Make a grateful remembrance of the recent past
Live the present with passion
Embrace the future with hope

– Pope Francis’ declaration for the 2015 Year of Consecrated Life
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Pope Francis has declared 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life, reminding religious that their call is to “wake up the world!” The Pope outlined the three goals of this special year:

- to make a grateful remembrance of the recent past
- to live the present with passion, and
- to embrace the future with hope

With hearts overflowing in thanksgiving, we honor the first goal “to make a grateful remembrance of the past” as we celebrate the faithful witness and generous service of many of our sisters who celebrate special jubilees this year. This edition of The Voice highlights these women who have given many years in ministry to God’s people. But more than what they have done in service to others, we celebrate who they are as women who responded to God’s call and have lived faithfully as vowed women religious, living each day in loving response to the grace God poured out on them.

These sisters entered religious life before the Second Vatican Council, beginning ministries in the traditional fields of education, nursing and food service and then responding creatively to other areas of ministry to continually meet the pressing needs before them. Even after most of their coworkers retired, the sisters often continued in active ministry, assumed leadership or consulting roles or engaged in volunteer positions. In later years they participate in daily prayer to support the ongoing work of the community’s sponsored ministries.

Cardinal Braz de Aviz, the head of the Congregation for Apostolic Life at the Vatican, said women religious remain full of hope, based not on their own powers, but on trust in the Lord.

“In Him,” he said, “no one can rob us of our hope. This hope, though, cannot keep us from ‘living the present with passion’ — the second goal of the coming year. This passion speaks of being in love, of true friendship, of profound communion. This is the true beauty of the life of so many women who profess the evangelical counsels and follow Christ ‘more closely’ in this state of life.”

And so we “embrace the future with hope,” the third goal for this Year of Consecrated Life. One of the greatest blessings we see today is the opportunity to partner and collaborate with so many others. Just as the springtime breaks forth in abundant new life, we recognize that God is already in the future, calling us forward on yet unknown paths. We have been able to respond to new needs in our world because of our many partners, co-workers and benefactors who generously support us in this journey. Thank you for being part of this sacred trust.

Our jubilee celebrations always end with the joyful singing of Mary’s Magnificat, proclaiming God’s greatness for all that has been and will be done through us. May our lives continue to radiate God’s love throughout our world in all that we do!

In Mary’s humility,

Sister Toby Lardie
Pastoral Leader
Liquid Gold

Butternut Squash is Soup of the (Harvest) Day

By Connie Moorhouse

Every family has someone who makes the best of something but won’t share the entire recipe, conveniently leaving out a teaspoon of this or a dash of that.

Those in possession of the Villa Maria Community Center’s butternut squash soup recipe are no different. Since becoming an item on the Harvest Day buffet in 2007, the soup has taken on a life (and tent) of its own at the event hosted each October by the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

“We started with just small batches and kept running out,” said Tony Ippolito, director of nutrition services for Aladdin Food Management, which provides food service at the Villa. “We eventually moved to the 70-gallon kettle and that wasn’t enough. Last year we made 80 gallons and only had 2 gallons left at the end of the day.”

And people will brave any type of weather – hot or cold and anything in between – just to get it.

“The weather never has any bearing on soup sales,” he said, noting 150 containers of the liquid gold were sold in the first hour of last year’s Harvest Day, which had unseasonably cold temperatures, high winds and even hail. “We’ve also had years that have been really hot. It doesn’t matter. If they don’t eat it here, they take it home with them.”

So enamored with the soup, one gentleman takes his all the way home to Las Vegas.

“Every year, I get a call from him wanting to know the date of Harvest Day and asking me to reserve 20 quarts for him,” said Tony.

So what’s the story? It would be really neat if it were a treasured recipe of an early sister, who tucked it away in her suitcase for the journey from France as something to remind her of home. But that’s not it. The origins of the
recipe are much less fascinating, but interesting just the same.

The original recipe, according to Tony, belonged to an Aladdin corporate dietitian, who made it for a dining etiquette class in college and shared it with the food service group once hired.

“We had an overabundance of butternut squash one year and didn’t know what to do with it,” Tony said. “We thought the Sisters would like it, so we decided to make a soup, and I pulled that recipe to use.”

The Sisters liked it so much Tony thought visitors to Harvest Day would too. And so began what quickly became the reason people return year after year.

The process starts in May when butternut squash seeds are started in the Villa Farm greenhouse in large six packs. When the plants are 6 inches tall they are planted in the fields.

“The old timers say they shouldn’t be picked until after the first light frost,” said John Moreira, director of land management, “but we’ve found that as long as they’re fully ripe and have the distinctive full tan color, they are ripe.”

The week before Harvest Day, John delivers 600 pounds of butternut squash to the Villa kitchen, where the magic begins.

So enamored with the soup, one gentleman takes his all the way home to Las Vegas.

The squash are washed, cut, deseeded, blanched, cooled and the skin removed. It is then run through a ricer to make it softer to work with. The result has the appearance of mashed sweet potatoes and serves as the base for the soup.

From there, the explanation of the remainder of the process is vague, with Tony only revealing the two chefs hired in 2013 have tweaked the recipe for the better.

Tony modestly says there is “nothing special” about the recipe, supposing the true appeal of the soup is people knowing the entire process happens on the land – from the planting, to the growing, to the harvesting, to the making.

“You really don’t get anything fresher,” he said.

Nor will you get the exact recipe. A modified version will have to suffice for those who ask.

Villa Maria Community Center

HARVEST DAY

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday
October 3

Music • Hay Rides • Children’s Activities • Farm Fresh Food
Butternut Squash Soup • Baked Goods • Vendors
Gift Basket Raffle • Dot the Clown • Produce • Pumpkins • Straw • Corn Stalks
Mums • Fair Trade Jewelry, Purses, Baskets, Scarves & more

Come experience the very best of Fall and enjoy the beauty and reverence of the land of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary

For more details, visit: humilityofmary.org
Sister’s Artistic Ability Helps Preserve the Past

By Kylene Kamensky

They line the hallway outside Magnificat Chapel at the Villa — those detailed illustrations of the founding sisters’ lives in both France and America. They have become a community treasure, but they actually began life as a solution to an archives problem.

Sr. Mary-Joanna Huegle was working in the archives in the late 1980s when she was approached by an employee of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown with a request: photographs were needed of the early sisters for a project the hospital was preparing. A script was sent to her from Cleveland so she could use it as a guide to search the collection, and she gathered the materials she had available, mostly pictures of places and buildings.

Only the results were not quite what the hospital had in mind. They were looking for pictures of the sisters, not places. But there was one problem with that mindset.

“No one was running around with a Kodak back then taking pictures,” Sr. Mary-Joanna said wryly as she related the story. Out of options, the hospital employee wasn’t sure what to do when Sr. Mary-Joanna said she found herself saying “If I need pictures, I draw them.” The employee immediately asked if Sr. Mary-Joanna could draw some pictures for her.

After securing approval from congregational leadership, Sr. Mary-Joanna produced 16 illustrations over a two year period using stories from the archives as her inspiration. “A lot of what I draw has to be my imagination since I wasn’t there,” she said. There were some things that she did know, like what the sisters’ French habit looked like and the outside appearance of the building used for the first hospital on the Villa grounds, but research was necessary when it came time to capture those period-accurate details.

