“Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.”

–Pope Francis
Sustainable stewardship of natural resources is part of the corporate witness of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. Please join us in making recycling a priority.

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Dear Friends,

As the grounds of Villa Maria are transformed each year in the natural cycles of springtime moving to summer, we recognize the fullness of God’s gifts in the beautiful life all around us. Contrasted with this we hear on the news the tragedies and violence that are now part of daily life for so many. I often wonder what our founders saw in their time when they saw the needs and created ways of responding through education, health care, preaching the Good News, and social services.

Although our ministries have been different throughout the years, the call to religious life didn’t change, and we celebrate that call in this issue of The HM Voice. Thirteen of our sisters are celebrating landmark anniversaries this summer. They proclaimed their “Yes” to God through the community 50, 60, 65, 70, 75 and even 80 years ago. They could not have imagined the kinds of changes that would take place, but that profound invitation from God and their individual responses came from their desire to give their lives to God as a Sister of the Humility of Mary.

The Mission Statement of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary says “respond to the needs of the time with vision, courage and generosity.” Mother Madelaine was a woman who clearly responded to the needs in Dommartin, France in the mid-1800s. And here we are 165 years later in 2019, in the midst of our planning process, sorting through many details so that we can best respond to the needs before us today. Like Mother Madelaine, we pray that we can do so with vision, courage and generosity.

One of our important documents is our Land Ethic and Principles of Sustainability. This document “serves as a guide for decisions made by the entire congregation and by those in congregational leadership regarding the land for which we are responsible.” This issue of The HM Voice has several pieces written by members of our Land Committee. The question before us is how we can continue to protect this beautiful “holy ground” that has been at the center of our lives here in America.

The Franciscan, Richard Rohr, in his daily meditations reflected on what it means to transcend separateness, alienation, and fragmentation. He said “Unless you have some roots in a spiritual practice that holds life sacred and encourages joyful communion with all your fellow beings, facing the enormous challenges ahead becomes nearly impossible. . . . We are not on this earth to fix one another or the earth itself. We are here to become deeply the woman or man that God has called us to be and to model that, be that, invite others into real relationship.”

May these months of planting and growth be signs for each of us of God’s invitation to bring more abundant life to all God’s people, especially to those who are poor.

In Mary’s humility,

Sister Toby Lardie
Pastoral Leader
Villa Land Committee Works to Preserve HM Land Heritage

Submitted by Villa Land Committee Members

The Villa Land Committee began 11 years ago with this goal: to preserve and maintain our land in a just, sustainable and peaceful way so that it continues to provide a special place for spirituality, education, sustainability and simplicity. Members work toward this goal by sparking reflection, education, and action across the Villa Maria campus and beyond.

**Biological Field Study**

“Wow.” “Amazing.” “Fantastic.” “Tremendous stewardship” are just a few of the descriptions of Villa Maria’s land from several prominent scientists as they explored the sacred ground of Villa Maria over the past several years.

Recent exploration of the land began due to the upsurge in oil and gas drilling nearby. Prior to an unconventional well being drilled off the southern boundary of Villa property, the HM Leadership Team and Land Committee took a proactive approach to document the existing condition of the land and water. In addition to regular ground water testing to confirm the safety of Villa drinking water, the wetlands were also sampled. Headquartered in Ohio, EnviroScience was selected to undertake the Villa wetlands work. Marty Hilovsky, founder and chair of EnviroScience, entrusted the Villa project to Dr. Michael Liptak who specializes in wetlands ecology and rare plant surveys. After on-site meetings and field visits, Dr. Liptak’s report summarized the dominant plant species and various vegetative

“….the Villa Maria property contains significant ecological resources that provide value to the surrounding landscape. The Sisters of the Humility of Mary should be commended for their stewardship of these resources, as they have managed the landscape and forests for well over a century. The mature forests and wetlands surrounding the high quality streams

**“Nature is a book, the most excellent of books. In this book are three chapters, especially of incomparable eloquence,--the sky, the sea, and the lofty mountains.”**

— Fr. John Joseph Begel
provide habitat, nutrient cycling, and water storage functions that are important for maintaining the overall ecological health of the property as well as the surrounding properties downstream.”

