

*HM*  
Sisters of the Humility of Mary

# Voice

*"Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world."*

*- Pope Francis*



**IN THIS ISSUE:** Introducing a new recurring series, **Villa Sisters Spotlight**, where we'll highlight sisters living at the Villa

**HM Voice**

Volume 39, Issue No. 2

**HM Voice** is a publication of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

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**Cover Photo:**

Among her many ministries in “retirement,” Sr. Mary Elizabeth Henaughan serves in Magnificat Chapel as sacristan.

Special thanks to Sister Joanne Gardner

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

Dear friends,

That the United States is aging is new to no one of us. This will continue as those over 65 comprise the highest percentage age group in the country.

We Sisters of the Humility of Mary are no exception with a median age approaching 80. Yet, as with the population at large, especially those economically blessed and healthy, seniors are increasingly active and engaged.

With this issue of the *HM Voice* we introduce a new series sharing the ministries and outreach of our Villa sisters, an engaged, dedicated, generous,..... and aging group. These are ones so many of you, our friends and former students, knew as your teachers, mentors, nurses, caregivers, inspirations, and parish staff members.

As we feature in this issue what some HM Sisters are about these days, I invite you to reflect on the words of Kathleen Dowling Singh (1946-2017), author, therapist, and teacher.

*To live a life of an elder is to ripen into being that is more than simply elderly, more than just old. It involves ripening into clear-eyed acceptance of the way things actually exist. That ripening involves, for each of us, many difficult reckonings in the multifaceted, multidimensional understanding that everything that can be lost will be lost...*

*If we are to claim the last years of life as years that hold the possibility of awakening into equanimity and lightness, into the very embodiment of grace, we need to bear witness to the ripening of that possibility. Not only would it be a blessing for each of us, it would be a blessing for a world starving for such witnessing...*

Our sisters do continue to bless our world through their lives and witness. Enjoy reading some of their stories!

This issue of the *HM Voice* is scheduled to reach you as our country celebrates Thanksgiving. How blessed we are, we who enjoy freedom, safety, community, well-being, love, and a life of faith. This Thanksgiving, please know that you are in the prayers of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary with much gratitude.

*"I thank my God whenever I think of you, and every time I pray for you, I pray with joy."  
(Philippians 1:3-4)*

May we who are blessed pray for and share our every blessings with those in need.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Lovingly,



Sr. Carol Anne Smith, HM  
Pastoral Leader



**Leadership  
Team**

Sr. Margaret Marszal  
Sr. Annette Solma

Sr. Anne Victory  
Sr. Carol Anne Smith, Pastoral Leader

# Spirit of Sisters' Mission Inspires Others to Carry it Forward

By *Kylene Kamensky*

From their earliest ministries in education and healthcare to working with migrant farm workers and immigrants, serving the needs of the community has always been at the heart of the HM mission.

As sisters have transitioned from sponsors to supporters, other groups have taken up the spirit of that mission to carry it forward into the future. Mercy Health Lorain Hospital is one such place rising to the occasion and investing in its community.

Part of the Bon Secours Mercy Health system, Mercy Health Lorain Hospital grew into its current organization through a series of mergers of a few local hospitals that were established by several religious orders and community groups. The Sisters of the Humility of Mary took over St. Joseph Hospital in 1927 and sponsored it until it merged with Lorain Community Hospital in 1994. While they are legacy sponsors

and therefore no longer in charge of running the day-to-day operations of the hospital, HM Sisters continue to serve in various capacities.

The Mercy Health Foundation Lorain currently has several initiatives that were either begun by HM Sisters or to which the sisters contribute funding through their yearly Ministry Endowment Fund grants.

## Rising Stars Program

One of the foundation's initiatives is the Rising Stars program, which will be celebrating its 20th anniversary next year. This one-month paid internship program is a partnership with the Lorain County Urban League and offers high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors the opportunity to explore healthcare careers.

According to Catherine Woskobnick, the Director of Community Health who oversees the initiatives supported by Mercy Health Foundation Lorain, the goal of the program is "to create

a pipeline to increase the diverse individuals that work in the hospital."

When she was approached by then president, Ed Oley, to start the Rising Stars program, Catherine's background in education allowed her to develop a curriculum that allows students to experience personal development as well as shadow healthcare professionals throughout the hospital.

"My goal is to erase whatever barriers they think they have and to empower them to tell their own stories," Catherine said. "They shadow different jobs they're interested in, learn how to do public-speaking, and do a weekly summary paper about what they learned that week. The goal is to believe in these kids so they can accomplish their dreams."

Students can participate in the program for multiple years, and Catherine said that the support continues beyond graduation. Securing reference letters, providing supplies such as laptops and study aids, and staying in touch with the 100 students who have moved through the program are just a few of the ways Catherine and the Rising Stars program continues to support their graduates.

The first medical school graduate to come out of the program finished his schooling in 2021; two more graduated in 2022, so there are now three Rising Stars participants in



**Parris Smith [second from left] packs diapers for the Resource Mothers program during her time with Rising Stars.**

their residencies. Six more program graduates are currently in medical school.

While a number of program participants have gone into healthcare fields such as nursing and physical therapy, others have taken the skills they learned and gone on to serve their community as teachers, attorneys, and organizational leaders.

Parris Smith is one of those Rising Stars participants who thought her path lay in healthcare, but she found that path diverging while she was pursuing her degree in respiratory care therapy.

Parris was part of the first three classes of students to participate in the Rising Stars program. When she was in high school, she had made the decision to pursue a career in healthcare because it would provide her with a steady work schedule.

“My mom has worked in factories all of our lives,” Parris said, “and so she works swing shifts. I wanted to go into healthcare because I wanted to work three 12-hour shifts. I just wanted to be able to be at home with my family. That’s why I wanted to be in the internship program—because I wanted to get exposed and really know what career path to do.”

Parris changed career paths after her clinical rotations, and Catherine and the Rising Stars program were there



In 2021, Jordan Brown, became the Rising Stars program’s first medical school graduate.



In 2022, Chynna Smith was one of two medical school graduates that came through the Rising Stars program at Mercy Health Lorain.

to support her as she got her degree in psychology instead. While pursuing that psychology degree, Parris served as a student coordinator for the Rising Stars program. It was during this time that she began to see that

skills she was developing could help her serve her community in a different way than she originally thought.

“Serving as the student coordinator was a great way to define leadership for me and show me that I could do that,” Parris said. “I had never thought of it as leadership development. I just knew that I understood this system and I’m good at doing this.”

She credits Rising Stars and the support she received after with how

The Mercy Health Foundation Lorain currently has several initiatives that were either begun by HM Sisters or to which the sisters contribute funding through their yearly Ministry Endowment Fund grants.

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she became the youngest president currently in the National Urban League movement.