“I enjoy building up the details and building up a story in my own mind. I take what I know and let it develop in the laboratory, my mind, and see what comes of it. That’s the pleasure of it for me. When I feel I can’t do any better, then I know God’s telling me that it’s enough, they’re done.”

— Sr. Mary-Joanna
“I enjoy building up the details and building up a story in my own mind,” Sr. Mary-Joanna said of her process. “I take what I know and let it develop in the laboratory, my mind, and see what comes of it. That’s the pleasure of it for me. When I feel I can’t do any better, then I know God’s telling me that it’s enough, they’re done.”

And she has always been detail-oriented. The earliest memory she has of her interest in art is her second-grade teacher showing her parents a drawing of a bird she had done and telling them that she “showed unusual interest for details for her age.” As she moved along in her schooling, she was labeled the class artist and her family was very proud of her talent. She took a more humble view of her ability.

“God was weaving together something special. It wasn’t something to be proud of, but I can be grateful for it [artistic ability],” she said. “It’s something I can do as a sister and once I’ve done it, I’ve done it for God, and the community can use it as they see fit.”

And use it they have. Sr. Mary-Joanna’s historical illustrations have appeared in many different capacities over the years: a calendar in 1989 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the HM Sisters’ arrival in America, a brochure celebrating the legacy of the sisters, and enlarged prints that hang in many different places around the Villa and at other institutions. One was even used in the *HM Voice* just last summer to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the sisters’ arrival in America!

Some of her work has also been featured on Villa Maria Circle prayer cards and on items in The Villa Shoppe. And yet more of her sketches have found their home in the archives to preserve details that may be lost to history. Sr. Mary-Joanna also has a hand for wood carving. Using an Exacto knife, she coaxes the blocks of wood she finds to show her what they want to be.

“That’s what artists do,” she said with a smile. “Imagination is a gift from God and it opens a whole new way of working.”

Sr. Mary-Joanna points out her illustration of the HM Sisters bidding farewell to their French homeland that is displayed in Visitation Hall at the Villa.

This B&W copy of a photograph of Mother Madelaine Potier, HM Foundress, was colorized with pastel pencils by Sr. Mary-Joanna.

The Holy Family is depicted in this wood carving that Sr. Mary-Joanna crafted from a piece of driftwood.
In November, I attended the dedication of a small “temporary cathedral” in downtown Port au Prince on property next to the site of the old Cathedral that had fallen in the 2010 earthquake and whose skeleton still stands as a reminder of that horrible event. I sat near a window and was able to see the old, broken cathedral and the mountains rising beyond the city. These images spoke volumes to me of Haiti today.

There are so many new things happening since the earthquake’s destruction: roads are being constructed, electricity is being brought to the countryside, the streets are being kept clean. There are street lights and buses providing free transportation to school children. The government is providing free education to over a million children. New schools are built. The tent cities are gone and people have other forms of housing. Construction continues everywhere in the country.

Still, I was reminded in looking at the remnants of the old cathedral that there are so many things that are broken in the country. The government continues to struggle to function as a democracy. Elections have not been held for three years. The education system is broken and quality education is more a dream than a reality. Health care is still “primitive” by today’s standards, lacking quality education and continuing education for health care personnel; lack of equipment and supplies and the ability to maintain them; and lack of access to health care for the masses of poor people. And, almost 75 percent of the population has no work and over 50 percent are desperately poor.

Yet, on that day in November, when I looked at the mountains beyond the brokenness, I was reminded of the strength and resilience of the Haitian people. They are strong. They are survivors. They live in hope. They are people of faith who put their trust in the God who is with them in every moment of their lives and will never abandon them.

The HM presence in Haiti does indeed “bring more abundant life,” providing health care in Port au Prince and the village of Fondwa; providing for a water project and clinic services in Fonds de Blancs; supporting a religious community of Haitian women in their development as religious; being present as resource, support, and friend, and reminding the Haitian people they are not abandoned as they struggle for more abundant life. BUT, more importantly, the Haitian people, by their lives of simplicity, love, and trust offer more abundant life to the HM community.

We are immeasurably blessed by the Haitian people.

— Sr. Judy Dohner
Health Care Coordinator & HM Liaison in Haiti
Each Visit to Haiti is a New Learning Experience

Although I have visited Haiti many times – each time is truly a NEW experience. I recall how hesitant I was the first time I visited Haiti in the mid-1980s. I was afraid, I did not speak Creole or French, and I did not have a clue about being in a third world developing country – what was I going to “do” there? I quickly realized after being in Haiti for less than 24 hours that first time, that I was being touched in a very deep way… Haiti had far more to teach me than I could ever give in return.

I have stopped counting the number of times I have visited Haiti, but I know that each time I am stretched and reminded of God’s bountiful gifts in so many ways.

The primary focus of my February trip was to work with the Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Antoine on leadership issues with which they are struggling as a new and developing community. They will celebrate the 20th anniversary of their founding in 2016 and currently have 16 members with three in final vows, 12 in temporary vows and one novice.

Driving out to Fondwa from Port-au-Prince, I quickly noticed how green the mountain sides are in contrast to what I have seen in the past. There appears to be more growth and plantings in the valleys and mountain sides with more terraced areas. There is also new construction in various areas where the tent cities abounded following the earthquake in 2010.

One of my lasting images from this trip is the woman who has her “little” store on the side of the road across from the guest house where Sr. Ruthmary Powers and I stayed in Fondwa. Each morning she dutifully swept the ground around her place and then sat, waiting for her customers or for those who passed by to stop and talk.

She taught me simplicity and patience and the beauty of just “being.”

— Sr. Susan Schorsten

The woman who swept the ground around her store and then sat, waiting for her customers or for those who passed by to stop and talk, taught Sr. Susan about just “being.”
Associate Medication Collection for Haiti: A Vital Sign of Improved Health

By Connie Moorhouse

While many strides have been made to repair, rebuild and reform since the devastating earthquake five years ago in Haiti, much still needs to be done to fix this broken country.

Health care is still very basic, lacking equipment, supplies and access to health care for the masses of poor. Thus, the constant need for the generosity of those who work endlessly to help make a difference in the lives of the Haitian people.

“Haiti has been a ministry of the HM Associates for many years,” said Patsy Richards, director of the HM Associate Community. “If there is a specific need, Sr. Judy Dohner lets us know and we do our best to provide that need.”

Needs have included baby layettes and kits containing sterile scissors and cord to cut and tie the umbilical cord of women who largely give birth at home. Medical supplies, belongings bags for hospital patients and financial contributions have also been areas in which the Associates have provided assistance.

But the one constant need, and a need the Associates have been dedicated to for more than a decade, is the collection of over-the-counter medications.

“Donations to Haiti from the Sisters have been going on since before my time,” said Associate Gerrie DiMatteo, who helps coordinate the medication collection effort.

She recalls Sr. Mary Ida Schaffer receiving carloads, if not truckloads, of supplies for Haiti, as the result of a grant. Gerrie and her sister, Elaine Ross, began helping Sr. Mary Ida collect, pack and ship items for Haiti in 2005.

“I can remember the cost of sending one of the shipments being around $2,000,” Gerrie said. “That amount was paid anonymously by one of our Associates.”

St. Mary Ida died in 2009, and when the grant expired, the HM Associates took over making, collecting and purchasing items to send to Haiti. Associate Darlene Morrison and her husband, Dwight, help pack and send the items.