Dr. Liptak brought to the Villa many other scientists including herpetologists and botanists to walk through and discover hidden gems on the land. After each field visit, an after action report, or trip summary was prepared and shared with the HM Community. There have been several exciting discoveries by one of the biologists, Dr. Jim Bissell of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Director of Botany, including:

- The first documented occurrence of the elusive Pumpkin Ash, a large tree found in wet habitats, in Lawrence County, Pa.
- The discovery of a rare beetle in Villa moss which was later confirmed by an expert at the University of New Hampshire
- The presence of the Shumard Oak which is considered a species of special concern by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey

Unfortunately, the Pumpkin Ash is subject to devastation by the Emerald Ash Borer. The discovery of more viable Pumpkin Ash provides hope for saving the tree.

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Raising Awareness of Plastic Pollution

“We acknowledge our need for ongoing assessment of our attitudes and actions toward conservation and sustainable living.”

–HM Land Ethic

As part of an interactive Earth Day event, the Villa Land Committee created a display of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. One of the largest ocean garbage sites, this floating mass of plastic is twice the size of Texas. Handouts on reducing plastic use, an informative YouTube video, and a follow-up HM Facebook post helped to raise consciousness around reducing, reusing and recycling. For more information, go to www.earthday.org or www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
HM Land Ethic

What is a land ethic? For HM Sisters, a land ethic serves as a guide for decisions made by the entire congregation and by those in congregational leadership regarding the land for which we are responsible.

This ethic evolved as an expression of our charism, heritage and mission. Since 1864, founders Father John Joseph Begel and Mother Anna Tabourat, all sisters, and those who worked with us lived out of an unwritten ethic of conservation that motivated them to make wise choices for the young community. Caring for creation continues as a priority. As ecological awareness increases, the HM Land Ethic stands as a public statement of our relationship with Earth and our expanding universe.

An HM Land Ethic banner now graces the entrance of Annunciation Dining Room and depicts the beauty of seasonal changes at Villa Maria.

“What is needed on our part is the capacity for listening to what the earth is telling us. So long as we are under the illusion that we know best what is good for the earth and for ourselves, then we will continue our present course, with its devastating consequences on the entire Earth community. . .”

— Thomas Berry
Small bookmarks of the banner are available. All are invited to reflect on this ethic and to consider integrating dimensions of its meaning into daily life.

**Health Series**

HM Sisters were approached by energy companies regarding horizontal hydraulic fracturing. To lease or not to lease was the question when fracking came to Pulaski, Pa., where Villa Maria is located. At the request of HM Leadership, the Land Committee offered programs to assist the HM Community and homeowners in their decision-making. Many attended 12 different town hall meetings led by scientists, educators, farmers, lawyers, politicians, an ethicist, environmental activists and gas and oil representatives. Now that fracking has a foothold in the area, health concerns are surfacing. With this awareness, the Land Committee recently offered a two-part series with speakers from Environmental Health Project (EHP) of McMurray, Pa. www.environmentalhealthproject.org.

With the theme, Focus on Health: A Path Beyond Fracking, first-session participants learned about a new on-line National Health Registry for residents living near a drilling site. Taking positive action in the face of health impacts from fracking, they can record their symptoms confidentially. This data will support medical research and potential legislative action. The second session dealt with air and water quality. EHP loans out SPECK monitors to gauge levels of air toxins in a home. Their website also lists symptoms from specific toxic chemicals and encourages being proactive about health issues.

From left: Ephraim Zimmerman, Pa. Natural History Program Science Director, Western Pa. Conservancy (WPC); Joe King, a Cleveland State student intern; Dr. Jim Bissell, Director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History; and Charles Bier, Senior Director of Conservation and Science at WPC come together for a field conference while exploring Villa land.

Villa Land Committee members (from left) Sisters Sharon Cahill, Mary Cunningham, Mary Slick, and (seated) Barbara O’Donnell, set up an Earth Day display including an example of a rain barrel used for water conservation.
Sr. Audrey Abbata continued her faith journey with the Sisters of the Humility of Mary as she celebrated her perpetual profession during the Liturgy of Final Profession in Magnificat Chapel on Sat., Dec. 8, 2018. Sisters, associates, covenant companions, family, and friends all gathered to celebrate this step with her.

