrator at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown for six years before she left the community in 1943.

After her graduation from St. Elizabeth, Margaret pursued certification as a midwife. She then took charge of the obstetrics ward at St. Joseph Hospital in Lorain. While there, she met her future husband Martin Singleton. After they were married, Margaret and Martin operated Singleton Nursing Home on the East Side of Cleveland for many years.

Around 1953, Margaret became very ill. Busy with her work, Margaret pressed on, doing the best she could to take care of herself, her business, and her children. Her condition worsened. Diagnosed with a diseased gall bladder, Margaret became so ill she almost died. Years later, she told her daughters it was at that time that she prayed to the Virgin Mother to whom she was deeply devoted, saying “If you let me live, I will erect a statue in your honor.” Against all expectations, Margaret recovered. True to her word, Margaret contacted Sr. Lorita O’Brien, General Superior, and provided the funds for the statue. Sr. Lorita approached Sr. Mary-Joanna Huegle,
describing the image she imagined, which Sr. Mary-Joanna then sketched for the sculptor to use as a reference. The statue was erected in 1955. The simple inscription at its base reads, “In Thanksgiving Martin F. and Margaret Singleton.”

Margaret not only lived, but continued to operate the nursing home until she was 75 years old. Margaret passed away at the age of 96.

Though damaged by years of exposure, the statue still stands as a beautiful reminder of the devotion of a young woman to both her patroness, Mary, and to the community of sisters who helped to foster her spiritual and professional life.

Do you have questions about making a gift to the Sisters of the Humility of Mary? Contact the Development Office at 724-964-8920, option 1, x3232 or email hmdevelopment@humilityofmary.org.
Prayer Service Begins Journey for Community Candidate

By Connie Moorhouse

The Sisters of the Humility of Mary gathered Jan. 18 in Magnificat Chapel to welcome, offer prayer and show support for Audrey Abbata on her acceptance into the community as a candidate.

“Hope for any religious community is in the moment when a person says ‘yes’ to that first step of becoming part of a community,” said Sr. Mary Stanco in her reflection during the prayer service. “Audrey brings a light that burns within her with questions and hope. She came to us not knowing where God was calling her, but trusting that God knew she was there waiting and willing. This little light of hers is going to shine wherever she goes.”

Sr. Cheryl Rose, who serves on the HM Membership Team and worked with Audrey in her time of discernment and pre-candidacy, said the evening’s prayer service marks a new chapter in Audrey’s life and signifies a courageous following of the voice of God that beckons her on to a deeper gift of self.

“We welcome Audrey to a new life within the HM community, the beginning of a deeper connection with us and a more serious entrance into religious life,” said Sr. Cheryl. “We especially thank Audrey for ‘risking the sacred journey’ with God and with the HM community.”

Audrey has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and computer science. She is currently working toward a master’s degree in pastoral ministry. During her candidacy, Audrey will continue her course work as well as volunteer at Mercy New Life Hospice in Lorain, Ohio.

“I am excited and joyful to begin my journey with the HM community,” she said. “To be a Sister of the Humility of Mary offers me the gift of sharing life with a vibrant, down-to-earth group of women dedicated to bringing abundant life to God’s people. My hope is that we grow closer to God because we are journeying together.”
I am a human being…
and I have been sold.

I make the cell phones we use…
I clean the neighbor’s house…
I pick the tomatoes we eat…

I’m on the Internet…in the local motel…on the street corner…
But no one really sees me.

People often say this is my “choice”
I am called “illegal” …“prostitute” …“alien”… and worse.

So few know or care to know my story…

They don’t know…
that I came to America with the same hopes as their ancestors
to provide my family with a better life, to receive an education, to pay my child’s medical bills.

They don’t know…
…but I’m just a teenager that goes to school with their kids
…who ran away from home because of abuse
…who met someone who listened to me and told me that he loved me

I have been deceived.

— Jackie Komos
Research and Communication Specialist,
Collaborative to End Human Trafficking

This reflection was shared at Humility of Mary Housing’s annual gala to raise funds for ministries that support persons who are homeless or vulnerable to becoming so.

As a program of Humility of Mary Housing Inc. (HMHI), the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking recognizes that many vulnerable women, children and men served by HMHI could be potential victims of human trafficking.

The words at left capture some of the reality of human trafficking — the second largest criminal enterprise and the fastest-growing crime in the world.

Joins Global Group
This human rights violation was the focus of the Vatican’s workshop entitled Trafficking in Human Beings: Modern Slavery. Instituted at the request of Pope Francis

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Serving as an observer, Sr. Anne (back row) participates in the Vatican workshop in Rome.
Catholic Sisters Descend on Washington to Advocate Against Human Trafficking

Sixteen Catholic sisters from across the United States traveled to Washington, D.C., to continue and strengthen efforts to raise awareness of human trafficking and advocate for more effective legislation to increase resources for victims and eradicate this crime.

As part of the September trip, several of the sisters participated in the White House Summit Taking Action to Eradicate Modern-Day Slavery: Convening for Civil Society Leaders. The more than 100 summit participants included heads of religious denominations, rabbis and nuns, CEOs of non-profits such as the United Way and Girl Scouts, foundation leaders, along with human trafficking survivors and experts. Discussion centered on ways to work together to educate professionals and the public, identify victims, and expand services for survivors.

In addition, the Catholic sisters consulted with representatives from the President’s Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and others supportive of the human trafficking issue.

They visited Polaris Project, headquarters of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and hotline, and received briefings on pending legislation related to human trafficking. They also visited their congressional representatives and senators to discuss the legislation and stress the importance of addressing human trafficking.

“There are several bills awaiting action in the House and Senate that need a push forward,” said Sr. Anne Victory, who serves as education coordinator for the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking in Cleveland. “We went to let our congressmen know we want to see these bills enacted as soon as possible.”

“Sr. Anne Victory visits the office of Senator Sherrod Brown during a September trip to Washington to advocate against human trafficking.”

“‘As one of three U.S. sisters in attendance, I was impressed by both the pervasiveness of the crime worldwide and the fact that no one is doing much yet to stop the demand.’

— Sr. Anne Victory

and sponsored by the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences the workshop, held in Rome, brought together academics of various disciplines from across the globe to address many aspects of the crime.

Sr. Anne Victory, education coordinator for the collaborative and a member of the newly-formed U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, served as an observer at the workshop.

“As one of three U.S. sisters in attendance, I was impressed by both the pervasiveness of the crime worldwide and the fact that no one is doing much yet to stop the demand.” Sr. Anne said. “In all parts of the world, human trafficking thrives in a global culture that has become desensitized to sexuality and is always in search of the next bargain. Circumstances of dire poverty, corruption and a general lack of awareness on the part of both professionals and the general public contribute to the growth of modern slavery. In most areas, the criminal aspect of human trafficking often goes unchallenged and the trauma suffered by victims goes unnoticed.”
Literally, countless individuals are held in bondage through force, fraud or coercion, treated as property, as objects to be used and tossed aside for someone else’s economic gain or pleasure, and made to ‘work’ as slaves.”

Implementing Recommendations, Increasing Awareness
The gathering resulted in a strong statement stressing the dignity of every person and calls all people to exercise their moral and legal duty to eradicate this grave violation of human rights. The stakeholders, including the Holy See, international organizations, governments and civil society, the business community, Christians, other faith traditions and all people of good will are now working to implement the workshop’s 42 recommendations.

These challenges highlight the need to increase awareness of the scope and depth of the crime, to work together as partners to address the needs of victims, and to curb the demand that fuels all forms of exploitation.

Holding Them in Our Prayers
In addition to other actions, we are all called to hold today’s slaves, these “least ones,” these most marginalized, in prayer each day, sending a message of hope and comfort to survivors, as reflected in the lyrics of a song entitled “Walk Each Other Home” by Billy Walsh:

Don’t be afraid, no need to hide. I know your pain, the tears you’ve cried. Come take my hand, you’re not alone. We’re all here to walk each other home.

A Handshake of a Lifetime
“The trip was a great privilege and blessing,” said Sr. Anne, “and I am even more aware of the pervasiveness of the crime of human trafficking, and the fact that we all have more to do, especially in reducing the demand!”

“Shaking the hand of Pope Francis was a real thrill, too! He seems so genuine, not caught up in any pomp and circumstance!”
Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you.

Genesis 12:1
Litany of thanks to Mother Madelaine

Dear Mother Madelaine,

We thank you for your courage and generosity when you made the decision to open your home to the poor and uneducated girls of your village.

We thank you for being open to the presence of God’s Holy Spirit within you.

We thank you for your listening heart, a heart that surely said: “here I am Lord, I come to do your will.”

We thank you for believing deeply that “nothing is impossible with God.”

We thank you for your perseverance and fidelity as you overcame all the difficulties and frustrations of forming a new religious community.

We thank you for being a risk-taker, with no knowledge of whether this endeavor would bear fruit in the future.

We thank you for believing deeply that God was truly doing something new with this fledgling group of generous women.

We thank you for accepting the fact that you would not be joining this group who, with your spirit, answered the call to bring more abundant life in a new land.

We thank you for your presence with us from our beginnings until the present time, when we too, the Humility of Mary Sisters, risk following God’s invitation into the future, not knowing where it will lead us.

Blessed Marie Antoinette Potier, Mother Madelaine, we trust in the strength of your holy presence with us as we follow God’s call to bring more abundant life to future generations. Bless us now and always.

Amen.

— Sr. Barbara Lenarcic

Legacy: What it Means to Me

To be a member of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary for 63 years is to experience peace, love, generosity, and compassion. The beauty of the Villa, our home, and the many gifts of love of my sisters, their kindness and charity to others is an inspiration.

Sr. Rose Mary Schmidt

Each day is filled with blessings as I am blessed to be an HM and carry out the ministry of Jesus by providing abundant life to God’s people.