“We recently sent between $700 and $1,000 worth of cough and cold tablets, flu tablets, cortisone/hydrocortisone, antifungal creams, cough drops, and vitamins,” Gerrie said.

These items, which most would consider easy to get from any corner drugstore, are vital to the basic health needs in Haiti, where corner drugstores do not exist.

“It is difficult to find medications to treat cold and flu in Haiti. The people do not have access to drug stores like in the United States, so when they are sick, even with just a fever, sore throat or cold, they need to come to a clinic.”

— Sr. Judy Dohner
“Malnutrition is rampant in Haiti. The vitamins give what the children and pregnant women cannot get from food and can minimize the effects of borderline malnutrition.”
— Sr. Judy Dohner

“It is difficult to find medications to treat cold and flu in Haiti. The people do not have access to drug stores like in the United States, so when they are sick, even with just a fever, sore throat or cold, they need to come to a clinic,” said Sr. Judy, who works at two clinics in Haiti, one in the city and one in Fondwa, where she lived before the earthquake. “The medications collected and donated by the Associates provide a service otherwise not possible in Haiti that may not provide cure, but help the people to be more comfortable during the course of their illnesses. Malnutrition is rampant in Haiti. The vitamins give what the children and pregnant women cannot get from food and can minimize the effects of borderline malnutrition.”

“In addition to being grateful that we have the time and energy to help provide for those in need, we appreciate Sr. Judy, who has given so much of her time, talent and gifts to the Haitian people for so many years,” said Gerrie.

“It is how we help in a small way,” added Patsy.

**Akron Church Guild Rises to the Occasion with Bread for Bread Project**

When the Ladies Guild at Nativity of the Lord Jesus Church in Akron decided to do a service project to support Sr. Judy Dohner’s efforts, they thought it fitting to relate it to Haiti.

In Haiti, a baker gives bread to the poor when they leave the hospital, and bread is given to children who walk two miles to school. And so the small group of women developed the Bread for Bread project which receives homemade bread from an area bakery to sell after Mass. Sr. Susanne Gill, HM, also assists with the project.

The total from two bread sales was over $1000, with all proceeds going to Sr. Judy’s ongoing ministry in Haiti. Any leftover bread is donated to St. Bernard’s Hunger Center in Akron.

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The HM Congregation is honoring 19 Jubilarians as they celebrate 80, 70, 65, 60, and 50 years of vowed religious life. These sisters have ministered in the fields of administration, counseling, education, health care, hospitality, parish and pastoral ministry, social services, social justice, 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.

80 Years

Sister Therese Quinn, HM, formerly Sr. Mary Nicholas, entered the HM Community from St. Columba Parish, Youngstown. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Notre Dame College, Cleveland, a Bachelor of Science in Library Science from St. Catherine College, St. Paul, Minn., and a Master of Education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. She spent 42 years of her ministry in education where she served as a teacher, librarian and principal in the Cleveland, Youngstown and Pittsburgh dioceses. Sr. Therese taught at Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; Mt. Marie Academy, Canton; St. John High School, Canton; and was a teacher/librarian at Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria; she was also the librarian at Magnificat High School, Rocky River; and at Central Catholic High School, Canton. She served for a year at St. John High School, Ashtabula as an administrative assistant before serving for six years as principal at Central Catholic High School, Canton. She also served for seven years as the director of the Media Resource Center at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown. In addition to education, Sr. Therese also spent 16 years in hospitality ministry when she established and ran the HM Guest House at St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown. Sr. Therese currently serves as a volunteer and in the Ministry of Prayer at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria.

Sister Therese Quinn is loved and admired for her service as librarian, teacher, principal, media coordinator, drama director, photographer, creator of audio-visual programs, love of reading, and her consummate professionalism. Many of us claim her as mentor and friend. Sister Therese’s gift to all is her joy, kindness, her deep spirituality, and concern for others. The symbol for an 80th anniversary is the oak—recognized for its longevity and steadfastness—so appropriate for her! Another symbol is the ruby—its brilliant color implying warmth and life for humankind. We are blessed to have been basking in this warmth and sharing her life and companionship these many years. Happy Jubilee, Sister Therese!

—Sr. Jeannette Abi-Nader, HM
Sister Mary Hurley, HM, formerly Sr. Ellen Francis, entered from St. Ignatius Parish, Cleveland. She graduated from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn., with a Bachelor of Arts degree and also holds a Master of Science degree from Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind. Sr. Mary served in the ministry of education for 24 years as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses at Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; Magnificat High School, Rocky River; and Central Catholic High School, Canton. She then applied her teaching experience and spent 38 years in community outreach and advocacy in the Cleveland; Brownsville, Texas; and San Antonio, Texas dioceses. Among the places she served are West Side Ecumenical Ministry, Cleveland; in youth outreach; as director of Teach-a-neighbor to Read, Cleveland; as director/teacher at West Side Urban Learning Center; Cleveland; with the elderly outreach program at Lakeview Terrace Housing Project, Cleveland; as director at West Side Catholic Center; Cleveland; and at Cuyahoga Community College as a tutor. Sr. Mary also served as coordinator for the Northeast Ohio Priorities Project; as coordinator at Isaiah Center, Cleveland; as a math instructor at Lorain Community College; as a staff member at Common Ground Center for Renewal, Oberlin; and as coordinator for both the Rio Grande Defense Committee, Harlingen, Texas, and Camino a la Paz, San Antonio. She currently serves as a volunteer with the Common Ground Center for Renewal, Oberlin and the Cleveland InterReligious Task Force on Central America.

Celebrating Jubilee as a HM Sister is a time of special gratitude for the almost 14 billion year spiraling history of the Universe that has unfolded an abundance of “moments of grace” for me. They encompass the exciting renewal of Vatican II. Its call for some radical and profound changes brought challenging moments that sometimes meant resistance/tension. But the energy of our foundresses and founder, the support of others in the HM community and our partners in ministry carried us forward, often unknowingly, in the spirit of Mary’s humility which prompted her to speak TRUTH and to risk the unknown. For that I am grateful, inspired and energized.

New understandings of the universe that have emerged in my lifetime are deep moments of grace that have enabled me to see with “new eyes” our oneness with the whole Earth Community – a oneness that unites me with others in my ministry of advocacy for the rights of those – both human and non-human - that are poor in that community.

I celebrate this Jubilee with a keen awareness that we are in a time of great crisis in our world from climate change, local and global violence etc. But I believe that in this milieu of instability and restlessness, Divine Mystery continues to call us from the future to new, unknown moments of grace in that journey where the road is made by walking.

— Sr. Mary Hurley, HM

Sister Julie Demchak, HM, formerly Sr. Pauletta, entered the HM Community from St. Paul Parish, Canton. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and her Master of Education from Kent State University, Kent. Sr. Julie’s 45 years in education were spent as a teacher and principal in the Cleveland, Youngstown, and Pittsburgh dioceses. She served as a teacher at St. Mary, Painesville; St. Raphael, Bay Village; St. Philip Neri, Cleveland; St. Edward, Youngstown; St. Barbara, Massillon; and Our Lady of Grace, Pittsburgh. She served as principal at St. Albert the Great, North Royalton; SS. Philip & James, Cleveland; St. Richard, North Olmsted; and St. Joseph, Ashtabula. She also served as a Pastoral Care volunteer at Villa Maria Community Center; Villa Maria. Sr. Julie currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer at Villa Maria Community Center.