“My time of preparation was one of growing into who I am and accepting my new reality,” said Sr. Audrey about her preparation for this step in her religious life. “I am where I believe God has brought me to live my most authentic life with God. My commitment to God was and continues to be to live with authenticity and integrity. It is the essence of how I live my vows.”

Sr. Audrey began her journey of becoming an HM Sister when she was welcomed into the community as a candidate in January 2014. She began her novitiate in September of that year and professed her initial vows in September 2015.

In 2017 Sr. Audrey completed her MA in Theological and Pastoral Studies from Ursuline College, Pepper Pike, Ohio. She currently serves as a chaplain at Mercy Health St. Joseph Warren Hospital. She has a background in hospice ministry and hopes to return to that field one day.

“God’s light shines when each of us, in our own way, say “Yes” to God and allow God’s light to shine through us,” Sr. Audrey said. “I live this life gratefully in awe of God.”
The HM Congregation is honoring 13 Jubilarians as they celebrate 50, 60, 65, 70, 75, and 80 years of vowed religious life. These sisters have ministered in the fields of administration, administrative support, congregational leadership, community outreach, education, finance, healthcare and healthcare administration, hospitality, housing services, immigrant outreach, pastoral ministry, and the practice of law. Through their ministries and in their prayer, they have witnessed God’s love to the people of God, and have touched many lives along the way.

80 Years

**Sister René Parman,**
formerly Sr. Marie René and the former Faye Parman, graduated from Lourdes Academy, Cleveland in 1938 and entered the HM Community the following January from St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish, Cleveland. She earned her BSE and her MA from St. John College which prepared her for her first 33 years in the ministry of education as a teacher and principal. She served at St. Christopher, Rocky River; St. Joseph, Massillon; St. Paul, Canton; St. James, Lakewood; Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland; St. Raphael, Bay Village; St. Mary, Wooster and St. Paul, Salem. She then used her background in education at the former St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown to serve as director of educational programs for 13 years. Her attention to detail brought her to Villa Maria Retreat Center where she was part of the clerical staff for five years. For the past 23 years Sr. René has volunteered in the finance office at Villa Maria. Never one to be idle, when she isn’t helping someone with a knitting or crochet project, she is regularly on the golf course with her friends, as the weather permits, of course.

75 Years

**Sister Alma Siffrin,**
formerly Sr. Anna Rita, is a 1943 graduate of Mt. Marie Academy, Canton. She came to the HM Community in January of 1944 from St. Joseph Parish, Massillon. She received her BSE from St. John College, Cleveland and her MEd from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. She was a teacher and principal for 36 years with teaching assignments in Akron at Annunciation and then at St. Sebastian. She served at St. Anthony, Canton; St. Raphael, Bay Village, and Our Lady of Grace, Pittsburgh. She was the founding principal and also taught at St. Agatha, Ellwood City. Sr. Alma served as principal at St. Paul, Canton; St. Joseph, Ashtabula; and St. Pius X, Warren. She ministered to the retired sisters at Villa Maria and was a member of the pastoral team at St. Joseph Hospice, Louisville. At the Village of St. Edward in Akron she served as the admissions coordinator and as a receptionist. Since her return to Villa Maria Community Center in 2003 Sr. Alma has joined her sisters in the Ministry of Prayer and in the ministry of faith-filled presence.

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70 Years

Sister Monica Boles, formerly Sr. Mary Austin, is a 1948 graduate of St. Vincent High School Akron. She entered the HM Community in January 1949 from Annunciation Parish in Akron. Sr. Monica received her BSE from St. John College, Cleveland and her MEd from Ohio University in Athens. She taught for over 52 years in various schools including St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. John the Baptist, Canton; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Ashtabula; St. Albert the Great, North Royalton; St. Paul, Canton; and St. Martha, St. Sebastian, Annunciation, and St. Vincent-St. Mary High School all in Akron. Sr. Monica helped on a part-time basis in the library and tutored at the University of Akron where she also was an instructor on computers. For many years she provided pastoral ministry services for the elderly at White Pond Villa in Akron and activities through the program for Akron Area Senior Citizens. A gifted musician, Sr. Monica played her clarinet and saxophone with great enthusiasm in Akron’s Moonlight Serenaders Big Band. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHDs3d3zxs. She returned to Villa Maria Community Center in 2016 where she joined her sisters in the ministry of prayer and faith-filled presence.