Sr. Barbara Noble

Standing on the shoulders of so many who have gone before is a privilege and a joy. Having made my profession as an HM in 2004 my legacy is yet to be a legacy but having taken in the stories and presence of the sisters, associates, volunteers, many students, friends and employees of the Villa, the charm and abundance in blessings continues. I am so grateful.

Sr. Mary Stanco

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I am part of a community that is forward looking. We are celebrating our past 150 years in the United States, but are still doing things for the future. So much compassion and care for the older sisters is what I really appreciate.

Sr. Margaret Mary Siegfried

It has been a privilege to serve God’s people for more than 50 of those years. Being an HM has been a magnificent blessing.

Sr. Millie Ely

Every day I thank God for calling me to be a sister.

Sr. Jane McDowell

I feel very privileged to be a part of this organization as an associate and employee. Seeing the sisters’ dedication and service to those less fortunate has made an immense impact on the way I live my life. I have a deeper appreciation of how far the sisters have come in 150 years and how hard they worked to get here.

Kathy Akstulewicz, Associate

As long as I have known the sisters (since I was a baby), I wanted to be like them — holy women, loving, kind and caring — and now after over 50 years in community, I still have that same desire.

Sr. Therese Pavilonis

I am grateful to be able to join my life with our HM sisters, associates and volunteers and, as partners in ministry, we share our prayers and ministries to lift the burdens of the needy.

Sr. Dorothy Zwick

“Such a fun bunch,” I’ve always thought. “Until death” is how the vow formula ended in 1959. I said it from 1959 on. It just seemed like a fun, normal thing to do.

Sr. Maureen Tighe-Brown

It is us — we are all in this together.

Sr. Sue Klein

I feel very much like I belong through the past, present and future to come.

Sr. Mary Ann Sebian

Community is a group loved by God working together for all people in our own individual ways.

Sr. Anna Marie Fisher

It is a great opportunity to be a member of Sisters of the Humility of Mary and to work with them and to spend our life serving others.

Sr. Dolores Bourquin

To see where we were - where we are is a privilege to belong to a community that I love and has supported me.

Sr. Julie Demchak

The older sisters have gone through years of being gospel women and it has been a privilege to be the recipient of their life experience.

Sr. Mary Pat Leopold

To be there for other sisters.

Sr. Genevieve Burke

I consider it a privilege that I did not seek so I am grateful to the Lord for my vocation as an HM.

Sr. Concilio Joseph

Here we stand staunch and ready to move on.

Sr. Marilyn Ruflin

Changes have made us stronger women and willing to move into the future with hope and determination.

Sr. Consolata Kline
By being here I am delighted that I can pray and celebrate with all of the sisters and associates.

Sr. Doris Steiner

God called me to share the gospel of Jesus through life and ministry in the Humility of Mary Community. Our founders have shown the way through their legacy of simplicity, humility and deep trust in God. Their example continues to challenge me and give meaning and direction to my life as each day unfolds.

Sr. Linda Valasik

As a vowed HM Sister, I am extremely proud of our legacy of serving God’s poor for 150 years in the United States.

Sr. Agnes Clare Snyder

God is good. We have much to be grateful for.

Sr. Mary Louise Martin

This legacy was passed on to me through my parents, beginning with Mother Anna teaching my mother organ lessons and Fr. Franche marrying my parents. Therefore, I have lived this legacy since my birth.

Sr. Therese Quinn

For me uppermost is HM as my Family. To be a part of this Community that goes back 160 years and have been so progressive, and so open to whatever the needs of the day are means the world to me. I feel so incredibly blest to have been called by God to be HM. I am honored to be numbered among the awesome HM women.

Sr. Jeanette Dufek

I am grateful for the blessings and the privilege of living a life rich in relationships with God, with HM women of faith and with an infinite variety of God’s people.

Sr. Carole Wakefield

I am grateful to share faith and spirituality within HM community and ministry. My experiences continue in the spirit and charism of our founders and all who have walked this journey with God’s love and guidance. I celebrate the gift of joy as part of HM life and legacy.

Sr. Barbara O’Donnell

God loves me more than I will ever realize. I am blessed to have so many sisters with whom to walk on the journey.

Sr. Loretta Rafter

The rich legacy of our land, our mission, our vision and our spirituality was left to us by our founders. They struggled with the elements, reached out to the poor and injured, served in parishes, and educated young girls; thereby laying the foundation for our present day ministries. I am deeply honored and humbled to be part of the legacy of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. I share in the responsibility of safeguarding and passing on to others our rich legacy.

Sr. Mary Jean (Midge) DiMatteo

I am a grateful member of the greatest community in the world.

Sr. Claire Young

I am truly humbled.

John Kary, Associate

What an honor and privilege to be a part of this 150th anniversary.

Claudia Kary, Associate

I feel so grateful and privileged to be a member of the HM sisters for over 50 years.

Sr. Mary Beth Marquard
The spirit of the sisters that we first met in Stark County, Ohio, attracted us and has sustained us over the years. It has been a privilege to share this spirit with others in ministry.

**Sr. Cheryl Samblanet and Sr. Mary Ann Spangler**

Being a Sister of the Humility of Mary I have had the privilege of teaching children in a Catholic elementary school to become educated both academically and spiritually, so they can share the Gospel of Christ with others and hopefully take a prominent place in society.

**Sr. Barbara Herrmann**

The Sisters of the Humility of Mary have a strong history of responding to the needs of the poor. I am honored to be part of carrying out that legacy.

**Sr. Jean Orsuto**

With the utmost humility and greatest of pride, I am honored to be an HM.

**Sr. Mary Ann Houk**

Like Mary, the simple words “Here I am Lord,” spoken by HM sisters over the last 150 years have given birth to Jesus in the hearts and lives of others. I recall the images of sisters, such as Sr. Gesumina visiting homes of people in Ashtabula and Sr. Helen Libens sharing a cup of coffee and slice of bread with a poor Hispanic woman homesick for her family, just to name a few. It is in these simple, hospitable encounters that the heritage of our sisters lives on in the daily lives of those who seek our God.

**Sr. Delrina Clarin**

I am grateful and appreciative to be a member of the HM community. I was a teenager when I entered and I grew up in the community — a second family — and have many happy remembrances and a rewarding spiritual life.

**Sr. René Parman**

I come with a deep sense of joy and heartfelt gratitude for all God has done for us and with us, and for all the HM sisters, families, associates and benefactors, who helped evolve our founders’ vision to this time and beyond.

**Sr. Jenni Skerk**

It’s overwhelming to be so privileged to be part of God’s work. I’ve been around the block with these sisters for 68 years. How blessed I am.

**Sr. Geraldine Koerner**

Gratitude and praise. What an awesome God. What an inspiring model in Mother Mary.

**Sr. Marjorie King**

The legacy of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary is intertwined with my own Thurin family history, which makes my whole life experience enriched and blessed.

**Sr. Jeanne Thurin**

To be part of the legacy of the HMs during this celebration of 150 years in the US means it is an honor to be a part of the journey God has graciously blessed me to follow.

**Sr. Barbara Wincik**

A tremendous sense of awe for what the sisters have contributed to so many ministries and lives.

**Sr. Rose Anne Hanlon**

The HM Associate Program begins.
Being part of it means years of great privilege: joy in helping to research and preserve documents on origins and history, to share aspects of our legacy by expression in word or in images when needed.

Sr. Mary-Joanna Huegle

I have always found great joy in my community and my ministry in serving God’s people as an HM sister. I have appreciated serving in HM sponsored health care ministry and have found it a very life-giving source of hope as I am able to be a presence to many people who are vulnerable. I believe the spirit of our HM sisters who have gone before us remains with us as we move through the challenges of health care reform and remaining faithful to our mission of serving the needs of the poor and underserved. I am so grateful that their legacy remains with us over these 150 years.

Sr. Marie Ruegg

Joining the Sisters of the Humility of Mary 51 years ago was the best decision I ever made. It’s made all the difference! I am grateful!

Sr. Barbara Lenarcic

A sense of comfort being part of a family that shares love and prayer.

Sr. Margaret Ebin

To be part of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary is a feeling of pride and responsibility. I am proud of all that has gone before and feel a deep sense of gratitude for the sisters and all the experiences I have had and will continue to have that have contributed to my life. I feel a responsibility to continue the legacy.

Sr. Mary Slick

Being now 86, my community is so good to me. It’s hard to believe I’ve been with them this long.

Sr. Mary Cabrini Durkee

The HM sisters have been an important part of my life for over 50 years. As an associate, I have been able to share prayer, ministry and community and help carry on their legacy as a layman.

Judy Lisko, Associate

“Bringing more abundant life to God’s people” has been my guiding motive in my life’s work, so being a sister of HM has been close to my heart. Learning about the history of our community’s work with and for people throughout these 150 years has been truly amazing to me. Ad multos annos!

Sr. Patricia Rogers

It is joy to me to be part of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary as we celebrate 150 years in the United States. The HM sisters have, from the beginning, been committed to helping those in need, especially women and children.

Sr. Celine Metzger

What a thrill to be part of this community for 75 years. I am so grateful to be a member and continue to be part of the HM history. I’m especially grateful for the gift of having known, lived and served with, and become part of the family of so many of our sisters over these many years.

Sr. Alma Siffrin

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I feel very privileged to be part of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. God has truly blessed me.

Sr. Grace Marie Kalal

Overwhelmed with great joy, I give thanks for God’s constant direction throughout these years. May God’s love continue to flow out through the life and works of the HM sisters.

Sr. Elaine Schindler

It is with joy and gratitude that I celebrate our 150 years in the United States. We are standing on the shoulders of great women (and Fr. Begel) who worked hard to allow us to be here today. May we ever be faithful to serving others for years to come. I am also thankful for all those who ministered with us and those who permitted us to minister to them.

Sr. Mary Kathryn Pillot

I give thanks for all that has been, for being alive and a part of this vision that began in 1854. And continuing our mission as HMs.

Sr. Mary Elizabeth Henaughan

I am so blessed to be a member of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. The example and dedication of our founders and the sisters with whom I have lived and ministered are gifts and challenges to me to share God’s love in the many opportunities which have been given to me and for which I am grateful.