Sister Mary Ann Houk, HM, formerly Sr. Beatrix, entered from Annunciation Parish, Akron. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and her Master of Science in Education from the University of Dayton. She ministered in education for 43 years in a variety of roles, including teacher, substitute teacher, principal, assistant principal, and administrator; in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. Sr. Mary Ann taught
Sister Kathleen King, HM, formerly Sr. Campion, entered the HM Community from St. Sebastian Parish, Akron. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa., and a Master of Arts from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind. Sr. Kathleen spent 27 years in the ministry of education as a teacher, assistant principal, and campus minister. Among the places she served are Ursuline High School Extension, Youngstown; Central Catholic High School, Canton; Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa.; Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; Erieview Catholic High School, Cleveland; and Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron. She served for eight years on the HM Membership and Affiliation Team; she also founded and directed the HM Volunteer Service Program for 17 years. Sr. Kathleen currently serves as the director of HM Volunteer Service Program Alums.

Sister Jeanne Koma, HM, formerly Sr. Thomas More, entered from St. Catherine Parish, Cleveland. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, and her Master of Divinity from the American Association of Pastoral Councilors, Cleveland; she also holds a Corporate Ministry Program certificate from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo. Sr. Jeanne ministered in education for 15 years as a teacher and principal in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses at St. Raphael, Bay Village; St. Mary, Painesville; St. Cecilia, Cleveland; Central Catholic High School, Canton; St. Louis, Louisville; and St. Paul, Salem. She also served as director for the Better Homes for Cleveland Foundation; in pastoral ministry at St. Angela Merici, Fairview Park, and St. Charles, Parma; as director of religious education at St. Charles, Parma; as a pastoral associate at St. John Neumann, Strongsville; and as a spiritual director and pastoral counselor with HM Pastoral Services, Cleveland. Sr. Jeanne served in the Ministry of Prayer with her sisters at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, for 3 years and she currently serves in the Ministry of Faith-filled Presence.

Sister Celine Metzger, HM, the former Agnes Metzger, entered the HM Community from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Bethlehem, Ohio. She graduated from Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa., with a Bachelor of Arts degree and earned her Master of Arts from Manhattanville College, Purchase, N.Y. Sr. Celine began her ministry in education and taught in the Cleveland, Youngstown, and Pittsburgh dioceses for 14 years. Among the places she served are Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; Magnificat High School, Rocky River; St. Edward Jr. High, Youngstown; and Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria, Pa. She also served on the staff at the House of Prayer, Youngstown, for two years and as a pastoral minister at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown, for six years. Sr. Celine has also taken on many different roles in HM Congregational leadership. She served as mistress of novices for six years, councilor for 12 years, coordinator of chapter planning for one year; and Villa Maria Community Center administrator for eight years; she also served two terms as HM Major Superior. After finishing her time in congregational leadership, Sr. Celine ministered as Mission Effectiveness Director at The Assumption Village, North Lima, and Director of Mission Integration at St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown. She currently serves as a volunteer at St. Elizabeth and at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa., and in the Ministry of Prayer at Villa Maria Community Center.

Sister Mary Kathryn Pillot, HM, formerly Sr. Philip Neri, entered from St. Louis Parish, Louisville. She received a diploma from St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing, Youngstown and began a 57 year ministry in health care and pastoral ministry as a registered nurse in
Sister Louise Ramicone, HM, formerly Sr. Reginald, entered the HM Community from St. Patrick Parish, Kent. She served for 24 years in the ministry of hospitality in a variety of roles, including kitchen staff, housekeeper, sacristan, and assistant housekeeper. She began her ministry in the Villa Maria Convent kitchen, Villa Maria, and also served at the Lourdes Academy Convent, Cleveland; St. Sebastian Convent, Akron; Magnificat Convent, Rocky River; and Our Lady of Grace Parish, Pittsburgh. Sr. Louise also spent 34 years in education as an audio visual aide at Mt. Pleasant Catholic Elementary Center, Cleveland; as a teacher’s assistant at St. Martha School, Akron; and as a teacher’s aide and office aide at North Akron Catholic School, Akron. She currently serves in the HM Community as part of the Prayer Ministry.

Sister Rita Costello, HM, formerly, Sister Thomas Aquinas, entered from St. Martha Parish, Akron. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa., and her Master of Arts from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind. Sr. Rita served 29 years as a teacher in the Cleveland, Youngstown, and Atlanta, Ga., dioceses at Magnificat High School, Rocky River; Erievview Catholic High School, Cleveland; St. Edward Jr. High, Youngstown; St. John High School, Ashtabula; and St. Pius X High School, Atlanta. She also served in pastoral ministry at St. Joseph Hospital & Health Center; Lorain Hospice and at New Life Hospice, Lorain. Sr. Rita currently serves as chaplain at New Life Hospice, Lorain.

Sister Patricia Rogers, HM, entered the community from St. Joseph Franciscan, Cleveland. She graduated from St. John College, Cleveland, with a Bachelor of Science in Education and also holds a Master of Science in Education from the University of Scranton, Scranton, Pa. Sr. Patricia ministered in education for 23 years in the Cleveland and Arlington, Va., dioceses as a teacher: Among the places she taught are St. Gregory the Great, South Euclid; St. Jude, Elyria; St. Boniface, Cleveland; St. Mary Elyria; St. Mary, Massillon; St. Michael, Cleveland; St. Paschal Baylon, Cleveland; St. Wendelin, Cleveland; St. Peter High School, Cleveland; Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland; Erievview Catholic High School, Cleveland; and St. Agnes, Arlington, Va. She spent eight years as executive assistant at the Community Development Department, Cleveland, two years as an aide in the Cleveland Congressional District, and two years as the regional administrator of the Northeast Ohio Department on Aging, Cleveland. Sr. Patricia has also served as special assistant in the Office of US Representative Mary Rose Oakar; Cleveland and as a senior associate at M. Rose Oakar & Associates, Inc., Cleveland. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer at Villa Maria Community Center; Villa Maria.

Sister Marguerite Holz, HM, formerly Sr. Lorraine, entered the HM Community from Holy Family Parish, Parma. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Notre Dame College, Cleveland, her Master of Arts in Education from Akron State University, continued on next page
60 Years  continued

Sister Mary Ann Senia,  
HM, formerly Sr. Vincent Marie, entered from St. Vitus Parish, Lorain. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland and a Master of Education from the University of Pittsburgh. She ministered in education for 44 years as a teacher and principal in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses at St. Raphael, Bay Village; St. Ambrose, Brunswick; St. Edward, Youngstown; St. Paul, Canton; St. Anthony, Canton; St. Patrick, Hubbard, and St. Pius X, Warren. Sr. Mary Ann served as an ambassador at the Cleveland Clinic, Strongsville, and now serves the Ministry of Prayer.