Sister Susanne Gill, the former Barbara Gill, entered the HM Community from St. Paul’s Parish, North Canton in 1949. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John’s College, Cleveland, and her Master of Science in Education and Administration from Purdue University, Ind.

Sr. Susanne spent 27 years in the ministry of education where she taught at St. James, Lakewood; Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland; St. Anthony, Canton; St. Martha and St. Sebastian, Akron; St. Brendan, Youngstown; St. Patrick, Kent; and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Ashtabula. She also taught C.C.D. and was sacristan in many of these parishes. She served as principal at St. John the Baptist, Canton and pastoral minister and director of religious education at Nativity Church, Akron.

She volunteered at Hartville Migrant Center, Emmanuel Community Care Center, Girard, and Gennesaret Ministry Center, Akron.

In 2013, she was inducted into the Hall of Distinction at her alma mater, North Canton High School. She currently serves as a volunteer at Nativity Parish in various ministries with a focus as a leader of the We Care Group, who take Eucharist to and visit with the sick and homebound.

“My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”…my life as a Sister of the Humility of Mary. I love belonging to a community dedicated to Mary, a human person so beloved by God and who can take our hand and journey with us through life. I am so blessed with all the people, who have touched my life spiritually so I can do God’s ministry, including sisters, living and deceased, HM Associates, family, friends, parishioners, children and teachers where I have served. I thank God for the daily gift of prayer, retreats, and the love of nature for these 70 years as an HM Sister, and may I continue to “bring more abundant life to God’s people.”

—Sister Susanne Gill

65 Years

Sister Margaret Burgess, formerly Sr. Monica, is originally from Kent, OH and is a 1948 graduate of Kent State University High School. She entered the HM Community in January 1954. Sr. Margaret completed her BSE at St. John College, Cleveland and did graduate work at the University of Dayton. A teacher for 31 years, Sr. Margaret’s assignments included St. Sebastian, Akron; St Agatha, Ellwood City; St. Brendan, Youngstown; St. Mary, Painesville; St. Christopher, Rocky River and St. Stephen, Niles. For 23 years she served as co-manager and then as director of the HM Guest House at St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown. In addition to being an avid reader Sr. Margaret’s hobbies and interests include sewing and completing jigsaw puzzles. She currently serves in the ministry of prayer at Villa Maria Community Center.
Sister Catherine Cassidy
(Sr. Marie de Montfort) is a 1953 graduate of Lourdes Academy, Cleveland. She entered the community from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Parma. Sr. Catherine earned her BA from Notre Dame College, Cleveland, and her MA from Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind.

She began her ministry in education as a teacher at St. John High School, Ashtabula, and also served at Magnificat High School, Rocky River; Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; and Erieview Catholic High School, Cleveland. She served in community outreach at Cedar Center, Cleveland, and in pastoral ministry at St. Agnes-Our Lady of Fatima Parishes, Cleveland before earning her JD from the University of Akron and serving as an attorney with Florida Rural Legal Services, Ft. Pierce, Fla., for nine years.

Sr. Catherine was the managing attorney for the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center for ten years, and she served on the leadership council and was the statewide coordinator for immigration legal services for the children’s program at Americans for Immigrant Justice, Miami. She currently serves in the ministry of presence and service. Sr. Catherine has deep gratitude for all who have shared in her life’s journey and shown her real love and faith.

Sister Jane Pank, formerly Sr. Francis Xavier, entered the HM Community from St. Clement Parish, Cleveland, in January 1954.

She earned her BA from Notre Dame College, Cleveland and her MEd from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. She served in education for 22 years as a teacher at Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria; Central Catholic High School, Canton; Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; and Erieview Catholic High School, Cleveland. She was also assistant principal at Villa Mara High School and Central Catholic High School. Sr. Jane served 15 years in campus ministry at Cleveland State University and 13 years in pastoral ministry at St. Peter Parish, Cleveland, and with HM Pastoral Services, Cleveland.

While serving a term as a council member in HM Congregational Leadership, Sr. Jane was also the director of the HM Office for Ministry and Community Life Development in Rocky River. She served as interim director for Villa Maria Residential Services, Villa Maria, and spent seven years with HM Housing, Inc., Akron, as the coordinator of programs and mission.