Sr. Veronica Ternovacx

To me being part of the legacy reflects the mission and ministry of the founding sisters and sisters who came here from France and how that has deepened my faith and love for God and community.

Sr. Pat Fesler

I am grateful to be part of a Community which has from its beginning, now, and in its future a willingness to “let go,” move forward and respond to the needs of the times. The HM Sisters recognize that God comes to expression in every person and therefore affirms and empowers all to live the Beatitudes.

Sr. Stella Schmid

What it means to me to be a Sister of the Humility of Mary ...it means that I am where God called me to be and that in some small way I am helping to bring more abundant life to all of God’s people as did Father Begel, our very first sisters and all sisters since.

Sr. Carolyn Capuano

Like our founders, I find my journey as an HM Sister marked by joy, growth-filled challenge and deep meaning. I am blessed to walk with wonderful companions in the Community and draw inspiration from those among whom I minister. I draw energy and strength from the lives and spirit of those who have gone before us. Trusting in God’s faithfulness, my heart is grateful for the call to be a sign of hope and love and to explore ever-new horizons.

Sr. Mary Cunningham

HM Direction Statement adopted by Chapter 1997

Two Commitments approved by Chapter 2001:

#1 - to take action in solidarity with women, children, the marginalized and disenfranchised; and #2 to Non-violence.
The Spirit has blessed me to bring the presence of the Living God to persons with disabilities, the incarcerated, the elderly and the hospitalized. My hope is that God’s LOVE has been felt and realized in these marginalized brothers and sisters. I am deeply grateful for the loving support of my HM Sisters, Associates and so many Christian men and women over many years in service to God’s people.

Sr. Rose Huber

As we celebrate 150 years of our sisters in the United States, my sense of responsibility for, and commitment to, carrying on the legacy of all the sisters whose lives have been a part of those years, is deepened and strengthened. Like each of them, I have publicly professed that I will radically follow Jesus through my vowed life, with Mary as my model. I have been blessed to have followed in the footsteps of our many sisters who have extended the healing ministry of Jesus through health care. The people we have served with have become our partners in ministry and share our spirit and our mission. AND they will continue our mission into the future.

Sr. Carole Anne Griswold

I have been a member of the HM community for 53 years. On the day I entered our Community I knew it was right. I instantly felt that I was called to continue what they had begun. We weeded the gardens, picked apples, cleaned and laughed a lot. The older sisters were very good to us. It was a family with ancestors who came from France. We were sent to teach or nurse and continued what the early sisters had begun. I am still teaching and love and remember each child I have taught. I am thankful for all the sisters who endured the hardships of coming to a new country and creating a caring way of life.

Sr. Carol Joy Cincerelli

What a blessing and a privilege to be part of this community in its endeavors to bring more abundant life to God’s people, especially those most in need!

Sr. Joanne Gardner

It’s exciting to be part of this great HM adventure—risking, creating, celebrating—always open to new life! I’m happy to have shared 50 of those 150 years in America!

Sr. Cheryl Rose

Being an HM Sister for these past 60 years has been a great gift. A gift to be with other women who struggle to know and understand this Creator God who so loves us all. A gift to share in the HM mission to live and do justice and to try to live the gospel call. And also a time to say thanks to all that has been given us. Ultimately it is all about the folks who share our journey.

Sr. Catherine Cassidy
Imagine being part of a small group of sisters living in France in 1864 and accepting the call to travel to America to teach immigrant children. What reminders of “home” would you take with you that you knew you just couldn’t live without?

For the 11 Sisters of the Humility of Mary in their late teens and early 20s, it wasn’t something that could be easily secured in a suitcase; it was a large statue from their garden in France that they insisted make the trip with them.

Along with their baggage and other necessities, and packed and crated as securely as they could make her, the statue of Mary and baby was loaded onboard the steamboat Saxonia for the June 1, 1864, voyage from Southampton, England.

It was a rough journey, with the 723-passenger steamboat being tossed by winds and severe storms throughout much of the 13-day trip. Upon arriving in New York, the sisters were deeply saddened when they unpacked the statue and found it broken in several pieces.

With no training in sculpting and access to only crude materials, Sr. Beatrix Champougny repaired the statue enough to enable the sisters to have Mary at the center of their activities in America.

In the years since arriving in America, the French Madonna (as she is known by the HM Community) has endured further deterioration and attempts at repair. In 2010, the HM Leadership Team committed to having the statue professionally preserved. The restoration process involved removal of layers of previous repairs and the rebuilding of elements that were badly damaged during the trip to America.

Currently on display at the Villa, the statue remains a lasting symbol of courage and perseverance of a journey into the unknown 150 years ago.
At the same time the Sisters were making their voyage to the United States, these other significant events were occurring in US History:

- 1864 was a Leap Year
- Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States
- The American Civil War was fought from 1861 to 1865 in the United States.
- The U.S. Congress passes the Coinage Act of 1864, which mandates that the inscription “In God We Trust” be placed on all coins minted as United States currency.
- Montana is organized as a United States territory out of parts of Washington Territory and Dakota Territory, and is signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln.
- The American Red Cross is founded.
- Arlington National Cemetery is established when 200 acres of the grounds of Robert E. Lee’s home are officially set-aside as a military cemetery.
- Helena, Montana, is founded after four prospectors discover gold at Last Chance Gulch. It is their last attempt after weeks of trying to find gold in the northern Rockies.
- Nevada is admitted as the 36th state.
- Abraham Lincoln is reelected in an overwhelming victory over George B. McClellan.
Holy Ground

Immigrant Sisters Bring Life to Swampland Others Deem Useless

By Frank Romeo

Director of Land Management Emeritus, Villa Maria Community Center

I am the Lord, the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac. This land I will give to you and to your descendants. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Genesis 28:13-15

The way land is used is what brings the reward. In the Old Testament, the land was a part of the covenant. “The place on which you are standing is holy ground.” (Exodus 3: 5)

Sacred places are very often ordinary spaces and not spectacular in physical beauty yet they are set apart to become spectacular or extraordinary. Could it really be the same here at the Villa as in the Old Testament?

After an invitation from Bishop Rappe of Cleveland, Ohio, to come to America, the immigrant sisters left France in a winter of despair with the hope of spring and a promise of new life.

Imagine the early sisters coming all the way from France to find a sense of place in this remote, almost desolate area of western Pennsylvania. It is my personal opinion that this land was waiting for them. Sacred space is not chosen; it chooses.

The sisters began on a journey of faith that went far beyond what they could ever have imagined. Initially, the sisters had a difficult time extracting a harvest out of an unyielding swampland, even though they struggled and sacrificed far beyond what we could ever imagine. Eventually, it became productive.

History speaks of how they lived. It was a style that spoke of simplicity, of living off the land. They provided for most of their physical needs by working the land and raising livestock.

It is that same swampland that remains a part of the heritage of each and every sister that enters the community. It is the same land that eventually helped to put thousands of meals on the tables here at Villa Maria and nurture thousands of needy people through outreach programs. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to help produce this food and to help distribute it in the name of the community. It is my experience that the compassion of the sisters knows no limits.

I have been connected to this community all my life. Being molded, forged and fostered by the seasons has helped make me who I am. I learned as much as I could about the character of the land. The land, along with all of nature, is truly God’s gift to humanity. It is our communion with nature and the land that produces the Eucharist of Life.

Working this land has taught me how to respect, how to share and the need to share. It taught me about generosity. Like the sisters, I believe it means you must give or share what you have harvested. It’s meaningless if you do not.
The goal of every agricultural endeavor is the harvest. My personal joy in the spring is seeing the green tips emerge through the soil.

Other harvest memories almost become real. I remember the novices and the high school girls picking potatoes. And I can still see Sr. Lucille making those potato pancakes after the potato harvest was complete. I also remember Sr. Lidwina having a harvest dinner for the harvest hands. As a young person working at the Villa, I remember carrying chairs with Sr. Basil from the laundry to the meat house to get ready for the dinner. These are all scenes of the harvest.

I was blessed to have worked full time on this holy ground for over 51 years. I feel the work we do on this land and the way it is done, along with the help of nature’s rhythms, promote sustainable agriculture. I believe writing about my experiences and the history of the land, being part of the Villa Land Retreat, helping teach Farm Based Environmental Education, supporting the G.R.O.W. Camp and giving presentations are good ways to sustain the life of this Holy Ground and become part of the recompense for my life’s work.

I cannot claim ownership of any portion of this land; rather, it is the land that lays its claim on me. It is my hope that the original grant will never be sold or disposed of, that it will always remain under the ownership of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. This land is not just a part of my life, it has been my life, and still is, along with my faith, family and friends.

My family and I lived on this land for about 20 years, and I was the sole caretaker of all the farmland and woodlands for over 15 years. I worked this holy ground for all that time and it deserves the best. As the land flourishes, even though at this time I have no hand in helping it to flourish, my affection grows.

Since the land has been my life, I believe I have a moral obligation to the land that I really did not realize until 1983. Yet, I firmly believe that being able to farm sustainably, without a belief that all creation is holy, is impossible.

I would like to thank the Sisters of the Humility of Mary for letting me share in the stewardship of their land. I want to acknowledge Sr. Lucille Spirek (Mary Arnold now deceased), who was a mentor and the one responsible for turning this farm into the largest diversified farm in the tri-county area. I also would like to thank Sr. Barbara O’Donnell for helping in the transition to a larger scale gardening operation and also for inviting me to express my thoughts on the importance of the land, its heritage, spirituality, and the continuity between soil and life.

I would like to especially thank my wife and family, who accepted the fact that a farmer has to be on the job especially during those months of tilling, planting and harvesting.