After completing her bachelor's degree, an introduction from Catherine put Parris in touch with the president of the Lorain County Urban League. That introduction led to a job opportunity to run the Rising Stars program on the Urban League's side of things—she functioned as the conduit between Mercy and the Urban League—made possible by a grant from the Mercy Health Lorain Foundation.

While serving in this role, she had the opportunity to further her professional development, eventually taking on the responsibility of running other Urban

League programs and becoming interim president. She currently serves the organization as President and CEO and began serving as a board member at Mercy Health Lorain in January 2022.

“The importance for me is to have programs like this in our community that can cultivate leaders, even when our students aren't clear on what direction they want to go in,” Parris said. “It helps them recognize that they have great transferable skills that need to be cultivated and can be used in different job career fields.

As a black woman from the community that I'm from, it's important to show other black kids that they can not only be the president of organizations, but

that they can obtain education, they can obtain wealth, and they can make a large impact in the community that they grew up in, and being able to see a true reflection of our community in the staff at Mercy is part of that. This was really imprinted in me from the mission of Mercy and my relationship with Sr. Carol Anne Griswold, HM, who is one of my mentors. Just being able to hear her story and see the impact that the Sisters of the Humility of Mary have made—at the end of the day, as we're serving people, we're serving them with the intention of the mission that we had so many years ago, which is extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.”

### Resource Mothers

The Resource Mothers program is another initiative of the Mercy Health Foundation Lorain. Begun 28 years ago by the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, this program provides support to new mothers throughout their pregnancies and for the first full year of their children's lives. The aim is to “enhance birth outcomes, promote healthy behaviors, and empower the parent by assisting them with connections to various community services.” The HM Sisters have supported the Resource Mothers program through their Ministry Endowment Fund (MEF) grants since 2013.

“Annually, we care for about 350 moms a year,” Catherine said. “We try to make sure they have access to everything they need to get through the pregnancy. We support them with

**Parris Smith, the youngest president currently in the National Urban League movement, heads the Lorain County Urban League as President and CEO. She came through the Rising Stars program at Mercy Health Lorain and is also sister to Chynna Smith, one of the program's 2022 medical school graduates.**



all the social determinants of health—so if they need food, diapers, formula, help paying rent—we help them get access. We also have bilingual support because 29% of Lorain’s population is Spanish speaking.”

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, social determinants of health (SDOH) are “the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.”

SDOH can be grouped into five domains: economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context.

These factors can contribute to health disparities and inequities, so the Resource Mothers program seeks to correct some of these imbalances to create healthier outcomes for all the families they serve.

“Our goals are that we want the mom’s gestational period to reach at least 37 weeks,” Catherine related.

“As a black woman from the community that I’m from, it’s important to show other black kids that they can not only be the president of organizations, but that they can obtain education, they can obtain wealth, and they can make a large impact in the community that they grew up in — and being able to see a true reflection of our community in the staff at Mercy is part of that.

— Parris Smith  
 Rising Stars Graduate  
 President and CEO, Lorain County Urban League

“We also want to make sure that the baby weighs at least 5.8 pounds to meet national standards. Finally, at the end of the first year, we want to make sure the baby has achieved all of its immunizations. We seek their human dignity, which is exactly what the Sisters of the Humility of Mary would want us to do.”

### Parish Nursing

Catherine also has another initiative under her direction, the Parish Nursing program.

Parish Nursing was started 29 years ago by Sr. Carole Anne Griswold, HM, with the mission to “improve the health of the community, with an emphasis on people who face economic barriers to health care.”

“For many program participants, the basic screenings provided at local houses of worship are their only point of contact with health care,” Catherine said. “We now have 85 churches and congregations



Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Retrieved [October 6, 2022], from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>

throughout Lorain County where we have parish nurses, and we have 200 volunteers. We focus on blood pressure, blood glucose, and we also do a full blood panel. We normally average 12,000 free tests annually. The program serves a diverse range of congregations, and non-practicing members of the community are welcome.”

Other components to the Parish Nursing Program are exercise classes and support groups. Catherine related that about 15,000 people attend the free exercise class offerings annually and they are in the process of creating support groups to address diverse needs.

In fact, a chronic pain support group named *United in Glory* was created during COVID for people of color and another group, Thrive, was created for people in the southern portion of the county. It’s through initiatives like these that the spirit of the HM mission continues to touch lives in Lorain County.

# Humility of Mary Volunteer Service Alumni: Where Are They Now?

By Ellen Divers, Director, HMVS Alumni

Sr. Kathleen King, HM, who founded Humility of Mary Volunteer Service over 30 years ago, always told all volunteers and alumni of HMVS that “once you are a part of the HM Community, you are a part of us forever.”

These words ring true with HMVS alumni as they continue to feel the impact of the HM connection and that of their volunteer experience with Humility of Mary Volunteer Service. That connection lives on in their daily lives many years later, even after the program came to completion in 2019.

When HMVS alumni are asked how they continue living the mission of HMVS, “to bring more abundant life to God’s people, especially to those who are poor, by striving to meet the needs of others through our service in many different ministries,” they can easily identify ways that the mission still impacts their lives and that of their families. They were once, and continue to be, invited “to be generous individuals, partners in mission, who bring life-giving service and love to persons who are poor, weak, and oppressed.”

So how are some of the HMVS alums continuing to live that invitation?



## Julia Matson Chillan, Chile | 2008-2009

In 2008, I had the opportunity through HMVS to serve at a women’s center and in other community settings in Chillan, Chile. My time there changed my life and continues to shape and impact me in many ways. Currently, I live in Chicago with my husband (who I met in Chile!), our three children, and dog. I work as a supervisor and trauma therapist with children who have experienced sexual abuse and chronic, complex trauma.

My volunteer experience deepened my resolve to advocate for wholeness, healing, and well-being, especially as I accompany those who have been wounded and haven’t always been able to speak their truth. I use the Spanish language skills I honed in Chile on a daily basis, both in my home and in my work. I will forever be grateful for the ways that my time in Chile helped me to connect to a rich love, spirituality, and sense of community with all living beings.

I continue to be inspired by the HM Sisters’ ability to maintain community and contemplation while serving in, creating, and leading a wide variety of organizations, especially in education and healthcare.



**Meagen Farrell  
(Huelsenbeck) Howe**  
Cleveland, Ohio | 2004-2005

I volunteered in 2004-05, mainly based at the West Side Catholic Center in Cleveland, Ohio, under my maiden name Meagen Huelsenbeck. During my service year, I was able to try out many different aspects of the HM mission to “meet needs, especially those of people who are poor.”