Sr. Jane currently serves as coordinator for the Interfaith Peace Dialogue, Interreligious Peace Makers, Cleveland, and as a volunteer with Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services in the Diocese of Cleveland.

Sister Mary Therese Berry
(Sr. M. Teresa), daughter of Thomas and Florence (nee Reichel) Berry, a graduate of Lourdes Academy, entered the HM Community from St. Leo Parish, Cleveland in 1959. She earned her masters at Middlebury College, Vermont, which provided total immersion in French culture and civilization that she then brought to the classroom. She believes in empowering students of all ages and levels.

She taught English and French at Central Catholic High School, Canton, and Magnificat High School, Rocky River, where she was also drama director. She also served in administration at Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron.

While completing a Ph.D. at the Ohio State University, she was both a research associate and then a teaching associate. After graduation from OSU, she served as director of curriculum and instruction for the Cleveland Diocese. Subsequently, she worked for Michelin Tires and was director of French language instruction for executives, planning and opening their first language lab in Akron.

Utilizing her fluency in French, Sr. Mary Therese organized a pilgrimage to the HM foundation in France for HM and CHM sisters. She also translated Recollections: A Fragment, Father Begel’s chronicle of the life of HM Founder, Mother Madelaine Potier.

In recent years she has cantored in various parishes and ministered to the needs of the elderly. Sr. Mary Therese is currently dedicated to the ministry of prayer and presence and is a member of Contemplative Outreach.

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Sister Helen Jean Novy entered the community from Blessed Sacrament Parish, Cleveland, where her parents, Helen and Frank, were married. Her mother’s gentleness, compassion, and interest in the news of Cleveland and the world and her father’s interest in nature, farming, and the cosmos inspired her personal and educational development.

Inspired by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque’s devotion to the all-embracing heart of Christ, she took her as Confirmation patroness. She then attended Villa Maria High School.

Complementing a B.A. from Notre Dame College of Ohio and a master’s in literature from Wesleyan University, Conn., were theological studies at St. John College, Cleveland. Her theological understandings with implications for spirituality have been enriched invaluably by theologian and author Elizabeth Johnson.

Sr. Helen Jean taught and directed drama at Central Catholic High School, Canton, and St. John, Ashtabula. She has taught English, Latin, computer, and theology through her years at Magnificat High School, Rocky River; culminating in her role as Vice President of Mission and member of the Leadership Team. She has a deep fondness for the students and alumnae and heartfelt admiration for the dedicated staff and faith-filled administrators.

The immeasurable gift of her religious vocation is supported by the goodness and holiness of 121 sisters, quite a gift for an only child.

Sister Stella Schmid, the former Margaret Schmid, entered the HM Community from St. Paul Parish, Salem in Oct. 1958. The daughter of the late Frank and Stella Schmid, she received a Bachelor of Science of Nursing from St. John College, Cleveland and a Master of Science in Nursing/Administration from Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

She served in health care ministry in various areas of nursing and administration for 50 years. At St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown, she served as head nurse, supervisor; and clinical specialist in rehabilitation. At St. Joseph Riverside Hospital, Warren, Sr. Stella served as director of nursing, assistant executive director; and director of parish nursing/health ministries. She served on the St. Joseph Hospital Development Foundation board and the HMHP Foundation until 2015.

She presently volunteers at Villa Maria, Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center; and as part of the HM prayer ministry, Sr. Stella has been involved with Someplace Safe Domestic Violence Shelter in Trumbull County, Ohio, for the past 34 years. She continues to serve on the Advisory Council, committed to providing comprehensive services, including shelter and advocacy, hope and healing for women and children who are victims of domestic violence in Trumbull County.
Sister Linda Valasik (Sr. Mary Stephanie) is a 1958 graduate of Lourdes Academy, Cleveland. She entered the community from St. Francis de Sales Parish, Parma and earned her BSE at St. John College, Cleveland, her MRE (Rel. Ed.) at Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Mich., and her MM (Ministry) at Seattle University, Seattle, Wash.

During her years in ministry she served as a teacher, pastoral associate, and adult literacy instructor in the Dioceses of Cleveland, Youngstown, Atlanta, and Pittsburgh. She was coordinator of parish publications, and later coordinator of the religion division for The Center for Learning in Rocky River/Westlake and Villa Maria. Sr. Linda also served on the HM Membership and Affiliation Team.