This land and the people on it have certainly added richness to my life.
15th Anniversary of Harvest Day

From a ‘Thank You’ to a few to a welcoming of hundreds, annual event celebrates countless blessings of Villa Maria land and harvest

By Leon Cowles
Administrator, Villa Maria Community Center

It was fall 1999. Most of the world was looking forward with excitement, anxiety and even fear to the turn of the millennium – more than a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, more than a seven-generation span can begin to cover, a mega-event looming on the horizon. But for a small handful of people at the Villa Maria farm, it was a time not for looking forward, but for looking back.

In the days following summer harvest there exists a short period of time in which a farmer can take a breath, and this group decided to use that breath to express gratitude – to God for providing the harvest and to the workers for providing the labor. The group, led by Frank Romeo, director of land management, and Sister Barbara O’Donnell, director of EverGreen ministry, set about planning a small celebration of the harvest. It would be a chance to sit with the workers and volunteers in a relaxed setting; they would share a light meal and express appreciation for the efforts put forth throughout the growing season. This would become the first “modern day” Harvest Celebration.

Not yet an event, it would establish the values and format for the celebrations that would follow, eventually growing into the Harvest Day event we experience today. But more importantly, they would grasp a thread of continuity – a thread passed on from decades earlier, when the farming was even more intense, and the harvest literally vital to the existence of the Community.

Turn back the clock nearly 70 years. Sister Lidwina Kirschensteiner, a young “40-something” nun from Cleveland, Ohio, is “looking forward with excitement, anxiety, and even fear” to the missioning assignment she will receive at the annual Community Day gathering of the Congregation. When she opens her envelope and reads the slip of paper, she finds she has been assigned to operate the farm. Of all things! A city girl with no farming background, she was at best disappointed, at worst devastated. Her great-niece, Sister Paulette Kirschensteiner remembers her Aunt Lidwina recounting to her family that she took the paper in hand, walked out into the woods, and cried.

Over the next 20 years though, Sister Lidwina grew from a displaced city girl to an expert farmer – learning her craft by whatever means possible, including by correspondence.
course. She also learned the art of butchering, and she supplied the kitchen with a variety of fine cuts, as well as sausages, relishes and other provisions, including some from her own recipes.

Through her upbringing, her HM charism, or her God-given humility (or more likely, a combination of all three), Sister Lidwina understood the importance of sharing success and celebrating the blessings of hard-earned results, and to that end, she made a point of taking time at the end of growing season when the harvest was complete, to thank the workers with a celebration – a party. For a time the gathering was held in the Meat House (today’s Art House). It took some setting up for the Meat House to accommodate the group that would gather, so Sister Lidwina often enlisted the aid of Sister Basil Thurin, who was in charge of the many flower gardens that adorned the property in those days.

In the early 1940s Sister Basil was also in charge of a small boy who would spend his summer days helping at the Villa while his mother worked in the kitchen preparing food for the resident priest and guests. The boy was young Frank Romeo. Frank distinctly remembers at the age of 10 or 11 helping Sister Basil carry chairs to the Meat House to set up for one of Sister Lidwina’s end-of-harvest parties.

The significance of the event stayed with Frank even over the next several decades and he would include the story in his descriptions of his early life on the farm when reminiscing...
with fellow workers. Among the many seeds planted by Sister Lidwina during her time on the farm, this “seed” planted with Frank was an important one. It was carried through the years and “re-planted” in 1999 as Frank and Sister Barbara made preparations to carry on the harvest celebration tradition.

The 1999 Harvest Day was a modest event modeled after Sister Lidwina’s party, decades before. Soup made with vegetables from the gardens was enjoyed by a group of eight or nine workers and volunteers, and the meal was enhanced with stories of the season and a short reflection. For the next couple years, the ‘celebration’ followed a similar format — sharing a meal, enjoying relaxed conversation, and listening to a short talk on an educational or historical topic.

Then in 2002, the event had its first growth spurt with an effort to find Villa Maria a place in the public eye. Why not share the special nature of this event with the public? Why not offer to our growing circle of friends the opportunity to participate in the celebration of the harvest, to learn about simple crafts and arts, to enjoy the benefits of this way of life that has been a part of the HM culture for over 100 years?

On October 5, 2002, a program called “Celebrating the Harvest” began at 10 a.m. with a talk on “Nature’s Beauty and Her Bounty” by Frank and ended at 4:30 p.m. with a Ritual of Thanksgiving led by Sister Barbara, followed by a light supper. The event was open to the public with no registration and no cost, and included many of the features that still exist today: hayrides, music, crafts and items for sale. They were on to something, and almost immediately it began to grow.

Over the next three years, the event became more robust. In order to offset costs, increase offerings and hopefully one day become a self-sustaining event, a small admission fee was charged in 2003 and registration was encouraged. More attractions for the kids were added, including Jot the Clown, still a perennial favorite of the event. The menu grew and diversified. Musicians were added as featured performers. The Harvest Celebration found its name and its identity. It was getting ready for its next transition.

In 2006 that transition began. That year the celebration began to change the character of the day from a programmed event to an atmosphere more resembling a small local outdoor festival. It loosened some bonds of the previous years, moving the talks and prayers to the opening hours of the day and releasing the rest of the afternoon to a free-form open house format, allowing people to explore the attractions and come and go freely to the end of the day. The event attracted over 400 people. However, it was still essentially contained in its original location, the Farm Machinery Building, and that was becoming an issue. It was time for the next expansion.

The Harvest Day Celebration of 2007 ushered in the event as we see it today. It virtually exploded out of the farm garages to cover the whole space along the driveways with tents, activities and entertainment.

Harvest Day grew and grew and grew to welcome over 1,200 people in 2013. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the annual event.
The event returned to its original status of free and open to the public, and the registration process was dropped in 2008. The hayrides, once scheduled on the hour, became the continuous favorite feature of the day. Speakers and entertainers crossed outdoor and indoor stages one after another. Food, snack, and drink tents spread throughout the area. Educational tents, vendors, raffles and demonstrations abounded. Preston Toyota/Scion and Aladdin Food Management Services became major sponsors with many smaller sponsorships added.

It was the objective of Sister Maryann Golonka, VMCC administrator at the time, to “get people here” so they could discover the Villa’s many offerings, including the farm market, the new conference center and even the senior apartments. And get people here they did.

In 2013 over 1,200 people crossed through the gates and over 1,600 meals were served. A far cry from a simple gathering of friends and co-workers, it reflects the incredible amount of energy contained in the original concept, released by the preparation and sharing of a small meal.

As Harvest Day celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2014, one thing is for certain: the land is so fundamental to the formative years and present day identity of the HM Congregation that a sharing and celebration of this significance resonates across all ministries, offering its thread of continuity of tradition to any who would pick it up.

Consider how you can contribute to this outreach and offer your time and talents to share in the Harvest Day Celebration and plan to join us on Saturday, Oct. 4 for Harvest Day 2014.

As the advertisement from 2002 says, “All are welcome…”!

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**Villa Maria Community Center Harvest Day**

Plan to be part of this *15th annual* family event to honor the agricultural heritage of the *Sisters of the Humility of Mary* as they celebrate *150 years in America*

11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4

Featuring: Music • Hay Rides • Children’s Activities • Farm Fresh Food • Butternut Squash Soup • Baked Goods • Vendors • Gift Basket Raffle • Jot the Clown & much more

The Market Barn will offer produce, pumpkins, straw, corn stalks and mums, and The Villa Shoppe will offer a wide selection of purses, jewelry, baskets, books and scarves

For more information, visit humilityofmary.org
Wisdom and Youth Share Common Bonds of HM Spirituality

By Kylene Kamensky

The history of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary is a collective memory, living and breathing through all sisters-past, present, and future. From their founding in France to the time they arrived in America 150 years ago, the dedication of these women to doing God’s work has never wavered.

Connections to those early pioneer women can be maintained through artifacts and writings, and the spirit of the community remains much as it was in 1864 as the sisters continue to do good works. A tangible connection that reaches into the past is a rare occurrence, and yet one exists in the oldest member of the congregation, Sister Therese Quinn.

Sister Therese, 98, joined the Sisters of the Humility of Mary in 1934. She took the name Sister Mary Nicholas and became a teacher, but she had been connected to the community for years before she decided to join. Sister Therese’s family was from Lowellville, located just down the hill from Villa Maria, and her parents had connections with the HMs that would eventually contribute to their daughter’s decision to become one.

She grew up hearing stories of the HMs and she had contact with many of them throughout her childhood. Sister Therese’s mother, Catherine, was taught to play the organ by Mother Anna Tabourat, the congregation’s American foundress, before Sister Therese was born. Her father, Stephen, was friends with Father Nicholas Franche, HM founder Father John Begel’s grand nephew. Sister Therese recalls that Father Franche would often come to visit with her father and play cards with him and other men from the neighborhood.

Being a student at Villa Maria showed her that the call she was feeling “to do something special for God” could perhaps be fulfilled with the HM community.
As Sister Therese grew up she forged her own connections with the sisters. She had thought about religious life when she was younger, but as she entered her teenage years she pushed those thoughts aside. However, she chose to attend Villa Maria High School where she said the sisters “modeled the future for me.” Being a student at Villa Maria showed her that the call she was feeling “to do something special for God” could perhaps be fulfilled with the HM community.

“As I grew more serious about [religious] vocation, I loved the HMs so much I thought it might be too easy. I thought perhaps I should go to a community that speaks a different language. When I asked the priest about it, he laughed and said it was hard enough wherever you go.”

Sister Therese spent many years in education as a teacher, principal, and librarian at many of the HM schools, including Villa Maria High School, Magnificat High School in Rocky River, and Lourdes Academy in Cleveland. Of her numerous assignments over the years, including a time as director of the Media Resource Center at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown, Sister Therese counts her time at the HM Guest House at St. Elizabeth Health Center as her favorite job. She founded the facility and assisted in its running for 16 years.

It may seem as though Sister Therese’s experiences of religious life are unique to her generation, and in some cases this is true. Younger sisters may not have experienced only being able to speak during scheduled recreation time or having to give up their baptismal name when they joined the congregation, but shared historical roots help provide the connection to the newest leaves. Indeed, the congregation’s youngest member, Sister Mary Stanco, 47, makes the observation that there is always a connection with the older sisters whether it’s through the shared love of an author or another interest.