50 Years

Sister Karen Bernhardt,  
HM, entered the HM Community from St. Joseph Church, Canton and earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland and her Master of Education in religious education from Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Ma. In 46 years of active ministry, Sr. Karen has served in a variety of roles in many different places. She taught at St. Martha School, Akron; served as religion coordinator at St. Martha Parish, Akron; and served in pastoral ministry at Our Lady Help of Christians, Litchfield, in the Cleveland diocese. She also taught at Our Lady of Grace School, Scott Township, in the Pittsburgh diocese. In the Youngstown diocese she served at St. Brendan Parish, Youngstown in pastoral ministry and as director of religious education; at Holy Spirit Parish, Uniontown, as director of religious education; and as the national coordinator of the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network, Inc. Sr. Karen spent three years in the West Palm Beach (Fla.) diocese ministering to the Hispanic population in West Palm Beach, teaching ESL at Martin County Correction, Indiantown, Fla., and acting as resource coordinator at Redlandia Christia, Fellsmere, Fla. She also spent 10 years in the Archdiocese of Chicago working with the Hispanic and homeless communities as a pastoral associate at Providence of God Parish; assistant director at Mission San Jose Obrero Shelter; executive director at Casa de Maria & Pilsen Homeless Health Care; and supportive housing director with the Casa de Maria Resurrection Project. She served in the Toledo diocese as assistant director for outreach and emergency services at En Camino, Office of Catholic Charities, Archbold; director of outreach to Latino families at Lutheran Social Services; and in pastoral care and outreach to immigrants in Fulton, Henry, Williams, and Defiance counties, Ohio. She also served as director of Casa Hospitalidad, San Antonio, Texas in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Sr. Karen currently serves as a councilor on the HM Leadership Team.

Deep gratitude fills my heart. Through 50 years as a Humility of Mary Sister, I have felt the support of my sisters in community as I was called to address emerging needs with those on the margins. I have been blessed to live the HM charism with God’s most vulnerable people. After elementary education and parish ministry, I responded to the call to work with Spanish-speaking farmworkers in Florida, Northwest Ohio and, nationally, with Catholic Migrant Farmworker Ministry. The farmworker community showed me with their deep living faith and care of creation, how to create resilience against risk and hardship and live life abundantly.

My journey also led me to Chicago’s Pilsen barrio where I worked with homeless women and men in an overnight men’s shelter, job office and a transitional housing program for Latina women and children recovering from domestic violence. In recent years, education and advocacy on behalf of trafficked persons have made it clear to me that strong county-wide coalitions are needed.
My life and ministry have been blessed by companions committed “to act justly, love tenderly and walk together with humility”. (Micah 6:8) Together we live Mary’s “YES” in a world of need and possibility.

—Sr. Karen Bernhardt, HM

Sister Carolyn Capuano, HM, entered the community from St. John the Baptist Parish, Canton. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Notre Dame College, Cleveland; her Master of Science from Cleveland State University, and her Master of Theological Spirituality from Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, Ma. She ministered for 17 years in the Cleveland diocese in a variety of roles, including teacher and science department chair; Lourdes Academy, Cleveland; nursing division instructor; St. John College, Cleveland; teacher at Erieview Catholic High School, Cleveland; teacher and campus minister at St. Ignatius High School, Cleveland; and associate director at Jesuit Retreat House, Parma. She also served 13 years in the Pittsburgh diocese as director of ongoing formation while serving on the HM Congregation Leadership Team and director of Villa Maria Retreat Center, Villa Maria. Sr. Carolyn currently serves as the Vice President for Mission and Ministry Services at Mercy Medical Center, Canton, where she has been since 2003.

Celebration of Jubilee invites reflection on my past, present and future as a Sister of the Humility of Mary. I look back with gratitude and remember a loving, faith-filled family that supported me in my discernment to enter religious life and my excellent HM teachers at Canton St. John the Baptist and Central Catholic. I recall touchstone moments, the high emotion and graces of entrance day, reception of the habit, and profession of vows. I recall the challenges and blessings of all the ministries in which I have served and my wonderful companions in mission and ministry. I remember the inspiration of many annual retreats (especially the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises that enabled me to accept a deeper relationship with Jesus, companion, friend, savior). Here and now, I rejoice in the encouraging presence of family, HM Sisters and Associates, and friends in all walks of life and geographical environs. I gratefully serve, helping others through Catholic Health Care and through the ministry of retreat and spiritual direction. I look to a future full of hope (as God reminds us through the prophet Jeremiah). In everything, the Holy One is present, and of God’s fullness I (we) have received, grace upon grace. —Sr. Carolyn Capuano, HM

Sister Mary Pat Cook, HM, entered from St. Christopher Church, Rocky River. She graduated cum laude from Notre Dame College, Cleveland with a Bachelor of Science and earned a Master of Science in Education from Indiana State University, Terra Haute, Ind. During her 40 year ministry in education, Sr. Mary Pat served as a teacher, assistant administrator; and principal at Magnificat High School, Rocky River; and as a teacher at Villa Maria High School, Villa Maria. She served as a councilor on the previous HM Leadership Team and currently serves as the HM Leadership Team First Assistant.

“In response to your call and with joy and gratitude I vow for life to you, my God…”

(HM vow profession)

WOW! 50 years of joy and gratitude (and challenges and learning and life)!

Deep gratitude …

• for an ever-deepening relationship with our faithful God and an unfolding understanding of the Mystery of this One who loves me – and each one of us,

• for the blessing of being part of the transformation of religious life that was in-Spirited by Vatican II and has been lived by so many faith-filled women,

• for all the companions on the journey — my own family, especially my parents and sisters, the prayer-full, wise and fun women of the HM community, the learning and faith communities at Magnificat and Villa Maria High Schools, all those who have touched my life and incarnated God’s presence in my world.

Deep joy … in recognizing daily that “God has done great things for us … for me!”

—Sr. Mary Pat Cook, HM

Sister Kathleen Myers, HM, entered the HM Community from St. John the Baptist Church, Canton. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland and began a 42 year ministry in education in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. Among the places continued on next page
50 Years continued

She has served 32 years in parish ministry as parish secretary at both St. Mary Parish, Warren, and St. Andrew Parish, Sheffield, and administrative assistant at St. Mary Parish, Warren. She has also served as office secretary at St. Joseph Riverside Hospital, Warren; secretary at Emmanuel Community Care Center, Girard; and director of purchasing at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria. Sr. Kathleen currently serves as an administrative assistant at St. Mary Parish, Warren.

Being an HM Sister for the past 50 years has brought many experiences, challenges, and blessings far beyond what I could have ever imagined! The mission of the HM Community has enabled me to use God-given talents in various ministries, the longest being in Parish Ministry (32 years)!

With the support of the Community in my life’s work, and having been blessed with good health, I have reached the YEAR OF JUBILEE!

Appreciating all that has brought me to this point in time, I now begin meditating on the words of St. Paul to the Philippians, as they speak to me:

“(With gratitude) I give (some) thought to what lies behind, but push on to what is ahead. My attention is on the finish line as I run (or, more likely walk) toward the prize to which God calls me—eternal life—in Christ Jesus.”

With God’s continued guidance, I go forward to love and serve the Lord!

—Sr. Kathleen Steiner, HM

Sister Kathleen Steiner, HM

Sister Kathleen Steiner, HM, entered from St. Clement Parish, Navarre. She holds a certificate in Church Music and Liturgy from St. Joseph College, Rensselaer, Ind. Sr. Kathleen spent her early years in ministry at Villa Maria Convent serving as sacristan, in food service, and as director of food service.
Associate communities are invited to a workshop Sept. 25-26 at Villa Maria Community Center. Entitled *Called to Carry the Charism*, the gathering will explore the following:

- How are we, as people of God, called to live the gospel life, empowering ourselves to carry on the charism?
- How are we working to break away from outdated traditions, structures, institutions and ways of doing business?
- As we look at our communities in the next five to 20 years, how will we contribute to collaboration, expansiveness, abundance, mutuality and love?