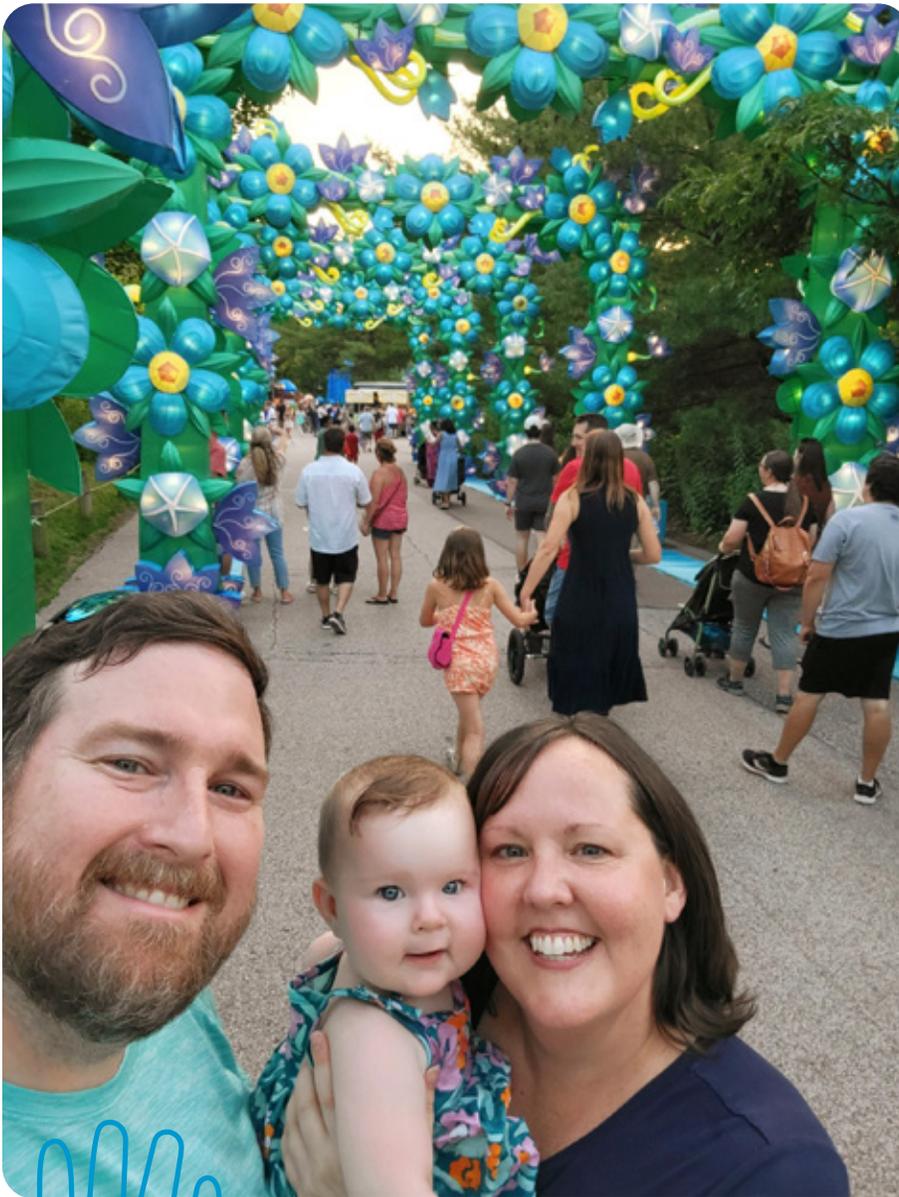
Through tutoring, I discovered a passion for adult basic education, which I learned is a major root of poverty in our country and around the world. After my service year, I became an adult literacy site coordinator, tutor trainer, author, and national teacher trainer in adult basic education. After much soul searching, our family recently moved from Ashtabula County to Kent, Ohio, so I can pursue a PhD in Educational Technology.

During my service year I met Evan Howe, who served in HMVS for a summer in Immokalee, Fla. He has become my partner in ministry, parenting (two boys), home repair, and life.

My current professional name is Meagen Farrell and you can find my work updates at [blog.mustseed.org](http://blog.mustseed.org). I balance four part-time roles: marriage and parenting adolescents, doctoral studies, catechist and materials maker for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), and communications specialist for the Diocese of Youngstown.

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**Emily (Shurilla) Montgomery**

**Immokalee, Fla. | 2001– 02**

Twenty-one years after serving as an HM Volunteer in Immokalee, Fla., I still appreciate and value what that experience taught me about humility and humanity, and those lessons led me to a career in social work. Some of the relationships I made during my volunteer year laid the foundation for how I have approached clients and designed programs over my career. Humility has been a key component of all of that work – taking the time to truly listen to others, to hear their story and their viewpoint, leads to more effective connections and services.

Currently, I serve as part of the leadership team at Boys Hope Girls Hope in Garfield Heights, Ohio. My husband, Josh, and I welcomed our daughter, Hannah, into the world last December. Being a mother is definitely the hardest and most rewarding role I’ve ever had – and I wouldn’t trade that blessing for a moment. Our family attends St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick, where we especially enjoy the sense of community and the spirit of stewardship there, and look forward to getting more involved.



## Margaret (Gleeson) Benze

Immokalee, Fla. | 2008-2010

I served as an HMVS volunteer in Immokalee, Fla. from 2008-2010- two of the most important and formative years of my life. A lot has changed since my time in Immokalee. I've moved through a few cities and jobs, now landing in the small-town Cazenovia, N.Y. I live with my husband Hans, our two young kids Henry and Josie, and our sweet dog Darla.

My time in Immokalee taught me that we all have both the responsibility and the ability to make positive change in the world. The work is hard, sometimes joyful, and always made easier when we're working as a community.

I am now a fundraiser for *Al Otro Lado*, a non-profit based at the US-Mexico border that provides legal and humanitarian aid to migrants. As I hear the stories of extremely vulnerable migrants who have conquered impossible odds in their journey towards safety and justice, I feel outrage at the unnecessary suffering at the border. I also truly believe that a better world is possible, and I am continually grateful for my community of support (including amazing HMVS alums!) who help keep that belief alive.



# Women Religious Archive Collaborative [WRAC] Formed to Preserve Congregation Histories

By Sr. Joanne Gardner, HM Archivist

“We are celebrating the 75th anniversary of our parish and I’m wondering if you can provide some history and photos of the sisters who served here?” “My grandfather belonged to St. James parish in New Bedford in the early 1900s. Would you have the location of his grave?” “When did HM Sisters serve in El Salvador?” Inquiries like these and others come to the archives of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary regularly. For some the archives has answers and for others it does not.

Since 1977 a sister has been assigned to organize and maintain the non-current records that tell the history of the HM congregation, thus keeping the mission and charism of the sisters alive. As the number of sisters declines and the median age continues to increase there will come a day when these records will need to be kept where someone trained in the art and science of archival work will be stewarding the collection.

The Sisters of the Humility of Mary are not alone in facing the reality of this challenge. The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) gathered statistics in 2020 from 404 congregations. These numbers give a picture of the need for regional and national plans for consolidating the management and long-term preservation of the archives of women religious.