Sister Mary’s journey as an HM sister began in a similar fashion to Sister Therese in that she also attended an HM sponsored school, Magnificat High School, and got to know the sisters there. “There was a spirit about the school that went beyond the school,” said Sister Mary. She had good experiences with the sisters who were her teachers, and it was Sister Bernadette Vetter who first suggested the option of religious life. Sister

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Mary recalls Sister Bernadette saying “I think you have the calling,” but she wasn’t interested in pursuing it at the time.

“Before Vatican II there was a culture of vocation and it was not uncommon to consider it [religious life]. By the time I was older, we were told that religious life was fading out.”

But the possibility of religious life kept coming up in various areas of her life. After finishing college, Sister Mary would often find herself thinking about social justice issues and how she could make a difference. These thoughts frequently led back to high school and the HM sisters. She would see the homeless as she rode the bus to her job in Cleveland and wonder how she could help beyond just donating money. When she finally put the pieces together, she realized she wouldn’t be able to do it alone and that she had to do it with others; this realization brought her back to the HM sisters. She joined the congregation in 1996.

Sister Mary’s first ministry as an HM was helping with inner city outreach at St. Coleman Parish in Cleveland. “You never knew what was behind the door,” she said of her work there. One person could need assistance with housing problems and the next would need help with finding assistance for utility payments.

After earning a degree in nonprofit management, Sister Mary worked for a time with Humility of Mary Housing before working as a grant coordinator and regional site director for the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers in Baltimore, Md. It was during this time that she realized she enjoyed working with young adults. “It’s a rewarding experience to be able to coach, advise, and see the potential in people and help them tap into it,” Sister Mary said. She is currently the director of the HM Volunteer Service Program.

Sister Mary says she sees a revival in interest in religious life and is encouraged by that. She belongs to a group called Giving Voice, a peer led organization for younger women religious, where they discuss the issues and challenges of religious life. The challenge is to dispel the “old view” of religious life because “it is alive and vibrant.”
The HM Congregation is honoring 17 Jubilarians as they celebrate their 75, 70, 65, 60, and 50 years of vowed religious life. These sisters have ministered in the fields of administration, counseling, education, finance, health care, music, parish and pastoral ministry, social services, 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 René Parman**, formerly Sister Marie René, entered the HM Community from St. Ignatius Parish, Cleveland. She holds Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Arts degrees from St. John College, Cleveland, and she spent 33 years of her ministry in education as a teacher and principal serving in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. Among the places she served are St. Christopher, Rocky River; St. James, Lakewood; Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland; St. Raphael, Bay Village; St. Mary, Wooster; St. Joseph, Massillon; St. Paul, Canton, and St. Paul, Salem. Sister René then served as Director of Educational Programs at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown for 13 years before returning to serve at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria in 1991 where she has worked in several different capacities, including clerical staff for retreat programs and Assistant Registrar. She currently serves in the Finance Department.

*Our original HM Sisters were encouraged to “take one more orphan.” Sister René responded to this by taking on one more task. Idleness is not part of her nature. She received an education to prepare her to become a teacher. She moved to principal in elementary education, then developed an Employee Health Care Education Department at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown. The Retreat Center at the Villa received her expertise after she retired from education. Sr. René, an avid reader, obtains library books through her iPad which recently replaced her computer. She enjoys sports and keeps her deep interest in golf. The source of her spirit and energy are rooted in her deep spiritual love of God and the HM community.*

–Sister Margaret Ebin

70 Years

**Sister Genevieve Burke**, formerly Sister Eucharia, entered from St. Stephen Parish, Niles. After completing her Bachelor of Science degree in Education at St. John College, Cleveland, she served 40 years in the ministry of education as a teacher, teacher's aide, and cook in the Cleveland, Youngstown, and Pittsburgh dioceses. Sister Genevieve began her education ministry at St. Martha, Akron, and she also served at St. Barbara, Massillon; Mother of Sorrows, Ashtabula; St. Paul, Canton; St. Anthony, Canton; St. Stephen, Niles; St. John the Baptist, Canton; St. Mary, Painesville; and Our Lady of Grace, Pittsburgh. She then served at St. Barbara, Massillon in a Pastoral Ministry and Church Coordinator capacity for 20 years. Sister Genevieve currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria.

*“Behold the Handmaid of the Lord.” Our Blessed Mother’s response was also the response of Sister Genevieve Burke. The response to her call came from her ardent devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Throughout 31 years of teaching “little ones,” her greatest joy was seeing them accomplish ways to learn their lessons. After leaving teaching, she ministered at St. Barbara’s Massillon for 35 years working in the sacristy. She took that ministry very seriously and loved her various experiences there. This ministry was known to have enhanced her prayer life because she loved spending time in quiet solitude. Fr. Tom Cebula shared that it now takes 40 volunteers to do all the tasks she did in the sacristy. Upon her return home to the Villa, she began volunteering in various capacities along with her ministry of prayer which is very important to her. A favorite pastime of hers is receiving and sending mail. As Mary proclaimed, Sister Genevieve proclaims “My Soul Magnifies the Lord.”* –Sister Margaret Mary Siegfried

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Sister Concilio Joseph, the former Mary Joseph, entered the HM Community from St. Stephen Parish, Niles. She graduated from St. John College, Cleveland with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, and served as a teacher in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses for 34 years. Sister Concilio served at St. Cecilia, Cleveland; St. Martha, Akron; St. Albert the Great, North Royalton; St. Mary Painesville; Annunciation, Akron; St. Louis, Louisville; and St. Edward, Youngstown. She then ministered at Villa Maria Community Center; Villa Maria for 22 years in Laundry Services and as a decorator. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer at Villa Maria Community Center; Villa Maria.

As I reflect on and celebrate my 70 years in community, I am forever grateful for my vocation and how the community always took into consideration all that I did and always looked to my future. I learned in the novitiate not to take any day for granted and to always celebrate and thank God for my vocation and that I have done for 70 years. One of the things I always enjoyed was taking care of the Wish House which I began to do in the novitiate and again when I returned home to the Villa. During my teaching career, I felt a great responsibility to prepare the students for the reception of the sacraments. I have always found that the years went fast only because I enjoyed what I was called to do. Upon returning home to the Villa, I started decorating tables in the dining room for special occasions along with the stage in Magnificat Dining Room. As time has gone by, I now enjoy my special ministry of prayer which I find very rewarding. I know there are many people who count on our prayers. For the many gifts I have been given, I am forever grateful and continue to thank God.

—Sister Concilio Joseph

Sister Alma Siffrin, formerly Sister Anna Rita, entered from St. Joseph Parish, Massillon. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and also holds a Master of Education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

As a teacher and principal for 36 years, Sister Alma served at Annunciation, Akron; St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Raphael, Bay Village; St. Anthony, Canton; St. Paul, Canton; St. Joseph, Ashtabula; St. Pius X, Warren; Our Lady of Grace, Pittsburgh; and St. Agatha, Ellwood City. She then ministered at Villa Maria Community Center; Villa Maria as the Coordinator for Retired Sisters; at St. Joseph Hospice, Louisville as a member of the Pastoral Team; and at the Village of St. Edward, Akron as an Admissions Coordinator and Receptionist. Sister Alma currently serves as a volunteer at Villa Maria Community Center and in the Ministry of Prayer.

Reaching out to God’s people especially children in the middle grades was Sister Alma’s greatest love. Having students weave words into a story was a way of bringing the children’s creative abilities to the forefront. She found creativity in all age brackets, young and old, to be a reflection of not only who God was for her but for the many people God put on her path. Her love of creation has been exemplified as she randomly would take photos of nature that touched her inner core. As with people, nature brought her closer to her call to religious life and to God. For this great gift she is forever grateful.

—Sister Pat Fesler
65 Years

**Sister Monica Boles**, formerly Sister Mary Austin, entered the HM Community from Annunciation Parish, Akron. She ministered as a teacher in the Cleveland diocese at St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. Albert the Great, North Royalton; St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Martha, Akron; Annunciation, Akron; St. Vincent-St. Mary, Akron; and in the Youngstown diocese at St. John the Baptist, Canton; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ashtabula; and St. Paul, Canton. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and her Master of Education from Ohio University, Athens. Sister Monica also ministered at the University of Akron for 21 years in the library, as a tutor for the National Education Center, and as an instructor; she also ministered to the elderly at White Pond Villa, Akron. She currently serves at Akron Area Senior Citizens in the activities department.

**Sister Susanne Gill,** the former Barbara Gill, entered from St. Paul Parish, North Canton. She graduated from St. John College, Cleveland, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and also holds a Master of Science in Education from Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. Her 27 years in education were spent as a teacher and principal in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. Sister Susanne served as a teacher at St. James, Lakewood; Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland; St. Martha, Akron; St. Anthony, Canton; St. Brendan, Youngstown; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Ashtabula; and St. Patrick, Kent, and as a principal at St. John the Baptist, Canton. She also served in Pastoral Ministry and as Director of Religious Education at Nativity of the Lord Jesus Parish, Springfield Twp. Sister Susanne currently serves as a volunteer at Nativity of the Lord Jesus Parish, Springfield Twp.

60 Years

**Sister Margaret Burgess,** formerly Sister Monica, entered from St. Patrick Parish, Kent. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and began a 31 year ministry in education as a teacher in both the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. Sister Margaret taught at St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Mary, Painesville; and St. Christopher, Rocky River in the Cleveland diocese; she also taught at St. Brendan, Youngstown and St. Stephen, Niles, in the Youngstown diocese. She then served 23 years offering hospitality in a variety of roles at the Guest House at St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown, including Assistant Director, Director, and Coordinator. Sister Margaret currently volunteers with the St. Elizabeth Health Center Auxiliary by sewing for the Cancer Center.