The workshop will also include quiet reflection and sharing of wisdom among congregations.

**Workshop Presenters**

**Jeanne Connolly**  
*Director of Covenant (Associate) Relationship, Wheaton Franciscans*  
With over 30 years of experience in leadership, management, training and consulting, Jeanne earned a doctorate in adult education from Northern Illinois University with emphasis on human resource and organizational development. She has been a Covenant Member with the Wheaton Franciscans for more than 19 years and has served as the director since 2007. Jeanne currently serves as the Vice President of the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR). She desires to facilitate opportunities for greater wholeness and to affirm how each of us lives out the call of the Spirit in our daily lives.

**Fr. Arthur Carrillo, C.P.**  
*Passionist Congregation; Holy Cross – Province, Chicago*  
Fr. Arthur’s ministries have revolved around the Passionist preaching apostolate both in retreat centers and in parish renewal programs. For six years, he has served on the Passionist Congregation’s General Council in Rome and as director of the Congregation’s Communication Office. Upon returning to the United States, he assumed the responsibilities of local leader for the Passionist Community in Detroit and then in Houston. Since 2010, Fr. Arthur has been assigned to work with the Provincial Office in Park Ridge, Ill. Fr. Arthur also has a licentiate degree in Canon Law (Catholic University of America) and works in English, Spanish and Italian. He also serves on the NACAR board of directors.

For more information on this workshop or becoming a member of the Humility of Mary Associate Community, contact the Humility of Mary Associate Office at 724-964-8920 x3075 or via email at associates20@humilityofmary.org.

**HM Associates:**

- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Have a desire to intensify living the Gospel message
- Understand and value the beliefs, charism and ministries of the HM Community
- Participate actively in the mission and ministries of the congregation
- Complete the Formation process.
Development Milestones

Thanks to Donors Unaccompanied Immigrant Children Get Representation

When a sister brought the urgent need for funds to provide legal representation to unaccompanied children entering the country, the HM community reached out to our donors to help us raise $60,000 to provide emergency support and the funds for one full-time attorney at Americans for Immigrant Justice (AIJ), an HM Ministry Partner.

“Thanks to the support from those who gave to the HM appeal, about 250 children were represented in 2014,” said Cheryl Little, AIJ executive director. “So many children will finally have the opportunity to live life free of abuse and in safety, thanks to you.”

“We are so deeply grateful for the incredible response to this urgent plea,” added Sr. Toby Lardie, HM Pastoral Leader. “I hope each of our benefactors knows they have quite literally saved lives.”

HM Sisters have been involved in improving life in Central and South America for decades, particularly women and children.

Anonymous Donor on the Ball to Help Children

When children come to Villa Maria for a retreat or summer program, games are frequently part of the activities. But there was a problem. The balls, nets and other equipment were left over from Villa Maria High School…which closed in 1989!

Thanks to an anonymous donor, HM Sisters were able to make a grant to Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (VMESC) to replace sports equipment, and for the purchase of a laptop and LCD projector to be used for youth programs.

“We are careful about how we use our resources,” said Sr. Jane Marie Kudlacz, VMESC president, “but there comes a point when things simply give out and have to be replaced. The laptop and LCD projector have been things we have needed for quite a while. We are very grateful for the support that allows us to purchase this equipment.”

External Ministries Receive Direct Support

Over the years, HM Sisters have started several ministries to serve those in need with many becoming successful nonprofits in their own right. For many years, the HM Development office processed and passed along those gifts, even though the ministries may receive gifts directly. In our on-going effort to be more cost effective and maintain compliance with all regulations, the HM Development Office will no longer process gifts for separately incorporated ministries. Here is a list of ministries that are able to receive direct support.

- Magnificat High School, 20770 Hilliard Blvd, Rocky River, OH 44116 (includes Lourdes Academy Scholarship)
- Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center, PO Box 424 Villa Maria, PA 16155
- Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Inc., PO Box 863, Youngstown OH 44501
- Humility of Mary Housing, 3250 W. Market St., Suite 2014, Akron, OH 44333
- Emmanuel Community Care Center, 2 N State Street Girard, OH 44420
- Villa Maria Residential Services, PO Box 230, Villa Maria PA 16155

Contributions for the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking will be temporarily handled by the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. Checks may be made payable to Sisters of the Humility of Mary with “Collaborative” in the memo.
An Idea Worth Spreading
Sr. Anne Victory was among 15 speakers to present at TEDxYoungstown Jan. 23 on the campus of Youngstown State University. Each speaker presented their “Idea Worth Spreading.” A field of over 50 applicants was narrowed down to the 15 who presented. The theme was breaking boundaries. The title of Sr. Anne’s presentation was How Many Slaves Work for You?

GROW Camp Celebrates 10 Years
Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center’s GROW (Gardening Responsibility Once Weekly) camp celebrates 10 years of teaching children the joy of growing their own food. The first GROW camp was held in June 2006 with 21 children and five adults attending. The children planted corn, beans, squash, tomatoes and marigolds. They also fed the sheep, cared for rabbits, made outdoor crafts, swam and did activities with the sisters in Visitation Hall. On the last day of camp the children were able to harvest their “gardens” to take home. Since then the number of GROW campers has grown to over 40 spread out over two days of camp meeting once a week for seven to eight weeks over the summer. Two gardens now, or have in the past, included a multitude of produce. The camp is now open to children ages 5-12 with some of the older children returning to help with the younger children. Last summer, three campers from 2006 helped inaugurate Teen Survivor Camp, a very successful offshoot of GROW Camp.

Sr. Helen Jean Novy is Interim President of MHS
Sr. Helen Jean Novy, HM, has been appointed interim president of Magnificat High School. She began her professional career at Magnificat in 1964, teaching English and Latin. Sr. Helen Jean has also taught in several Youngstown diocesan schools, at Central Catholic High School in Canton and at St. John High School in Ashtabula before returning to Magnificat in 1981. She became director of mission effectiveness in 1992, and was appointed to Magnificat’s senior leadership team in 2007, becoming Magnificat’s vice president of mission. Magnificat High School, a girls’ Catholic college-preparatory high school, founded and sponsored by the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, calls young women to live Mary’s Magnificat in the world.

Special Delivery
In the spirit of the true meaning of the holiday, Sisters, Associates and Staff collected toys and clothing to benefit Catholic Charities, the Emmanuel Community Care Center and Quota International in New Castle. Sr. Barbara Herrmann (left) makes the delivery to a grateful Catholic Charities employee.
Metro Catholic Honors HM Sisters during Catholic Schools Week

During a prayer service celebrating Catholic Schools Week in January, three students from Metro Catholic School in Cleveland dressed up as the founders of the three religious orders who have sisters in ministry at the school: the Sisters of Notre Dame (founder—St. Julie Billiart); the Ursuline Sisters (founder—St. Angela Merici); and the Sisters of the Humility of Mary (founder—Mother Madelaine Potier). Metro Catholic is an elementary school serving students from preschool through 8th grade in the Diocese of Cleveland. Sr. Ruthmary Powers, HM, is part of the Advancement Office at Metro Catholic. National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Schools typically observe the week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

Stitchers Present Sisters with ‘Best Ever’

During its February retreat at the Villa, The French Knot Stitchers, a needle arts group from the Pittsburgh area, presented the Sisters with a framed cross stitch in honor of the 150th anniversary in America of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. Each member of the French Knot group, along with other groups, had a hand in making the beautiful piece, focusing on the many names of Jesus, all masterfully crafted in shades of blue in honor of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, once referred to as the Blue Nuns. The names of all 34 stitchers who stitched the piece are listed on the back of the frame. The stitchers say it’s their best work ever. And the Sisters agree.
Faith-filled Group a Blessing for HM Sister

This year Sr. Jeanne Marie Glorioso [pictured, 1st row, left] is marking 25 years of helping to meet the spiritual needs of a group of women from St. Joseph Parish in Amherst, Ohio. The “Church Ladies,” as they call themselves, have gathered faithfully in prayer with Sr. Jeanne Marie each week. “They tell me that I’ve been a blessing to them, but they’ve also been a blessing to me,” Sr. Jeanne Marie said. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated April 19 in honor of the group.