Sr. Linda currently works as a partner in ministry with the Theological Book Network which sends theological resources to seminaries and colleges in under-resourced countries around the world. She volunteers in the special care nursery at Akron Children’s Hospital, Mahoning Valley and at Villa Maria Farm. She participates in the sisters’ prayer shawl ministry.

Sister Madeline Muller currently ministers as a volunteer at Fatima Family Center, Cleveland, and Cleveland Central Catholic High School. She also serves in the HM ministry of prayer.

A 1964 graduate of Hoban Dominican High School, Cleveland, she entered the HM Community from Gesu Parish, University Heights, in 1968. She earned her BA from John Carroll University, Cleveland, her MA in Library Science from Rosary College, River Forest, Ill., and her MA in Religious Education at Loyola University, New Orleans, La.

Sr. Madeline served as a teacher and librarian in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses at several schools, including Magnificat High School, Rocky River; St. James, Lakewood; St. Adalbert, Berea; and St. John High School, Ashtabula. She was the director at the Religious Education Media Center for the Diocese of Youngstown, and was the technology teacher in residence for the Diocese of Cleveland, Inner City Schools.

Sr. Madeline has served as program developer for the Seeds of Literacy Program in Cleveland, as the medical librarian for Community Health Partners, Lorain, and as a resource coordinator at St. Martin de Porres High School, Cleveland. She also ministered as a staff member at Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries (CNCM), Cleveland for four years, where she helped to serve the needs of the people in the Collinwood neighborhood. While at CNCM, Sr. Madeline helped establish the CNCM community garden to allow neighborhood residents to grow their own produce.

My 50th jubilee year affords me an opportunity to reflect on the goodness and mercy that God has shown me and return that generosity to others, especially the poor and marginalized. I am grateful for the people who have encouraged and challenged me; for my sisters in community; and for the people with whom I minister.

One morning last summer, as I was walking down the hall at the Fatima Family Center, I passed a line of eager five-year-olds on their way to a day camp activity. I noticed a little boy whose shoes were untied and that he was in danger of tripping as he tried to keep up with the group. I tied his shoes, told him to rejoin the group and to have fun. He gave me the biggest bear hug that a five-year-old can give. I don’t know who was ministering to whom. —Sr. Madeline Muller
Sisters Present at Inter-Faith Event

Rabbi Joseph Schonberger welcomed Humility of Mary Sisters Margaret Daniels and Mary Ann Spangler as presenters at a session on *Handing on the Faith to the Next Generation*, part of a collaborative series co-sponsored by Temple El Emeth and Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (VMESC). Sr. Mary Ann shared insights on the topic from her extensive ministry in Busy Students’ Retreats in which she travels to a wide variety of college campuses to connect with young people who are pondering their faith paths in life or may be seeking a deepened, meaningful relationship with a personal God. Sr. Margaret offered an example of one young woman’s understanding of her Jewish faith and practice by sharing a reading of her great niece’s bat mitzvah response; the author, Maayan Schuchert, wrote the speech at the age of 13 and gave her aunt permission to share it with the Youngstown group since she herself resides in Boston. Sr. Mary Ann also led those gathered in exploration of what older friends and relatives might do to further young people’s exploration of the role of faith in today’s world.

The on-going series, *Torah Studies for Christians*, is co-sponsored by Temple El Emeth under Rabbi Schonberger and VMESC under the guidance of Rev. George Balasko, a retired priest of the Youngstown diocese who resides in Villa Maria Apartments and celebrates liturgy several times weekly with the Villa community. The series is held the third Wednesday of most months at the Villa and recently featured Rev. James McKarns, also a retired priest of the Diocese of Youngstown, in the role of St. Paul reflecting on his pastoral journeys. For more information on the series, please visit www.vmesc.org.
Sisters Respond to Need at the Border
The United States has a long and proud history of welcoming immigrants and sheltering refugees. Women religious have accompanied and served migrant communities across this country for a very long time. At the request of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, sisters were asked to respond to the need for assistance with migrants applying for asylum at our southern US border. Sisters Eilis McCulloh and Karen Bernhardt responded to that call in El Paso, Texas as volunteers, Dec. 30-Jan. 5 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. “Our week in El Paso was a blessed experience of the ‘people of God’ walking with those on the margins,” said Sr. Eilis. “We ask that you hold the asylum seekers in your prayers, who are arriving along our southern border everyday with the hope for a better life for their families.”