**Sister Mary-Joanna Huegle,** formerly Sister Mary-Arlene and the former Mary Josephine Huegle, entered the HM Community from St. Ann Parish, Santa Ana, Calif. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland and also holds a certificate from the Cooper School of Art, Cleveland. She served in the ministry of education for 17 years at St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. Christopher, Cleveland; Magnificat High School, Rocky River in the Cleveland diocese and at St. Patrick, Hubbard in the Youngstown diocese; she also served as a Clerk at the Cleveland Public Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Sister Mary-Joanna also served as a Post Office Clerk at the Villa Maria Community Center Post Office, Villa Maria, and Curator of Archives and Archives Assistant at Villa Maria Community Center. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer at Villa Maria Community Center.

**Sister Kathleen Cannell,** formerly Sister Mary Rean, entered the HM Community from St. Michael Parish, Cleveland. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland and her Master of Education from the University of Dayton. She ministered in education for 22 years as a teacher at St. Martha, Akron, Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland; St. Christopher, Rocky River; and St. Patrick, Kent. She also served as principal at St.

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60 Years continued

Brendan, Youngstown. Sister Kathleen then ministered in Pastoral Care and Community Relations/Patient Visiting at St. Joseph Riverside Hospital for 15 years. She served as a Receptionist at the office of Antone Orgninc, MD, Cleveland and then as Office Manager at the HM Ministry Center, Rocky River. Sister Kathleen currently serves as a volunteer at St. Augustine Parish-Tremont, Cleveland.

Sister Jane Pank, formerly Sister Francis Xavier and the former Marguerite Jane Pank, entered the HM Community from St. Clement Parish, Cleveland. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Notre Dame College, Cleveland and her Master of Education from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis. She began her ministry in education and taught at Lourdes Academy, Cleveland and Erenieview Catholic High School, Cleveland. She was also an Assistant Principal/Teacher at Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria and Central Catholic High School, Canton. Sister Jane served as a Campus Minister at Cleveland State University and a Pastoral Associate and Counselor at St. Peter’s Parish, Cleveland and HM Pastoral Services, Cleveland. She also served a term on the HM Congregational Leadership team as a Council member. She was the Interim Director of Villa Maria Residential Services, Villa Maria for two years, and also served as the Coordinator of Programs and Mission for HM Housing, Inc., Akron. Sister Jane currently serves as Coordinator for the Interfaith Peace Dialogue at the Interreligious Peace Makers, Cleveland.

Sister Jane Pank, formerly Sister Francis Xavier and the former Marguerite Jane Pank, entered the HM Community from St. Clement Parish, Cleveland. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Notre Dame College, Cleveland and her Master of Education from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis. She began her ministry in education and taught at Lourdes Academy, Cleveland and Erenieview Catholic High School, Cleveland. She was also an Assistant Principal/Teacher at Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria and Central Catholic High School, Canton. Sister Jane served as a Campus Minister at Cleveland State University and a Pastoral Associate and Counselor at St. Peter’s Parish, Cleveland and HM Pastoral Services, Cleveland. She also served a term on the HM Congregational Leadership team as a Council member. She was the Interim Director of Villa Maria Residential Services, Villa Maria for two years, and also served as the Coordinator of Programs and Mission for HM Housing, Inc., Akron. Sister Jane currently serves as Coordinator for the Interfaith Peace Dialogue at the Interreligious Peace Makers, Cleveland.

Sister Catherine Cassidy, formerly Sister Marie de Montfort, entered from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Parma. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Notre Dame College, Cleveland, her Master of Arts from Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind., and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron. Sister Catherine ministered as a teacher in both the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses for 16 years. She taught at Magnificat High School, Rocky River; Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; Erenieview Catholic High School, Cleveland; and St. John High School, Ashtabula. She then worked in social outreach at St. Agnes-Our Lady of Fatima Parishes, Cleveland and Legal Services, Cleveland. Sister Catherine also ministered in the Ft. Pierce diocese as a lawyer for Florida Rural Legal Services, Ft. Pierce and Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center. She currently serves as an attorney and volunteer for the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center Children’s Program.

50 Years

Sister Judith Ann Dohner entered the HM Community from St. Sebastian Parish, Akron. She earned her LPN credentials at St. Joseph Hospital School of Practical Nursing, Lorain and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Akron. She also earned her Master of Science in Nursing from The Ohio State University, Columbus. Sister Judy began her ministry in healthcare at Rose-Mary Home, Euclid as an LPN. She then served at St. Joseph Hospital, Lorain for 19 years, first as an LPN and then as an RN. Sister Judy also ministered as a Clinical Specialist in mental health at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown; a nurse and then Assistant Administrator at East Coast Migrant Health Association, Washington DC; Co-director and then Executive Director of Guadalupe Center, Immokalee, Fla; and
Director of Good Samaritan Center, Lake Providence, La. She has spent the last 14 years serving the poor in Haiti in various capacities including Project Coordinator at Hope for Haiti, Petionville; Administrative Director of Hospital San Damien, NPFS, Petionville; Hospital Consultant to Nos Petits Freres et Soeurs A.I.P; Nurse at a clinic in Fondwa; and Administrator of Hospital San Damien, Tabarre. Sister Judy currently serves as a Nurse Consultant to St. Damien Hospital, Tabarre.

“I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” (Jn 10:10)

The Mission of the HM Sisters is “to share Jesus mission of bringing more abundant life, especially to people who are poor.” This is why I became an HM and why I remain an HM 50 years later. I am blessed with a deep love and compassion for people who suffer. As an HM sister, I have been able to offer hope to people with cancer, those who are dying, migrant farmworkers, and currently with the desperately poor and marginalized people of Haiti.

But, more than any ministry as an HM Sister, my life as a religious is a passionate adventure with the God of Mystery who loves me and asks only for my faithfulness and that I share this love with others. “My being magnifies the Lord!”

—Sister Judy Dohner

Sister Joanne Gardner, formerly Sister Michael Ann, entered from St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Canton. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Ursuline College, Pepper Pike, Ohio, a Master of Arts from Fairfield University, Fairfield, Conn., and a Master of Ministry from Seattle University, Seattle, Wash. Sister Joanne began her 18 year ministry in education as a teacher at Magnificat High School, Rocky River. She then became Alumni Director at Central Catholic High School, Canton where she ministered for nine years. Sister Joanne also served for 16 years as the Director of Communications and Records Office Manager at Villa Maria Community Center; Villa Maria. She currently serves as the Director of Archives & Records Management at Villa Maria Community Center.

This jubilee celebration of 50 years as an HM sister calls to mind a Biblical image presented in the novitiate by Sister Bernadette Vetter, then Mother Mary of Lourdes. The image is that of the “anawim,” those in need who depend on God. Fr. Barnabas Ahern, CP wrote of the anawim in “Mary, Queen of the Poor,” an article I recently found most unexpectedly. The image fits perfectly my feelings about jubilee.

I’ve always credited my vocation as “God’s idea” and not my own. For that reason I have depended on God for everything in my life throughout these 50 years. Ministerially whether it was teaching my first classes at Magnificat High School, organizing my first Crusader Challenge as Alumni Director at Canton Central Catholic, or when I began to delve into the HM congregation’s archives, my need for God’s grace and support was paramount. And so, like Mary, I sing these words in humble gratitude, “the mighty God has done great things for me … his mercy reaches from age to age.”

—Sister Joanne Gardner

Sister Catherine McConnel, formerly Sister Thomas Joseph, entered the HM Community from St. Clement Church, Lakewood. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland and her Master of Arts in Religious Studies from John Carroll University, Cleveland. Sister Catherine spent 18 years in the ministry of education teaching at St. Anthony, Canton and St. Mary, Conneaut in the Youngstown diocese and St. Albert the Great, North Royalton; Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland; St. Martha, Akron; and St. Martin de Porres High School, Cleveland in the Cleveland diocese. She was also a Director of Religious Education and Youth Minister at Sacred Heart Chapel, Lorain. Sister Catherine served as a Missionary in El Salvador for seven years as part of the Cleveland Diocesan Mission Team, and she also served as Hispanic Minister at St. Camillus Parish, Silver Spring, Md., for eight years. She currently serves as a Pastoral Associate at Sacred Heart Chapel, Lorain.

When I entered the Community in 1963, I knew I was where I was supposed to be. It felt like home and fit like a glove. My parents and the sisters at both St. James and Magnificat nurtured my vocation, which I received as a child from the Lord. The love the sisters had for one another, their love for the Church, and their zeal for the Gospel attracted me to Humility of Mary then and continues to feed me now. I’ve been blessed all my life by being surrounded with sisters who love their ministries and their Lord. When I taught elementary school, I always remembered the goodness of

continued on next page
Sister Genevieve Kinkelaar, and wanted the children to have in me, a sister who loved them as much as she loved her students. When I went to El Salvador, I remembered our sisters who volunteered to go to Chile and later continued to work with the poor and with Hispanics in our country. I don't believe anyone returns to God alone. We receive grace from those who precede us and from those who surround us. I give thanks to God for all of you.

—Sister Cathy McConnell

Sister Jean Orsuto, formerly Sister M. Donald and the former Lauretta Jean Orsuto, entered from Mt. Carmel Parish, Ashtabula. She earned her LPN credentials at St. Joseph Hospital School of Practical Nursing, Lorain, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Akron, and her Master of Science in Nursing at the University of Pittsburgh. Sister Jean’s 42 year ministry in healthcare began in the Villa Maria Infirmary where she worked as an LPN. She also served as an LPN, and later as an RN, at St. Joseph Hospital, Lorain. Sister Jean was also an RN/Practitioner at St. Elizabeth Hospital Medical Center, Youngstown. She has served in a variety of other roles in the healthcare profession including Nursing Instructor, St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing, Youngstown; Director of Women & Children Nursing Services, St. Elizabeth
Health Center, Youngstown; Director of Maternity & Child Healthcare, St. Mary/Duluth Clinic Health System, Duluth, Minn.; Director of Women’s & Children’s Services, Fairfield Mercy Hospital, Fairfield, Ohio; and Chairperson, Partners in Catholic Health Ministries, Cincinnati.