You Shop. Amazon Gives To VMESC

Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (VMESC) has registered as a charity to be supported through the Amazon Smile Foundation. When you shop at Amazon.com just type http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1153389 into your browser and follow the prompts to designate Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center as the charity you would like to support (you will have to log into your account or create an account if you don’t have one). Once you make the designation, Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of qualifying purchase prices to VMESC at no cost to you.

Centering Prayer

Sr. Mary Therese Berry, a member of Contemplative Outreach Northeast Ohio, presented an Introductory Workshop on Centering Prayer at Christ Our Savior Parish in Struthers, Ohio. Founded by Fr. Thomas Keating, Contemplative Outreach seeks to renew the contemplative dimension of the Gospel in everyday life by sharing the method of Centering Prayer and its immediate conceptual background. For more information, visit coneo.org.
The following programs are provided by Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (VMESC) and will take place at Villa Maria. Please contact Dana Stiger at 724-964-8886 for more information or visit vmesc.org. Additional programs and information are listed on the VMESC website.

**Upcoming Programs**

**Mothers, Sisters, Daughters: Standing on their Shoulders**  
*Presented by Edwina Gateley*  
**Date:** Sun., June 14, 7 p.m.—Fri., June 19, noon  
**Registration Deadline:** Mon., June 1  
**Cost:** $445

Drawing on her recent book of the same title, Edwina will share stories and poetry about women from different walks of life around the globe who have made a difference in the world. We will come to know and be inspired by the lives of some amazing women — both living and dead — environmentalists, poets, mystics, social activists, women in Scripture, martyrs and even some unknown women whose witness, courage and faithfulness will encourage and guide us on our own journeys.

Edwina Gateley’s life has been described by Publisher’s Weekly as “fascinating — an exceptional blend of contemplation and action.” Her journey has led her to teaching in Africa, founding the Volunteer Missionary Movement, sojourning in the Sahara Desert, spending nine months of prayer in a trailer in the woods, and befriending and ministering to street people and women in prostitution. Edwina is a poet, theologian, artist, writer, lay minister, modern-day mystic and prophet, and a single mom. She gives talks, conferences and retreats in the United States and internationally while continuing to reach out to women in recovery from drugs and prostitution.

**A Guided, Contemplative Retreat**  
**Mystics, Visionaries, Prophets—Hildegard, Teilhard & Thomas Berry**  
*Presented by Maureen Wild, SC, M.Ed.*  
**Date:** Sun., July 12, 7 p.m.—Sat., July 18, noon  
**Registration Deadline:** Wed., July 1  
**Cost:** $495

Reflect on the lives and pray with the wisdom of three mystics within the Christian tradition who celebrated the cosmos and earth as “afire with Spirit.” This retreat offers a unique balance between a guided, contemplative retreat and a preached retreat. Each day begins with prayer and a morning conference followed by silence and enjoying one’s solitude to reflect, read, pray, rest, walk. Later in the afternoon, there will be a second reflective session to complement and further explore the spirit of Hildegard, Teilhard or Thomas Berry. Optional activities are a dimension of this retreat, with guidance and invitation into creative expression, or to view a specially chosen film, or to participate in a listening circle.

Maureen Wild, SC, M.Ed. is a speaker, teacher and retreat guide. Her graduate studies and primary ministry since 1993 have focused on themes of Sacred Ecology. Sr. Maureen served as director of two spiritual-based ecological learning centres (US and Canada) and she is currently developing PaxGaia Educational and Retreat Initiatives. She is one of the Catholic Sisters featured in the book Green Sisters: A Spiritual Ecology (Harvard University Press, 2007). She currently lives on the west coast of British Columbia.

**Walking with God in an Evolutionary Universe**  
*Presented by John Surette, SJ*  
**Date:** Fri., Sept. 18, 7 p.m.—Sun., Sept. 20, noon  
**Registration Deadline:** Wed., Sept. 9  
**Cost:** $195

In this retreat we will consider the modern Universe Story, the presence and activity of God within the Story, and some new understandings of what it means for us to be walking with God as participants in that sacred Story.

John Surette, SJ, is a member of the New England Province of Jesuits and has been a priest for almost 50 years. He has degrees in chemistry, philosophy, and theology. For 16 years he worked in the Caribbean islands and territories as a chemistry teacher, adult educator, and community organizer. For the past 20 years he has traveled around North America giving retreats and workshops on eco-spirituality and cosmological themes. He currently lives in a suburb of Chicago where he is involved with SpiritEarth, a center for spirituality, contemplation, and justice for the Ecozoic Age and also with The Well, an eco-spirituality center. The focus of his life continues to be listening to the primary revelation — God’s Universe and its Earth — and assisting other to listen as well.
Thomas Merton: A Trustworthy Guide on the Path to God  
Presented by James Finley  
Co-Sponsored by the Sisters of the Humility of Mary  
Date: Thurs., Oct. 29, 7 p.m.—Sun., Nov. 1, noon  
Registration Deadline: Thurs., Oct. 15  
Cost: $395  
A silent retreat in which James Finley will guide us in an in-depth, experiential exploration of the spiritual wisdom found in the life and writings of Thomas Merton. An emphasis will be given to Merton’s consoling insights into the unexpected intimacy in which God comes to us in the silence and poverty of our minds and hearts. Attention will also be given to the ways in which Merton’s voice echoes with the ancient wisdom of Christian and non-Christian sources of mystical wisdom down the ages. Time will be given for periods of meditation, personal reflection and discussion of the themes presented.

Turning to Thomas Merton as Our Guide in Contemplative Living  
Presented by James Finley  
Date: Thurs., Oct. 29, 7 p.m.  
Registration Deadline: Thurs., Oct. 15  
Cost: $15  
This special evening presentation is open to the public and the first session for those participating in the Thomas Merton: A Trustworthy Guide on the Path to God retreat. In this evening gathering James Finley will explore the spiritual teachings of the Christian monk and author Thomas Merton. Finley will draw his insights from Merton’s writings and from his experience of having had Thomas Merton as his spiritual director when he lived with Merton as a monk at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky. Time will be given for a brief period of shared silent prayer and discussion of the themes presented.

James Finley, Ph.D., lived as a monk at the cloistered Trappist monastery of the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky, where the world-renowned monk and author Thomas Merton, was his spiritual director. Finley leads retreats and workshops throughout the United States and Canada, attracting men and women from all religious traditions who seek to live a contemplative way of life in the midst of today’s busy world. He is also a clinical psychologist in private practice with his wife in Santa Monica, Calif.