Of the 404 congregations 15% have fewer than 10 members while 40% have fewer than 25 members. At the same time 50% of women religious are 80+ years of age. While the HM Community numbers about 100 members, the median age is now 80.

Thus we along with others recognize the need to preserve and make accessible our congregation’s history and the impactful lives and work of our sisters for research, learning and educational programming.

Nearly five years ago in 2018 congregational archivists began the conversation about preservation planning. A gathering at Boston College that year produced the working paper “*Preserving the Past, Building for the Future*” and the ball was set in motion.

In 2020 work was begun in this geographic area with archives consultant Ellen Pierce and The Sisters of Charity Foundation in Cleveland. Cleveland Ursuline Sister Susan Durkin agreed to lead the project.

WRAC is a 501c3 corporation listed in the state of Ohio and is now included in the Official Catholic Directory. WRAC has a Board of Directors who have approved their Code of Regulations and By-Laws to function as a non-profit.

A concept paper was issued and invitations were sent to member congregations in LCWR Regions 4 and 6. This was followed up with a needs assessment survey and interviews with the interested congregations. To date 15 congregations throughout Ohio, Kentucky and Western Pennsylvania have expressed an interest in forming such a collaborative space; the Sisters of the Humility of Mary are among them. The group is also participating in a national conversation to network geographically located regional archival centers.

It is important to develop a collaborative archives and heritage center in northeast Ohio that provides a needed solution for the storage and professional management of

congregational archives that is affordable for any size congregation.

Most of these 15 congregations are small and independent congregations rather than members of larger international groups. Many of the larger congregations have already started to combine their archival materials in a designated location including the Sisters of Mercy.

The goal is to establish a permanent space open to research, education, and programming to encourage ongoing learning and education about Catholic sisters and the issues important to them that will inspire future generations. The archives will also be virtually linked to other archives across the country.

The national strategy is underway with regional centers planned for Boston College, St. Mary's College, Ind., Santa Clara University, Calif., and the WRAC in Cleveland.

The planning strategy for WRAC began in 2021 and is anticipated to extend into 2024. Preliminary work revolves around such details as developing legal documents, engaging in a capital campaign to raise funds to construct a new space and create an endowment, determining future staffing, developing protocols and procedures. And, of course, finding the physical location for the center which is already underway.

The goal is to establish a permanent space open to research, education, and programming to encourage ongoing learning and education about Catholic sisters and the issues important to them that will inspire future generations. The archives will also be virtually linked to other archives across the country.



**Sr. Joanne Gardner delicately handles this original composition by Mother Anna Tabourat, which is on permanent display in the Heritage Room. Mother Anna's music is still used by the HM Community during celebrations, and it is just one of many artifacts housed in the HM Archives.**

Collaboration is not new to these congregations including the HM congregation. In the last 20 years alone we have the examples of the creation of the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking in 2006; involvement with the LCWR exhibit "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America" which was on display in the spring and summer of 2010; and the local exhibit "Progress and Promise: Sisters Serving Northeast Ohio" that became a traveling display. The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation committee [JPIC] under the

Conference of Religious Leadership [CORL] is another collaboration in the Cleveland diocese.

Sr. Susan Durkin, WRAC Project Manager and member of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, Ohio, enthusiastically observed, "the creation of this archive center will offer future generations a great resource and gift. Those who may never be directly impacted by a vowed religious will now have the advantage and knowledge to seek and learn."

Picturing scholars, researchers including genealogists, even families on vacation in the Cleveland area who seek to spend time in the WRAC is a dream that in a few years will be able to come true. And if not a physical visit then a virtual one—all because today's congregations of women religious are experiencing a strong and unmistakable call to preserve the past and to build for the future.



# Villa Sisters Spotlight

By *Kylene Kamensky*

**Catholic Sisters don't retire, they merely change ministries.** Welcome to a new ongoing series where we will highlight some "retired" sisters living at the Villa and the ways they are still serving and listening to where God is calling them.

## Sr. Mary Jean "Midge" DiMatteo

After promising herself that she would retire on her 80th birthday, Sr. Midge DiMatteo officially left Emmanuel Community Care Center in 2018. She had served as receptionist there for six years making appointments for people needing services and helping out with other duties around the office, such as packing groceries for client pick up.

While she may not be out in active ministry, she has plenty to keep her busy these days. Sr. Midge is part of the HM Prayer Ministry, where she includes specific intentions into her daily prayers; the Villa Sisters' prayer shawl ministry, Prayer Shawls, Etc., where she crochets shawls and blankets for donation to various local organizations; and acts as floor rep for her Villa residence floor.

She also helps plan liturgies for Magnificat Chapel.

"I like helping and giving to people," Sr. Midge said of her current ministries, "so that's fulfilling to me. I think it's deepened my faith a lot and it's deepened my relationship with the Trinity. Every morning I pray for maybe an hour, and then after lunch, I go to our little chapel on the third floor, and I pray some more there.



**Sr. Midge DiMatteo is working on her latest crochet project for the Prayer Shawls, Etc. ministry.**

And then in the evening, I go back to that little chapel and pray another half hour."

In addition to all those activities, Sr. Midge is also in the process of editing her autobiography that she began writing in 2016. She completed her draft in 2019 and is now in the process of editing it with the help of Sr. Margaret Daniels. She hopes to publish it one day.

"It's about my life, and it's more like my journey," she said. "It's called *My Intertwining Journey* because I was with the Humility of Mary for ten years, and then I left for ten years. I entered another community for 25 years, 27 years, I think it was, and then I transferred back to the Humility of Mary. I always wanted to come back here because this is my home. So it's about that whole process of discernment, growing up in a small town, and having fun."

## Sr. Mary Elizabeth Henaughan (Sr. Agnella)

Sr. Mary Elizabeth Henaughan retired from teaching in the mid-1990s after nearly 40 years in education. After taking a sabbatical, she ministered as a patient care aide in the Canton area. It was during this time she saw that some of her homebound patients had difficulty getting to the hair salon for a number of reasons.

In response to this need, Sr. Mary Elizabeth decided to pursue her cosmetology license and ended up creating a mobile hair salon to take the service to her clients.

“I got the van, and I had a man put in a cabinet,” she said of how her hair mobile ministry began. “We

took the back seat out, and that’s where I stored everything I needed. Then I could get the dryer and carry everything I needed on a little cart. That’s how I went into the homes.”

After providing her mobile stylist services for about five years, Sr. Mary Elizabeth came back to the Villa to provide those services for her sisters. She still does hair five days a week.

“I will do it on Saturdays if I have to,” she said, “but I don’t do it on Sunday. And I have to fit that into my sacristy work.”

In addition to providing cosmetology services, Sr. Mary Elizabeth also serves as sacristan in Magnificat Chapel, where she has served for nearly 20 years.