Sister Jean currently serves as Executive Director of Emmanuel Community Care Center, Girard.

It is with deep gratitude that I celebrate this time of Jubilee. My life as a Humility of Mary Sister has been filled with rich blessings. God’s faithfulness has sustained me through these many years. I am grateful to the HM community for the many opportunities to grow spiritually, personally and professionally. My life has been enriched by my sisters in community, my family, friends and ministry partners who walked this wonderful journey with me. It has been a privilege to minister to those who are vulnerable—the sick, the poor and the homeless. It is with a grateful heart that I say “For all that has been thank you, for all that will be YES.”

–Sister Jean Orsuto

Sister Cheryl Rose entered the HM Community from St. Bernadette Parish, Westlake. She received her Bachelor of Science from Notre Dame College, Cleveland, and her Master of Arts in Religious Studies from John Carroll University, Cleveland. She began her ministry in education where she served for 22 years in both the Cleveland and Pittsburgh dioceses. Among the places she taught are Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; Erieview Catholic High School, Cleveland; Magnificat High School, Cleveland; and Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria. Sister Cheryl then served 10 years on the HM Membership & Affiliation Team before moving into Campus Ministry at Magnificat High School, Rocky River; and Retreats and Spiritual Direction at Common Ground, Oberlin and at the HM Ministry Center, Rocky River. She currently serves as a member of the HM Vocation/Formation Team and as a Spiritual Director.

When I look back at 50 years I’m in awe and amazement: at how fast they’ve gone and how packed with life and learning; at how rich and undeserved God’s faithful love has been; and how the times of greatest darkness were the times of greatest grace. My heart overflows with gratitude that God called me to this life and led me to this community—and chooses to use me in service. I have loved these golden years—the fun-filled high school teaching days and the graced work of retreats and spiritual companioning. Grateful for faithful friends, family, and Sisters, I am full of hope for what is yet to be!

–Sister Cheryl Rose
New Program Mentors Next Generation of Leaders

Leadership for a New Day, an interactive formation experience designed for emerging Catholic/Christian leaders between the ages of 20 and 40 who desire to integrate mission and values in the workplace, began its first session on Jan. 24. Developers and participants of the program include Sisters Anne Victory and Mary Ann Spangler; HM Associates Deborah Zawislan and Margaret Vogel; and former HM Volunteer J.P. Graulty.

Magnificat High School Encourages STEM Skills in Young Girls

Magnificat High School hosted its second annual robotics day for middle-school aged girls in September. Magnifibot 2.0 allowed girls in grades five through eight to design, build and program robots to complete a variety of tasks. The Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland and LEGO were partners for the event.

Items of Interest

Save the Date!
The Lourdes Academy All-Class Reunion will be held on August 15, 2014, at Magnificat High School in Rocky River. Invitations will be mailed in June.

Sister Facilitates Retreats for High School Students, Presents at Lenten Series

Through a St. Ann Legacy Grant and in collaboration with the Jesuit Retreat House, St. Martin de Porres High School, and Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center, Sister Barbara O’Donnell facilitated three seasonal retreats for students involved in the Nature Club, Gardening Club and Social Justice Advocates. The retreats were entitled Autumn: Hearts and Hands for the Harvest; Winter: Water for Life; and Spring: Soil, Seeds and Community. Sister Barbara was also a presenter at the 2014 Lenten Series, Holding Earth Gently, sponsored by St. Hilary Parish and Faith Lutheran Church in Akron. Her topic was “Global Climate Change is Changing Us.”

New Photo Display at The Villa

A photo display highlighting the sisters’ commitment to the causes of women was added to the hallway by Magnificat Chapel in January. The sisters have long served women’s needs—from their founding in France to schools, hospitals and parish programs in the United States and to their current initiative against human trafficking. In 1996, the sisters and the HM Associates made a formal corporate commitment to continue these works which have expanded to include services to farm workers, immigrants, and women in all walks of life with physical and spiritual needs. The wall tells the story in photos of the involvement of HM Sisters, HM Associates, and HM Service Volunteers in some representative works on behalf of women. Photos were submitted by sisters and associates and arranged in a collage by Rudinec and Associates with the assistance of Sr. Jeannette Abi-Nader (pictured).
Community Kudos

Sister Receives Heart of Mission Award
Sr. Stella Schmid received one of two Health Care Visionary Awards presented by the HMHP Foundation. The awards are given to individuals who exemplify the work and spirit of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary; further the mission of Humility of Mary Health Partners and provide support to programming, projects and other healthcare needs in the Mahoning Valley. Sr. Stella was honored with the Heart of the Mission Award for her work with Someplace Safe, Trumbull County’s Domestic Violence Agency; and her ministry to women with breast cancer. Carl Nunziato was presented with the Mahoning Valley Leadership in Health Award. The pair was honored during an April 23 luncheon.

Sr. Toby Lardie (center), pastoral leader of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, receives the Magnificat Award from P. Kelly Tompkins (left), chairperson of the Magnificat board of directors and Renata J. Rafferty, president of Magnificat High School.

Sisters of the Humility of Mary Receive Magnificat Award
In recognition of their 150th anniversary in the United States, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary were guests of honor at the recent 25th Annual Magnificat Endowment Gala, where they were also presented with the Magnificat Award for their commitment to Magnificat High School, to Catholic education and to the young women called to live Mary’s Magnificat in the world. A total of 40 sisters attended the special event, which carried a French theme in honor of their origins in France. A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Magnificat High School is the largest all-girls Catholic high school in Ohio with a commitment to educating young women holistically to learn, lead and serve in the spirit of Mary’s Magnificat.

Montessori Center Earns Spirit of Slavic Village Award
The Villa Montessori Center’s Sr. Marie Veres and Sr. Ann Solma were presented with the Spirit of Slavic Village Award during the 2014 Broadway-Slavic Village Neighborhood Summit March 29 at Elizabeth Baptist Church in Cleveland. The theme Bridge Builders: Linking Generations in Slavic Village recognized the center’s effort to make Slavic Village a great place for youth and adults to live, work and play.

Sr. Ann Solma (left) and Sr. Marie Veres accepted the Spirit of Slavic Village Award during a March 29 event.

Canton Healthcare Community a Finalist for Roadmaps to Health Award
The City of Canton is a finalist for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Roadmaps to Health award. Mercy Medical Center submitted the application on behalf of the city. Through Sr. Carolyn Capuano, Mercy was the recipient of donations from the HM Ministry Endowment Salmon and Saxton Memorial funds that helped to fund the construction and opening of a medical home facility in urban northeast Canton that led to other donations for the project. The Roadmaps to Health prize is awarded to communities with strong partnerships between organizations that help people live healthier lives. It will be awarded in June and includes a cash prize of $25,000.
The following from Mother Genevieve Downey’s Notes details the sisters’ pursuit as amateur apiarists.

Sometime in the 1880s, the Community was excited by the appearance – or rather the sound – of a swarm of bees. They settled in an apple tree back of the chapel. All work ceased, in and out of the house. The novices and the children were soon buzzing louder than the bees. Father Franche, Sr. Ambrose and others of the home characters were the only “cool and calm” souls around.

The bees formed a branch of the old tree, hanging like a huge pineapple. The knowing insiders rushed to the basement for boxes. The large bees almost seemed to drop into the box unassisted. However, we discussed later that assistance was not really appreciated by the bees, which ungratefully bit all their benefactors.

From this visitation, Father Franche’s well-known bee colony originated. Until sometime around the early 1920s all of the Mass candles were made of bees’ wax, dark in color. Honey was furnished for our use also. Father Franche took great pleasure in that. Sr. Ambrose Mignot attended to them. At some time new hives were furnished, and to these the queen bee led her swarm.

There are many humorous memories, original stories of which were written on the bodies of curious intruders at the hives. Sr. Aloysius Murphy was explaining to her guest, Catherine Gibbons of Cleveland, how flighty these bees were. She took a stick, raised up the screen to show her friend how they unloaded all their sweetness in the hive. When those enraged bees saw what was happening, they rushed out in pursuit of the two offenders. Some of the sisters told them to drop to the ground. Thus, as the bees made a straight “beeline,” the culprits were saved from a severe punishment.

Now

Where once stood several beehives, now stands the Potier Center (also known prior to 1989 as Villa Maria High School). The Potier Center offers 41 dorm-style rooms used to house retreat participants and other guests.
Signs of the Times

Visitors to the Villa Maria Community Center campus can’t help but notice the gorgeous 150th Anniversary banners gracing the poles at both entrances. The banners and upcoming celebrations (see back page) help us remember and honor the sacrifice and bravery of the early sisters who left France to come to America to continue their mission of bringing abundant life to those around them.

The Market Barn at Villa Maria Farm

Set to Open by June 25*

Offering a Wide Variety of Seasonal Produce
Lettuce • Onions • Zucchini
Fresh Cut Herbs • Escarole • Garlic
Cucumbers • Blueberries • Peppers
Tomatoes • Eggplant • Broccoli • & More

All produce naturally grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides

LOCATED
1 mile south of U.S. Route 422 on Evergreen Road, Villa Maria, Pa.; 10 miles east of Youngstown and 11 miles west of New Castle

* Call 724-964-8861 x3385 or email: jmoreira@humilityofmary.org for exact opening date
Scriptual Prayer and Discernment in Our Contemporary Life

Presenter: Howard Gray, SJ
Sunday-Friday, June 22-27
Time: 7 p.m. Sunday-Noon Friday
Cost: $435
Commuter Rate: $300
Registration deadline: Friday, June 6

In the presentations we will focus on key passages from scripture, Old and New Testaments, which reveal two fidelities. The retreat will also attempt to build bridges between our formation as a people of God and our labor as co-laborers with God in the world in which we live. To that end the presentations will be oriented towards personal prayer and reflection. There will be explicit suggestions for prayer and some handouts.