Sister Inducted into Hall of Fame
Congratulations to Sr. Ann McManamon who was inducted into the League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown’s Women’s Hall of Fame on March 19. She was honored for her work with the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan citizens’ organization that strives to improve government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. The honorees inducted during the ceremony have made significant and lasting contributions to education, social justice, civil rights, voting rights, revitalization, and the arts.

National Catholic Sisters Week Celebrated on Social Media
The HM Sisters celebrated National Catholic Sisters Week 2019 by sharing a sister story a day on Facebook and Instagram March 8-14. This year’s theme was “Meet a Sister, Be Inspired.” All the sister stories are available on the HM website at www.humilityofmary.org/media/national-catholic-sisters-week, so be sure to check them out to meet a sister and be inspired! And don’t forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for our latest news.
Magnificat High School Students Stay Connected to HM Sisters

Magnificat students and HM Sisters have been corresponding about their lives, experiences, and interests through a new pen pal program. Twenty-three retired sisters from the Villa and eleven sisters who reside elsewhere are a part of this program with Magnificat’s Advisory grade-level groups. Advisory contributes to the holistic development of the students by providing a scheduled time during the school day in which an adult and a small group of students have the opportunity to connect with others personally. Students and their HM pen pals have exchanged letters, holiday cards, mementos, and photographs. The project was initiated as part of Magnificat’s Ohio Catholic Schools Accrediting Association Catholic Identity goal.

Part of an Advisory met with their HM pen pal, Sr. Rose Huber, during a visit to the Villa for Magnificat’s Kairos retreat in February. The students were excited to meet Sr. Rose in person and receive an informal tour of the Villa from her. All HM pen pals were invited to visit with their Advisory at Magnificat and/or Skype with them this spring.

Equity Summit: Practicing Welcome at Magnificat and Beyond

Magnificat students and staff participated in the 2nd annual Equity Summit in February. This year’s theme was, “Welcoming.” Student speakers opened the day by sharing their experiences about ways Magnificat has been welcoming and ways to create a welcoming community. The documentary, I Learn America, provided the catalyst for reflection as it details the stories of five immigrant teenagers navigating the struggles and joys of adolescence at a public high school in the Bronx. Following the film screening, students met with their Advisory groups to discuss the film and how they can practice greater welcome to others and appreciation of difference.
Sister Receives Award for Work With Collaborative to End Human Trafficking

Sr. Anne Victory received the Bishop AJ Quinn Justice Award from the Catholic Action Commission of Lorain County (CACLC) at their 29th Annual Peace and Justice Dinner on March 23. The dinner recognizes and celebrates the tireless efforts of ministers and advocates who faithfully live out the traditions of Catholic Social Teaching. Sr. Anne was honored for her work with the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking.

Congratulations, Sr. Anne!

Left: Sr. Anne and Jon Gromek, Director of the Catholic Action Commission of Lorain County.

The Gift of a Lifetime

Help us to continue providing more abundant life for God's people by including the Sisters of the Humility of Mary in your will. To receive your free personal finance planner and information on the Heritage Society, please return the form below:

Name: _____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ___________________ State: ____________ Zip: ___________
Phone: _____________________________

☐ Please send my personal finance planner and information on how I can become a member of the Heritage Society.
☐ I have already included the Sisters in my will.

Sisters of the Humility of Mary | PO Box 534 | Villa Maria | PA 16155
The following programs are provided by Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (VMESC) and will take place at Villa Maria. Please call 724-964-8886 for more information or visit www.vmesc.org. Additional programs and speaker information can be found on the VMESC website.

**2019 Villa Maria-thon**
**Date:** June 1 at 9 a.m.
**Cost:** 5-K run-$20; 2 mile walk-$15; Children’s 50 yd dash-free

Gather the whole family together for our 10th annual 5-K Run/2 Mile Walk and enjoy activities for everyone, from the serious runner to children of all ages! Visit vmesc.org for more information and registration details. This event supports the charitable work of Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center.