In her role as sacristan, Sr. Mary Elizabeth is in charge of the care of the sacristy and its contents. Getting the chapel environment ready for services, checking all the lights, taking care of the vestments, plants, and flowers, decorating for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Ordinary Time, and taking care of all the materials that go into creating those environments keep her pretty busy. She does have a few Villa Maria apartment residents that assist her with some of the work.

Sr. Mary Elizabeth also serves in the HM Ministry of Prayer and in the Prayer Shawls, Etc. ministry. She enjoys all her ministries because they allow her to spread love at the Villa and beyond.

“Each day I pray for all the people on my list, and all the sisters that live here, and all the employees,” Sr. Mary Elizabeth said. “I have a prayer chair, and I don’t do anything in that chair but pray. I open the Necrology book and see who has died this day that we are remembering, and then I have a journal and I write what I’m thankful for that day—for the sun that’s rising or the sun that’s not going to come up today and the rain that will fall. I have a section where I write virtues that I think I have and gifts that I might have to give, and they’re always the same. I repeat them every day. I also choose a word of the day that I bring with me all day—today’s word was gratitude—and I think about it often during the day. Then I take the gospel and I read that, and I meditate with that. And after I’ve meditated, then I will write thoughts that come to me, or what I hear God asking of me. I know what I’m doing is how God has asked me to love.”



Sr. Mary Elizabeth Henaughan takes care of many aspects of Magnificat Chapel as sacristan, including flower arrangements like this one.

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From left to right: Sr. Eileen Corrigan, Sr. Barbara Herrmann, and Sr. Susanne Gill enjoy a cup a coffee and conversation.

### Sr. Barbara Herrmann (Sr. Leo)

Sr. Barbara Herrmann began her ministry in education where she served as a teacher and principal for 35 years. After leaving education, she began working in the Villa Finance Office taking care of payroll for another 15 years and officially retired in 2008.

But she didn't want a break, and so she looked around for somewhere else to serve.

"I can't just sit still," Sr. Barbara said. "I have to be on the go and doing something. I feel as though there's always something that can be done as long as I have the health to do it. Whenever I can help anyone out or be of service any place, I'm willing to do it."

An opening in the Villa Transportation Office came along at just the right

time. She now volunteers to spend her time on the road taking sisters to medical appointments, the airport, and on other personal trips two or three days a week depending on the need.

"I feel very comfortable behind the wheel, so that's why I went to transportation," Sr. Barbara said. "I learned to drive when I was 16 because my dad had a business. There are some people who get frightened driving in bad weather, but I really feel secure driving in any conditions. I'm helping other sisters and I'm happy to do it. It makes you feel good that you can do something for someone else."

She has also served on several committees over the years, including the Magnificat Chapel renovation and the Marian Hall renovation committees in the mid-90s, and most

recently, the HM Grants Committee. Her service on that committee ended at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020.

Sr. Barbara is part of the HM Ministry of Prayer, is a Eucharistic minister in Magnificat Chapel, and has even gotten involved with a planning committee or two for the activities arranged by the Sister Services department at the Villa. She most recently helped plan the July 4th picnic and accompanying activities.

"Being at the Villa--having that religious atmosphere here--is very important to me. I can pray every day, and I can go in the chapel whenever I have the chance. I really have dedicated my life to the Villa after serving in finance and now transportation, so I feel like I've gone the whole gamut."

# Covenant Companions Celebrate Commitment

**Congratulations to the new group of Covenant Companions who celebrated their commitment ceremony on May 14, 2022.** After two years of formation, the ceremony was held via Zoom and was meaningful to all who attended. The women who made their commitment have graciously shared their reflections on the day.

The concept of a “Covenant relationship” with the Sisters of the Humility of Mary has grown gradually over several years because of inquiries on the part of those who are experiencing a call to be connected to the charism and mission of the sisters in a manner different from traditional religious life. The Covenant Companion’s vow of humility is a sign of her commitment to Gospel service in the spirit of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary and expresses a new relationship with the energy of the charism at its root.

The newest group of Covenant Companion candidates is beginning their formation journey. If you feel you might be called to be a Covenant Companion, please contact Sr. Toby Lardie at 216-970-6172 or [tlardie@humilityofmary.org](mailto:tlardie@humilityofmary.org) or Sr. Cheryl Rose at 440-356-6130 or [crose@hmministry.org](mailto:crose@hmministry.org).



## Virginia Armstrong

Being a Covenant Companion has taken me to a different level

of consciousness about my faith and where and what I need to do to be closer to God and Mary’s Charism.

Getting ready to make an actual vow to GOD was very scary in some ways—what if I don’t measure up? What if I make a mistake? This was to God—not just a commitment—but a VOW. Even though we had to have our ceremony via Zoom, it was an awesome experience. The whole service, prayers, songs, knowing my other Companions were just a “picture” away. It was especially meaningful to have my Jewish brother, sister-in-law, and nephew along with other friends at my home during the ceremony. I barely got through my vow. I felt such a sense of peace and fulfillment! My daughter was supposed to put on my medal, but she got COVID, so my sister-in-law did the honors.

I loved my brother’s first comment afterward—“so now what are your

duties?” I explained to him that my duties were the same—to show God’s love to everyone and to help anyone where and when I can.

The impact on my life is looking at things in a different way. I am always trying to look at people and situations more through the eyes of God than through “Virginia’s” eyes.



## Fran Kehoe

What has this meant to me since May? Initially there was a kind of “let down”

feeling: Ok, we did all this formation and took our vow, now what? Then I began to realize that my response to this was as unique and personal as each of us in the group. We would all have a different response depending on our work, life, and individual circumstances. Living in the example of Mary’s humility is as unique as she was. I’m still working on what that will mean for me personally.

While I was disappointed we weren’t doing the ceremony together at the Villa, there were a lot of positives for me personally. My family could

*continued on next page*

be present (the trip to the Villa from Columbus is more than three hours one way) and actually participate in my home. We also got to see some close-ups as each of us said our vows or read parts of the ceremony. My family was impressed with the importance and solemnity of the ceremony. Also, I was glad we have the opportunity to go back and watch it again on the YouTube video. I noticed more the second and third time I watched it.

I am a long-time user of the Ignatian Daily Examen. I have since added a question to the Examen to consider each evening: how/where did I see Mary's humility today in either my own actions or those of others? This has made me very aware of all the service I see from others. I live in a senior retirement community, and I find lots of opportunity to visit with others and share a laugh or two. Taking my dog, Bingo, with me breaks the ice in our kind of "Hallway Ministry."



**Mitzi Leadbetter**

Since making a lifetime vow, I feel my connection to the Villa is

greater than ever. I only have to step on the Villa grounds, and I feel a sense of calm and peace that is hard to describe.

The kindness, love, and support given by the sisters is a wonderful feeling. I hope I can return some of the love and support I have felt since taking my lifetime vow.