In this era of drones and photos of various locations on GOOGLE MAPS, these views of the Villa shown from aloft are separated by about 60 years. The 1955 aerial photo shows the recent construction of Marian and Assumption Halls built for the sick and infirm sisters and for the growing size of the novitiate. In the 21st century photo taken only a few years ago, the Villa appears as it is today.
In Loving Memory

Sister Concilio Joseph, H.M.,
the former Mary Jane Joseph, died
Sat., Nov. 15, 2014 at Villa Maria
Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa.
She was born Dec. 18, 1930 in
Niles, Ohio, a daughter of Fred and
Bader (Kalil) Joseph. She graduated
from McKinley High School, Niles,
Ohio, in 1939 and entered the Sisters of the Humility of
Mary in 1944.

After earning her Bachelor of Science in Education
from St. John College, Cleveland, Ohio, Sister Concilio
dedicated 34 years to active ministry as a teacher
in parish schools in the Cleveland and Youngstown
dioceses.

In the Cleveland Diocese she taught at Annunciation
and St. Martha in Akron; St. Cecilia, Cleveland; St. Albert
the Great, North Royalton, and St. Mary, Painesville.
In the Youngstown Diocese she served at St. Louis,
Louisville and St. Edward, Youngstown.

She returned to Villa Maria Community Center in the
Pittsburgh Diocese 31 years ago where she assisted
with laundry services and was known for her creative
decorations in the dining room. At the time of her
death she was serving in the Ministry of Prayer with
her sisters.

Sister Concilio is survived by her sisters-in-law, Evelyn
Joseph, Niles, Ohio, and Catherine Joseph, Niles, Ohio,
many nieces and nephews and their families and her
sisters in the Humility of Mary Community with whom
she shared her life for 70 years. She was preceded in
death by her parents, her brothers, J. Leo, Edward, Cleo
[Kelly], Michael, Thomas and George Joseph, and her
sisters, Nora and Vera Joseph.

Sister Mary Cabrini Durkee,
H.M., the former Marjorie
Durkee, died Sat., Dec. 6, 2014 at
Villa Maria Community Center,
Villa Maria, Pa. She was born in
Akron, Ohio, to Ferdinand Hayes
Durkee and Carrie (Seibold)
Durkee on March 4, 1929. She
entered the Sisters of the Humility of
Mary in 1950.

Sister Mary Cabrini ministered for 57 years in the
Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Youngstown dioceses. In
the Cleveland diocese she served as school secretary
and was involved in various activities in the parish at
St. Raphael, Bay Village. In the Youngstown Diocese
she was assigned to the kitchen at Central Catholic
High School, Canton. Most of her ministry years
were given to serving in various capacities at Villa
Maria Community Center in the Pittsburgh diocese
including 23 years in the convent kitchen, six years
as coordinator of the residence hall for the Retreat
Center, and 11 additional years assisting in food
service and transportation for her sisters. Sister Mary
Cabrini served with her sisters in the Ministry of
Prayer at the time of her death.

Sister Mary Cabrini was preceded in death by
her parents, two brothers, Robert Durkee and
James Durkee, and her sister, Sister Mary Raymund
Durkee, HM.

She is survived by a brother, Paul Durkee, Akron,
Ohio, nieces and nephews and their families, and her
sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation.
Sister Anna Marie Fisher, H.M., formerly Sr. Labouré, died Wed., Dec. 17, 2014 at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa. She was born on Dec. 7, 1925, a daughter of George M. and Edna (Englehart) Fisher of Kent, Ohio. Sister Anna Marie graduated from Roosevelt High School, Kent, Ohio, in 1942 and entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary in 1951. She completed her training as a registered nurse at St. Thomas Hospital School of Nursing, Akron, Ohio and earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.

Sister Anna Marie served in the ministry of health care as a registered nurse for 36 years. In the Cleveland diocese she was assigned to The Rose-Mary Home, Euclid and to the former St. Joseph Hospital, Lorain.

In the Youngstown diocese she served for 29 years as a pediatric nurse at St. Joseph Riverside Hospital, Warren. She was also an RN at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown.

Sister Anna Marie was a nurse in the sisters’ infirmary at Villa Maria Community Center in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and provided transportation service for the sisters in her later years. She served in the ministry of prayer with her sisters until the time of her death.

Sister Anna Marie was preceded in death by her parents. Also deceased is a brother, Larry Fisher. She is survived by her brother, Tom Fisher; Kent, Ohio, two sisters, Dorothy McMahon, Cleveland, Ohio, and Susan Lanning, Kent, Ohio, nieces and nephews and their families, and her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation with whom she shared her life for 64 years.

Sister Damian Schirmer, H.M., the former Geraldine “Gerry” Schirmer, died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015 at Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa. She was born Feb. 22, 1931 in Shaker Heights, Ohio, to Frank and Catherine (O’Donnell) Schirmer. She graduated from Maple Heights High School, Maple Heights, Ohio, in 1948 and entered the Sisters of the Humility of Mary in 1951. She earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, Ohio, and her Master of Ministry from Seattle University, Seattle, Wash.

Sister Damian served for 52 years in the ministries of education, parish ministry and as spiritual care minister and hospice chaplain in the Cleveland, Youngstown and Pittsburgh dioceses and in the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

In the Atlanta archdiocese she was a pioneer in team ministry and PSR education serving from 1967-75 at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Smyrna and at Corpus Christi Parish, Stone Mountain.

In the Cleveland diocese she served at Mt. Pleasant Catholic Elementary Education Center, Cleveland as secretary/bookkeeper; and as teacher and principal at St. Christopher, Rocky River.

In the Youngstown diocese she taught at St. Anthony, St. John the Baptist, and St. Paul Schools in Canton, and at St. Patrick, Kent. She served as a pastoral minister at St. Anthony, Canton and in the office at Sacred Heart Parish, Canton. She served with Stark County Hospice and Visiting Nurse, Canton. As a chaplain she ministered at St. Joseph Health Center, Warren and St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown and was a spiritual care minister for Hospice of the Valley, Humility of Mary Health Partners, Youngstown/Warren.

In the Pittsburgh diocese she was a pastoral minister at St. Agatha School of Religion, Ellwood City and was Religious Education Coordinator at Our Lady of Grace School, Pittsburgh. At Villa Maria Community Center she served her sisters in the Pastoral Care department and then joined them in the Ministry of Prayer: At the time of her death she witnessed to the ministry of faith-filled presence.

Sister Damian was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Anne Marie Dever, and a brother Edward Schirmer. She is survived by sisters-in-law Clar Schirmer, Gambrills, Md., and Nancy Dever, Pittsburgh, Pa., seven nieces and nephews and their families, a cousin, Pat Leib-Plottner, Canton, Ohio, and her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation with whom she shared her life for 65 years.
Discover What's Growing at Villa Maria

Greenhouse: Now Open
Hanging Baskets
Patio Flower Pots • Geraniums
New Guinea Impatiens
Gerber Daisies • Pansies
Petunias • Snapdragons
Zinnias • Vegetable
Starts • Herbs
Perennial Flowers

Farm Market: To Open June 25
Seasonal produce, including
Lettuce • Onions • Zucchini
Fresh Cut Herbs • Escarole • Garlic
Cucumbers • Blueberries • Peppers
Tomatoes • Eggplant • Broccoli • & More

Naturally grown without synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides

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