**Teilhard’s Mysticism: Spiraling into the Cosmic Christ**
**Presented by Kathleen Duffy, SSJ**
**Date:** June 9-14
**Cost:** $450

In an early essay, Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin provides us with a road map into the intensely mystical environment in which he lived and moved. He describes the stages of his mystical growth in terms of five concentric circles. During this retreat, through input, prayer, song, film, contemplative activities, and sharing, we follow Teilhard as he travels ever more deeply from Circle to Circle into the arms of the Cosmic Christ.

**Individually Directed Retreat**
**Presented by Sr. Ardath Blake, HM; Carol Creek, MA; Peggy Duffy, OSU; Sr. Rosemary O’Brien, SSJ; Dave Roncolato**
**Date:** June 16-23
**Cost:** $550

The tranquil environment of the Villa Maria grounds offers the perfect background for this retreat. Prayerful reflection, often with Sacred Scripture, in an atmosphere of complete silence is the usual setting for this process. Each retreatant will meet individually with a director daily who will help them: notice the reality of God’s presence and activity; come to trust what has been noticed; and respond to this presence and activity. Participants may attend the retreat in its entirety, or may choose to schedule a shortened retreat.

**Art Retreat-Mandalas as Prayer**
**Presented by Sr. Paulette Kirschensteiner, HM**
**Date:** July 7-11
**Cost:** $325

During this time together we will use different media, watercolors, pencils, markers, and collage to create our own mandalas. We will pray in the creation of each mandala, then learn to meditate with it. No art experience is necessary. Supplies provided.

**Contemplation...a Transformative Practice Needed at This Time**
**Presented by Nancy Sylvester, IHM**
**Date:** July 15-20
**Cost:** $475

This retreat will focus on deepening one’s experience of contemplation. Each day will include communal contemplative prayer and a focus on its different aspects. We will explore how the deepening of one’s practice invites a shift in consciousness inviting us to imagine new ways of responding to the challenges of our time.

**A Sip From the Well: a 24-hour Empty Bowl Experience**
**Presented by Sr. Cheryl Rose, HM**
**Date:** July 26-27
**Cost:** $125

This lightly guided retreat will be an immersion into the restoring waters of silence and solitude. Brief but intense, this contemplative experience does not require attendance at other Empty Bowl retreats.
In Loving Memory

**Sister Kathleen Cannell** (Sr. Mary Rean) entered eternal life on November 23, 2018 at age 86. She experienced a number of ministries in her religious life including classroom teacher, hospital pastoral care, office manager and volunteer. She had a great love for music and was taking violin lessons until the time of her death.

Sr. Kathleen taught at a number of schools in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. She was a receptionist for Dr. Antone Ogrinc and was office manager at the HM Ministry Center. For 15 years she volunteered at St. Augustine Parish in the Tremont area of Cleveland working primarily with the deaf.

She served for 15 years at St. Joseph Riverside Hospital, Warren in pastoral care and later was part-time in community relations and as a patient visitor.

In 2016 Sr. Kathleen returned to Villa Maria Community Center where she volunteered and joined with her sisters in the Ministry of Prayer until her death.

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**Sister Claire Young** (Sr. Mary Pius) entered eternal life on December 11, 2018 at 90. She dedicated herself with great enthusiasm for 45 years to the ministry of education at the secondary and college levels in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida and Dhaka, Bangladesh.

In the Cleveland Diocese she taught physical education for 11 years at Magnificat High School, Rocky River and then served as principal for four years. She was Dean of Girls and later a teacher at Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron.

In the Pittsburgh Diocese Sr. Claire taught at Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pennsylvania.

She taught English as a Second Language at Notre Dame College, Dhaka, Bangladesh, a school run by the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

She was also an ESL teacher for eight years at Indian River Community College, Ft. Pierce, Florida. Following her retirement from teaching, she served in a number of volunteer capacities in the Ft. Pierce, Vero Beach, Florida area.

In 2016 Sr. Claire was in the inaugural class inducted into the Magnificat High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010. She participated in the Ministry of Prayer until her death.

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Memorial contributions may be sent to the
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Villa Maria Community Center

Harvest Day 2019
11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28
Information: 724.964.8920, ext. 3208

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