The Covenant Companion's vow of humility is a sign of her commitment to Gospel service in the spirit of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary and expresses a new relationship with the energy of the charism at its root.

To be working together, making a difference in humanity, I feel is a special connection. One that I have longed for but didn't know where or what to look for until the Villa.

Making this vow for life has taken me on a spiritual journey, walking with God always moving forward, learning from the past, and leaning on the wisdom and guidance from the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

Thank you and Bless all of you for giving me this precious opportunity.



**Mary Marciniak**

When asked to reflect on the experiences of the celebration of my

vow and how it has impacted my life, so many ideas came rushing into my head. Everything has changed, from the moment I said the words:

"I, Mary Marciniak, vow for life to live the charism of the humility of Mary, as a Covenant Companion with the HM Community."

The experience of the celebration was knowing something was happening but not knowing exactly what, yet at

the same time having no fear, knowing this is exactly where you were to be and what you were to be doing.

This vow of the humility of Mary has meant my day-to-day life has had a different hue cast over it. A veil of Outwardly, an acquaintance would never know a LIFETIME vow had been made. Unless you knew me very, very well, are part of my spiritual family, or my immediate family, you would not notice a big change in my behavior. However, deep inside, my soul was churning, seeking and thirsting. What is next? Where do I go next? Then it came to me—something Sr. Toby had said during our last discernment gathering as the Covenant Companions struggled with what humility is and what it will mean to them, Sr. Toby had said, humility to her was truth. It struck me.

True humility means honesty—not an honesty in telling people about their misgivings or their truths, but rather acknowledging the truth about oneself, knowing your strengths and weaknesses, then being grateful for them.

Sometimes, humility or being humble is thought of as a weakness. But it is not. True humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself

less, which frees you to pay attention to whoever is right in front of you. Paying attention to the people in your life, right in front of you. Paying attention is the most basic form of love. Listening to the person in front of you, with your eyeballs looking directly at them, not a screen, not the tv! God is love.

When discerning for CC, a common theme during discussions among the CC candidates was: “then what?” or “What will happen after we make this vow?” or “What will we be doing after?” “What will happen?” My answer to that is, what will happen if we do not make this vow, then what? I was not willing to find out! I am here on this earth to find my way to God, and this is my path to get to Him.



### Rita McCoy

Completion of formation and professing my vow offered me feelings of

profound joy. I was thrilled to share this sacred ceremony with my closest friends and family.

Just as when I made my marriage vows, I am discovering that living as a Covenant woman is a process. I feel that I grow each week as I reflect on how my commitment influences my

life day-to-day. I am sure this vow will take on more meaning with every year that I live it.

Like many, I am stepping into mystery. I find myself trusting God as Mary must have trusted, when issues come up, and I don't have all the answers.

Life happens, but I find that in most cases I am calmer in my reaction to tough decisions or difficult people. I am more aware of the support of Jesus and Mary by my side.

I feel at peace with my decision to make this vow to God. I am so glad that I ventured forth in faith and trusted.



### Anne York Romanoff

On May 14, 2022, six women following two years in

Formation made their private vow of humility. This is a sign of my commitment to Gospel service in the spirit of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. For me, because of this celebration, I entered a new relationship with the sisters and the HM charism of humility.

I embrace not just Mary's humility, but specifically Mary's humility in

saying yes to God through service. Mary understood the Gospel mandate to meet the needs of the time, to bring more abundant life to God's people, especially the poor. This spirit permeated the lives of our founders—Mother Madelaine, Mother Anna, and Father Begel. Upon their shoulders we stand today as Covenant Companions.

I am more deeply aware of my challenge to live my life each day in Mary's humility. What am I called to do is my question each and every day. Am I called to be compassionate? Am I called to not judge those I encounter? Am I called to express in my everyday life the grace needed and the desire to be more like Mary stepping into the unknown with courage? Yes, Yes, Yes!

Making this vow of humility has deepened my conviction that God has chosen me for service, kindness, gentleness, and love. My vow expresses my love and understanding of the HM charism of humility.

If you feel you might be called to be a Covenant Companion, please contact Sr. Toby Lardie at 216-970-6172 or [tlardie@humilityofmary.org](mailto:tlardie@humilityofmary.org) or Sr. Cheryl Rose at 440-356-6130 or [crose@hmministry.org](mailto:crose@hmministry.org).

# Young Adult Convocation Brings Sisters, Young Adults Together for Quality Time

*Contributed by the Convocation Planning Committee*

After more than 18 months of germination, lots of prayers, and planning by a team of HM Sisters, Associates, Covenant Companions and young adults, a Young Adult Convocation finally took place at Villa Maria! Twenty-eight young adults and over 20 presenters and volunteers gathered July 22-24, 2022, to enjoy *Time Away, Walking Together*. They came from as far away as Washington, DC, Michigan, and Chicago and as close as the Youngstown area. The young adults were greeted by Villa Sisters, HM Associates and apartment residents and welcomed graciously by Sr. Carol Anne Smith, HM Pastoral Leader.

There were many highlights of the weekend as expressed in participant feedback. The intergenerational sharing and storytelling were favorites.

One young adult remarked, “Sister said exactly what I needed to hear!” Another answered Sr. René Parman’s questions about her electric car!

Especially rich was the sharing in small groups about what motivated them to come to the convocation or come to religious

life. Gathering for the Eucharistic Liturgy with the Villa Sisters and apartment residents was also very special for all present. Young adults served as readers while sisters were Eucharistic Ministers. The Gospel reflection prepared by Sr. Helen Jean Novy and proclaimed by Sr. Joanne Bormet spoke to the deep awareness of and commitment to justice held by the young adults and the HM Community.

Various presentations provided by HM Sisters, HM Associates, and young adults featured social justice issues such as welcoming the stranger, ending human trafficking, land justice, and the power of purchasing and investing [Money Talks, Ours Speaks for Justice] while others dealt with prayer, blending my story with God’s story, ways my life can witness the Gospel, and how to hold critical conversations with others.

Some young adults chose to spend time alone with God walking the

labyrinth or the grounds of Villa Maria. A lot of listening, laughing, crying, sharing, and connecting happened around tables that always had “room for one more!”

When the time came for integrating the experiences of the weekend, possibilities for staying connected were explored. Some of these ideas include virtual and in-person events, Bible reflection/study groups, more intergenerational storytelling, more time at Villa Maria, exploring the outdoors, spending quality time together, and learning more about prayer. At least one texting group was created before the participants even left the Villa!

The core planning team was especially grateful for the full, enthusiastic support and prayer of the HM Leadership Team, the HM Community, Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center and the Villa residents for this weekend! The weekend could not have happened without everyone working together!