Father Howard Gray, SJ, earned a bachelor’s degree in English and classics, a licentiate in philosophy and a licentiate in sacred theology from Loyola University of Chicago, and a doctorate in English from the University of Wisconsin. He has been the Assistant to the President of Georgetown University since 2007. He was provincial for the Detroit Province from 1983-89, and executive director of the Detroit Province Spirituality Team from 1991-95. He was an associate professor of Spiritual Theology at Weston School of Theology where he also served as dean from 1982-83, and adjunct professor in Spiritual Theology at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA. He has also taught at Fordham and John Carroll Universities, Loyola University of New Orleans, and the University of Detroit Mercy.

Unbearable Love: The Evolution of the Heart in the Christian Mystical Tradition

Presenter: Gail Worcelo, SGM
Sunday-Friday, July 20-25
Time: 7 p.m. Sunday-Noon Friday
Cost: $435
Commuter Rate: $300
Registration deadline: Monday, July 7

During this retreat we will plunge into the mysticism of the Divine Heart particularly as it burns today with a fiery passion for transforming the cosmos in love. We will explore its contours, its demands, and the meaning of “heart exchange” within the collective field of higher relating. This is a silent retreat which will include periods of meditation and mutual awakening practice together.

Gail Worcelo, SGM, is a Catholic sister and co-founder of Green Mountain Monastery in Greensboro, VT. She holds degrees in Clinical Psychology and Christian Spirituality and divides her time between life at the monastery and teaching and leading retreats around the world. She has presented at gatherings such as LCWR-The Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Catholic Theological Union, International Congregational Chapters of Men and Women and to groups, seminaries and formation houses in India, Indonesia, Ireland, Australia and Latin America.

Villa Land Retreat – Continuity Between Soil and Life

Presenter: Barbara O’Donnell, HM and Frank Romeo
Tuesday-Saturday, Aug. 12-16
Time: 7 p.m. Tuesday-11 a.m. Saturday
Cost: $285
Registration deadline: Tuesday, July 29

The integration of spirituality and sustainability can be expressed through the continuity between soil and life. After daily input on specific ecological themes, a portion of Villa land will be explored. Come to celebrate God’s gifts of creation and to deepen awareness of local and global concerns about soil, seeds and the harvest. The spirit and heritage of the HM Sisters offer insights about the need for humility in today’s culture. Opportunities and options for daily personal reflection, ritual, Eucharist, and creative expression are included.

Global Climate Change is Changing Us

Presenter: Dan Misleh and Barbara O’Donnell, HM
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 26-28
Time: 7 p.m. Friday-Noon Sunday
Cost: $175  
Registration deadline: Friday, Sept. 12

Natural warming and cooling of Earth is a sacred evolutionary process that continues as part of the dynamic of the universe. However, extreme changes are taking place so rapidly that humans and all life communities are impacted in dramatic ways. This retreat integrates scientific insights and spiritual wisdom based on Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and the work of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. Ritual, conversation and contemplation about personal choices and communal actions needed for a sustainable future are included.

Dan Misleh serves as Executive Director of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change based in Washington, D.C. He previously worked at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as a policy advisor and as the Director of Diocesan Relations for the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. He holds a degree in Business Management from Xavier University, Cincinnati and a Master of Theology from the Franciscan School of Theology. Dan also spent two years with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Alaska.

Barbara O’Donnell, HM is a staff member with Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center focusing on spirituality and ecological sustainability. She serves as an Ambassador with the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. Sister Barbara holds a Master of Religious Education degree from LaSalle University and a Master in Earth Literacy degree from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College.

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**The Sermon on the Mount and Ourselves**

**Presenter:** John Dear  
**Friday-Saturday, Nov. 7-8**  
**Time:** 7 p.m. Friday-5 p.m. Saturday  
**Cost:** $100  
**Registration deadline:** Friday, Oct. 24

Co-sponsored by the Sisters of the Humility of Mary

This retreat will focus on exploring the Sermon on the Mount through presentations, prayer, and small and large group discussion. Together we will go through the Sermon on the Mount seeking to better understand God’s call for us today.

John Dear is a peace activist, organizer, lecturer, retreat leader, and author/editor of 28 books on peace and nonviolence, including Living Peace. Archbishop Desmond Tutu nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize in January 2008. Tutu wrote that John Dear “is the embodiment of a peacemaker.”

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**Enneagram**

**Presenter:** Cheryl Rose, HM  
**Friday-Saturday, Nov. 14-15**  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. Friday-5 p.m. Saturday  
**Cost:** $135  
**Registration deadline:** Friday, Oct. 31

The Enneagram is a personality theory combining the insights of modern psychology with proven wisdom of ancient philosophies. Each participant is led to discover her/his type and investigate some of the implications for building better relationships. In addition, insights gained from the Enneagram can assist in the process of spiritual growth and personal transformation.

Cheryl Rose, HM, is trained and certified by Maria Bessing, OP, a pioneer in Enneagram theory and presentation. Sister Cheryl has an undergraduate degree in science and math and a Master in Religious Studies degree from John Carroll University. She taught physics, chemistry, and theology for 26 years at the secondary level. She is presently engaged in full-time ministry offering retreats, programs, Enneagram workshops, and spiritual direction for adults and young adults.
In Loving Memory

Sister Rose Schaffer, formerly Sister Mary Aquinas, died Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013 at Villa Maria Community Center. She was born Aug. 4, 1929 in Youngstown, Ohio, to John and Dina (Schoepner) Schaffer. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Joseph, William, Fred and Edward Schaffer; and her sisters, Clara Keevey, Florence Schaffer; Veronica Schaffer; Sister Mary Ida Schaffer; and Hilda Bowser. She is survived by her brother, Henry Schaffer, many nieces and nephews and their families, and her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation.

Sister Rose graduated in 1947 from Chaney High School in Youngstown, Ohio, and entered the HM Community on January 15, 1949. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Notre Dame College in Cleveland and her Master of Arts from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.

Sister Rose served for over 50 years in the ministry of education in many capacities. She was well-known for establishing The Center for Learning to write values-based education materials in 1970 when she was principal of Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa. The Center expanded its scope of materials for teachers and had a worldwide distribution when Sister Rose served as its president and CEO from 1970-2008.

Sister Rose’s 27 years in secondary education included assignments in the Cleveland, Youngstown and Pittsburgh dioceses. She taught at Lourdes Academy, Cleveland and served as principal of Magnificat High School, Rocky River. She was a teacher and assistant principal at Central Catholic High School, Canton, and also served as assistant principal then principal of Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa. She participated in the Ministry of Prayer until her death.

Sister Kathryn Conry, formerly Sister Ambrose, died Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013 at Villa Maria Community Center. She was born April 29, 1928 in Cleveland, Ohio, to James and Mary (Ford) Conry. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters, Mary Jane Murphy, Helen Conry, and Ann Barrett; and her brothers, Thomas J. Conry and Reverend James A. Conry. She is survived by a brother, Jack Conry, and her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation.

Sister Kathryn graduated in 1946 from Ursuline Academy in Cleveland, Ohio. She entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary on January 15, 1950. Sister Kathryn earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College in Cleveland and her Master in Education from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Sister Kathryn dedicated the 36 years of her active ministry to education and pastoral ministry. In the Cleveland diocese she taught at St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Ambrose, Brunswick; St. Christopher, Rocky River; and St. Martin of Tours, Maple Heights where she was also principal.

In the Youngstown diocese she served as principal at St. Barbara, Massillon and St. Stephen, Niles. She taught at Mother of Sorrows, Ashtabula; St. Paul, Canton; St. Edward, Youngstown and St. Paul, Salem where she later served as pastoral minister to the elderly.

Sister Kathryn ministered to the sisters at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa., as a driver and volunteer in pastoral services. She served in the Ministry of Prayer and Suffering until her death.

See complete tributes at www.humilityofmary.org/hm-news.html.
Sister Barbara Bromeier, formerly Sister Sacred Heart, died Friday, Oct. 18, 2013 at Villa Maria Community Center. She was born Aug. 19, 1941 in Cleveland, Ohio, to Edward and Mary (Bowen) Bromeier. She was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her brothers, Edward Bromeier and Henry Bromeier; her sisters, Marilyn Diamond and Mary Ann Kolofer; many nieces and nephews and their families; and her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation.

Sister Barbara graduated in 1959 from Magnificat High School in Rocky River, Ohio, and she entered the HM Community on October 11, 1959. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and her Master of Science in Education from St. John College in Cleveland.

Sister Barbara’s ministry of education took place on many levels. She was both a teacher and administrator at the elementary and diocesan levels. While in the Cleveland diocese she taught at St. Mary, Painesville and St. Christopher, Rocky River, and served as principal at St. Martha, Akron and Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland. She served as the Field Director/Eastern Area for the Office of Education in the Cleveland Diocese. In the Youngstown diocese she taught at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ashtabula, St. Patrick, Hubbard, where she also served as principal, and St. Patrick, Kent. In the Pittsburgh diocese she taught at St. Agatha, Ellwood City. Sister Barbara ministered to her own family caring for both of her parents in illness. She shared in the Ministry of Prayer with her sisters until her death.

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
June 25: 7 p.m. Prayer Service • St. Louis Church, 300 North Chapel St., Louisville, OH 44641 • Reception with refreshments to follow

July 20: 2 p.m. Liturgy • Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa. (For GPS, use 225 Villa Marie Rd., Pulaski, PA 16143) • Reception with refreshments to follow

September 12: 7 p.m. Prayer Service • Magnificat High School Auditorium, 20770 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, OH 44116 • Includes a reflection by Leadership Conference of Women Religious President Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ • Reception with refreshments to follow

September 13: 9:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. • Special presentation by LCWR President Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ • Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa. (For GPS, use 225 Villa Marie Rd., Pulaski, PA 16143) • Lunch to follow

Services are free & open to the public. RSVP by calling 724-964-8920, ext. 3274, or emailing celebration date and number attending to scunningham@humilityofmary.org. Deadline is 2 weeks prior to each celebration