Photos Contributed by Eileen Mohr, HM Covenant Companion

# Items of Interest



## Sister Services Expands Offerings for Villa Resident Sisters

The Sister Services Department at the Villa has been busy implementing new activity programs and coordinating outings the past few months. In addition to arranging visits from therapy dogs and music therapists and a full slate of activities from chair yoga to aquatic exercise classes, the sisters have traveled to a number of fun locations on their new minibus, including Mill Creek Park, Hippley Gardens, Moraine State Park, and a Cleveland Guardians game just to name a few. Happy traveling, sisters!

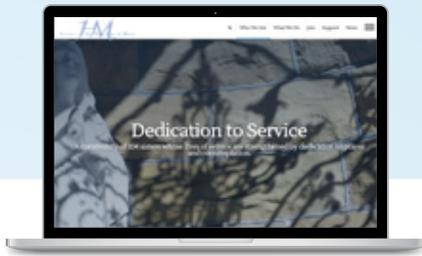


@SistersHM

## Connect with Villa Sacred Spaces on the HM YouTube Channel

Next time you're visiting the Villa, be sure to use your smartphone to scan one of fourteen QR codes you may find around the grounds. This will connect you to videos narrated by Sr. Cheryl Rose that feature the history of the French Madonna, Magnificat Chapel, and twelve other locations—both indoors and out. Created for the Young Adult Convocation, all the videos are also permanently available on our YouTube channel—no QR code required!

**Find us @SistersHM and be sure to subscribe!**



## New Website Launch

Check out our newly redesigned website that we launched at the beginning of August! Thanks to Forward Trends in New Castle, Pa., for helping us create a new, modern look. **Come visit us at [humilityofmary.org](http://humilityofmary.org).**



## Sr. Margaret Mary Honored for Hospital Volunteer Service

Congratulations to Sr. Margaret Mary Siegfried [left] who was honored by St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital and St. Elizabeth Boardman Hospital at their Volunteer Recognition dinner on May 23, 2022. The dinner took place at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Center in Austintown, Ohio.

As of the end of 2021, Sr. Margaret Mary had completed over 10,000 hours of service during her time as a hospital volunteer—10,468 to be exact. To mark the occasion, she received a special pin and a certificate of appreciation.



## Sisters Stitch for Veterans

The question of what to make with a donation of red, white, and blue yarn that had been given to the Sisters of the Humility of Mary seemed to be elementary for Sr. Rose Huber, HM.

“As soon as I saw it, I knew we had to make something for the veterans,” she explained.

And that’s just what the sisters did.

Over the course of a few months, they completed 14 blankets that were delivered to Veterans’ Outreach, a local nonprofit in Youngstown, Ohio. The organization assists veterans with housing, utilities, and a variety of other needs. They will distribute the blankets as needed.

Sr. Rose and Kathleen Berry, an Air Force veteran, presented the handmade blankets to Teri Ely, Executive Director of Veterans’ Outreach, in mid-July.

Prayer Shawls Etc. is a ministry of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary that began in the fall of 2015. HM Sisters who were retired from active ministry decided to build their own sense of community with each other as well as offer the warmth and comfort of prayer to those who need it. They pray as they knit or crochet their projects to weave those prayer intentions into every stitch.

The sisters have donated finished items to The Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley and Hospice of the Valley in Youngstown, Ohio, various shelters, and Villa Maria Community Center’s annual Christmas clothing drive among others.

## New Beehive Adds to Environmental Education at Magnificat High School

*Contributed by Magnificat Staff*

Magnificat's Seeds of Service Horticulture Club is abuzz with excitement over the installation of a beehive on campus. The new apiary serves to educate students about ecology, encourage pollination of the club's plants and flowers, and produce honey that will be sold to raise funds in support of the club.

"Probably I'm most excited about teaching people how to harvest honey and about how important the bees are," says Bee Committee Leader Claire Green, who has beekeeping experience from a hive her family keeps at home. "Most people don't realize how much we depend on them."

The Seeds of Service Club started in 2014 to challenge students to learn more about nature for the common good. Each year, the club plants and harvests over 200 pounds of produce that is donated to local nonprofit organizations and used in Magnificat's kitchen. Members maintain flowers and plants indoors and outdoors, grow lettuce and herbs with aeroponic garden towers, and create decorative floral arrangements in planters.

Horticulture Program Manager Karen Tigue says the club has wanted a beehive for years, and a partnership with a local nonprofit organization helped bring the plan to fruition. Based in Toronto, Ohio, Youth Bee Works provides education about the

importance of honeybees and their essential role in the environment and food industry. Founder Justin Sofio works with schools, organizations, and individuals to set up and maintain beehives while teaching about threats to honeybees and how to care for the hives.

Sr. Helen Jean Novy, HM, Vice President of Mission Emerita at Magnificat, shared a prayer with students when the beehive was installed. The school's Bee Committee took an eight-week course with Sofio last spring, donning protective gear, using smokers to calm bees during hive inspections, and adding wooden hives in stacks within a fenced-in apiary with an open top near the tennis courts. They protect the colony from such potential problems as mites and certain beetles, and in August, students helped extract honey from the hive and package the product.

The effort aligns with Magnificat's educational program and schoolwide environmental initiatives, as well as Catholic Social Teaching within the Church.

"Caring for the bees is a new and meaningful expression of Magnificat's commitment to care for God's creation," Vice President of Mission Katie Higgins says. "Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching and in our Humility of Mary heritage, caring for God's creation helps us to recognize our interconnectedness with the Earth. Learning about the intricacies of the bees and their hive generates a sense of awe and wonder for the abundant gifts with which God blesses us."



**Sr. Helen Jean Novy with one of the students from Magnificat's Horticulture Club.**



### Sister Donates Hair to Charity

This summer, Sr. Zoe Ann Reiter finalized her pandemic project when she chopped off the hair she had been growing since March 2020 and donated it to an organization that makes wigs for children dealing with hair loss.

“Since I did not leave the house except to get groceries, this meant no trips to the salon either,” Sr. Zoe Ann said. “I decided to purposely let my hair grow and then to donate it to a cause that would help others and hopefully change someone’s life for the better.”

She found a salon in Lake Milton, Ohio, that would take her hair and went in for the big chop. She is hopeful that her hair will help give a child suffering from hair loss more joy in life and a chance to feel whole again.



From left to right: Deanna Ford, Sr. Jane Marie Kudlacz, and Char Wray

### VMESC Receives Donation for Summer Camp

Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (VMESC) received a donation from Mercy Health St. Joseph Warren Hospital’s mission committee in support of their annual summer camp experiences. On July 18, Char Wray, St. Joseph Warren Hospital president, and Deanna Ford, Director of Mission at St. Joseph Warren Hospital visited campus to present the check for \$1,000 to Sr. Jane Marie Kudlacz to support VMESC’s Grow Camp. The donation was to honor and celebrate the HM Sisters.



## 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**



# Upcoming Programs

The following programs are provided by Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (VMESC). Please call 724-964-8886 for more information or visit [www.vmesc.org](http://www.vmesc.org). Additional programs and speaker information can be found on the VMESC website. Visit [vmesc.org](http://vmesc.org) and sign up for our e-mail list to receive info about all upcoming offerings.

## Coffee and Contemplation

**Cost:** \$7

Hosted in person and via Zoom  
from 9:30am – 11:30am



## As the People of God, We Are Invited to be People of Gratitude

**Facilitated by Sr. Ardath Blake, HM**

**Date:** November 15

## Our Guide for the 2023 Liturgical Year is the Gospel of Matthew

**Facilitated by Sr. Ardath Blake, HM**

**Date:** December 13

## We are Singing—of Holy Mystery, of Earth and of Ourselves

**Facilitated by Sr. Janet Burkhart, HM**

**Date:** January 17

## Deep Winter Silence

**Facilitated by Sr. Mary Stanco, HM**

**Date:** February 21

## Empty Bowl: Discernment: Alignment with the One Will

**Presented by Sr. Cheryl Rose, HM**

**Date:** December 9–10

**Cost:** \$135

Many times in our lives we're faced with weighty or difficult decisions. Discernment is a helpful spiritual tool to place our choices more in line with God's hope for us, and Advent is a good time to open more deeply to the movement of God's grace. This is the eighth Empty Bowl retreat. It is not necessary to have attended other Empty Bowl retreats.

## Torah Studies for Christians with Father George Balasko

**Date:** December 21, 1–3 p.m.

**Cost:** Free Will Offering

In person and via Zoom. This Bible education series is an opportunity for Christians to reflect on the Scriptures using video resources from various Scripture scholars. Working closely with the biblical text, we will explore the methods and insights of the sages of the Jewish tradition, their love for Torah, their eye for detail, their incisive questions, debates, and creative storytelling (midrash).

## Save the Date for these 2023 Programs

### Mindful Retreat with Dena DeLuco

February 4

### Zentangle with Sr. Paulette Kirschensteiner, HM

April 22

### Conference Retreat with Anne Kernion

May 5-7

### Wisdom of the Soul Retreat with Dena DeLuco

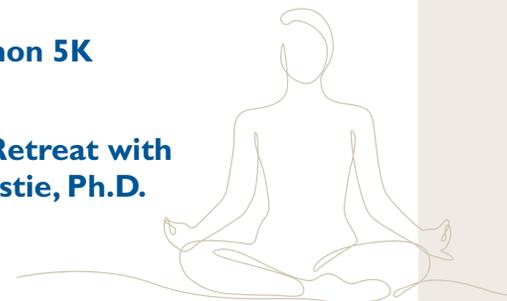
May 19-20

### Villa Maria-thon 5K

June 3

### Conference Retreat with Douglas Christie, Ph.D.

June 16-18



## In Loving Memory



**Sister Dolores Strah**, formerly Sr. Mary Christina Rose, SND, entered eternal life on April 23, 2022 at age 88. She dedicated herself for 63 years in active ministry as a convent cook, elementary teacher; administrative secretary and receptionist in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. Sr. Dolores especially loved the primary grade children whom she taught and was known for her talents and generosity in providing cookies and other bakery for groups and meetings. In the Cleveland diocese she ministered at St. Martha, Akron; St. Mary, Avon; St. Benedict, St. Paschal Baylon, St. Stephen and Villa Montessori Center, Cleveland; St. Jude, Elyria; St. James, Lakewood; St. Albert the Great, North Royalton; HM Ministry Center and Heartbeats, Rocky River; and St. Gregory, South Euclid. In the Youngstown diocese she served at Maryhill and St. Peter, Canton; St. Aloysius, East Liverpool; and St. Pius X, Warren. She is survived by her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation; her sisters, Sandra Fouts, Christine Hurley, and Lynne Menuetz; and her brother, Kenneth Strah. She was preceded in death by her parents, Anthony J. and Christine (Hren) Strah; her sisters, Rose Misic, Evelyn Strah, and Claudia DeCoursey; and her brother, Anthony Strah.



**Sister Mildred Ruffing** (Sr. M. Jacinta) entered eternal life on September 11, 2022 at 90. She served as a teacher and religious educator during her 64 years of active ministry including 29 years at St. Luke Parish, Boardman. In the Cleveland Diocese she taught at the Rose-Mary Home, Euclid; St. Cecilia, Cleveland; and St. Mary, Painesville. Sr. Mildred taught at St. Stephen, Niles; St. Paul, Salem; and St. Edward Elementary, Youngstown. In addition to St. Luke, she also served as director of religious education at Our Lady of Peace, Canton; St. Robert Bellarmine, Cortland and as religion coordinator at St. Edward Elementary, Youngstown. In the Pittsburgh Diocese she taught at Our Lady of Grace, Pittsburgh and joined her sisters in the HM Ministry of Prayer at Villa Maria Community Center. Sr. Mildred was an avid gardener who contributed to the beauty of many a landscape with her flower and vegetable gardens. She is survived by her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation; her sister Dorothy Wagener; and her brothers, Rev. Norman Ruffing and Norbert Ruffing. She was preceded in death by her parents, Aloysius and Ann (Wise) Ruffing; her sisters, Mary Rekart and Florence Ruffing; and her brothers Robert Ruffing and Rev. Joseph Ruffing.



**Sister Mary Kathryn Pillot** (Sr. Philip Neri) finished her earthly journey on September 24, 2022 at age 91. She dedicated herself in ministry as a registered nurse, pastoral minister and public health and home health nurse in the course of 34 years in the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. Sr. Mary Kathryn also served for two years providing nursing services at Khanh Hoa Provincial Hospital, Nha Trang, Vietnam during the war. She served in the Cleveland diocese at St. Joseph Hospital, Lorain; Hough-Norwood Family Care Center, Cleveland; Warrensville House of Correction and Visiting Nurse Assn., Cleveland; and St. Bartholomew, Middleburg, Heights. In the Youngstown diocese Sr. Mary Kathryn ministered at St. John/St. Peter; Visiting Care, Inc; and the Hospice of Stark County, all in Canton; St. Louis, Louisville; and St. Joseph Riverside Hospital, Warren. For many years she used her nursing background to assist her HM Sisters who were hospitalized. In 2013 she retired to Villa Maria Community Center where she participated in the Prayer Shawl ministry making afghans for the Dorothy Day House in Youngstown. She served in the Ministry of Prayer until her death. She is survived by her sisters in the Humility of Mary Congregation and her loving nieces and nephews and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Laura (Malcuit) Pillot; her sisters, Lillian Stonebrook, Carolyn McCauley, and Bernice Kendrick; and her brother, Bernard Pillot.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the  
Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Development Office, PO Box 534, Villa Maria PA 16155

**Sisters of the Humility of Mary**

Communications Office

P.O. Box 522

Villa Maria, PA 16155

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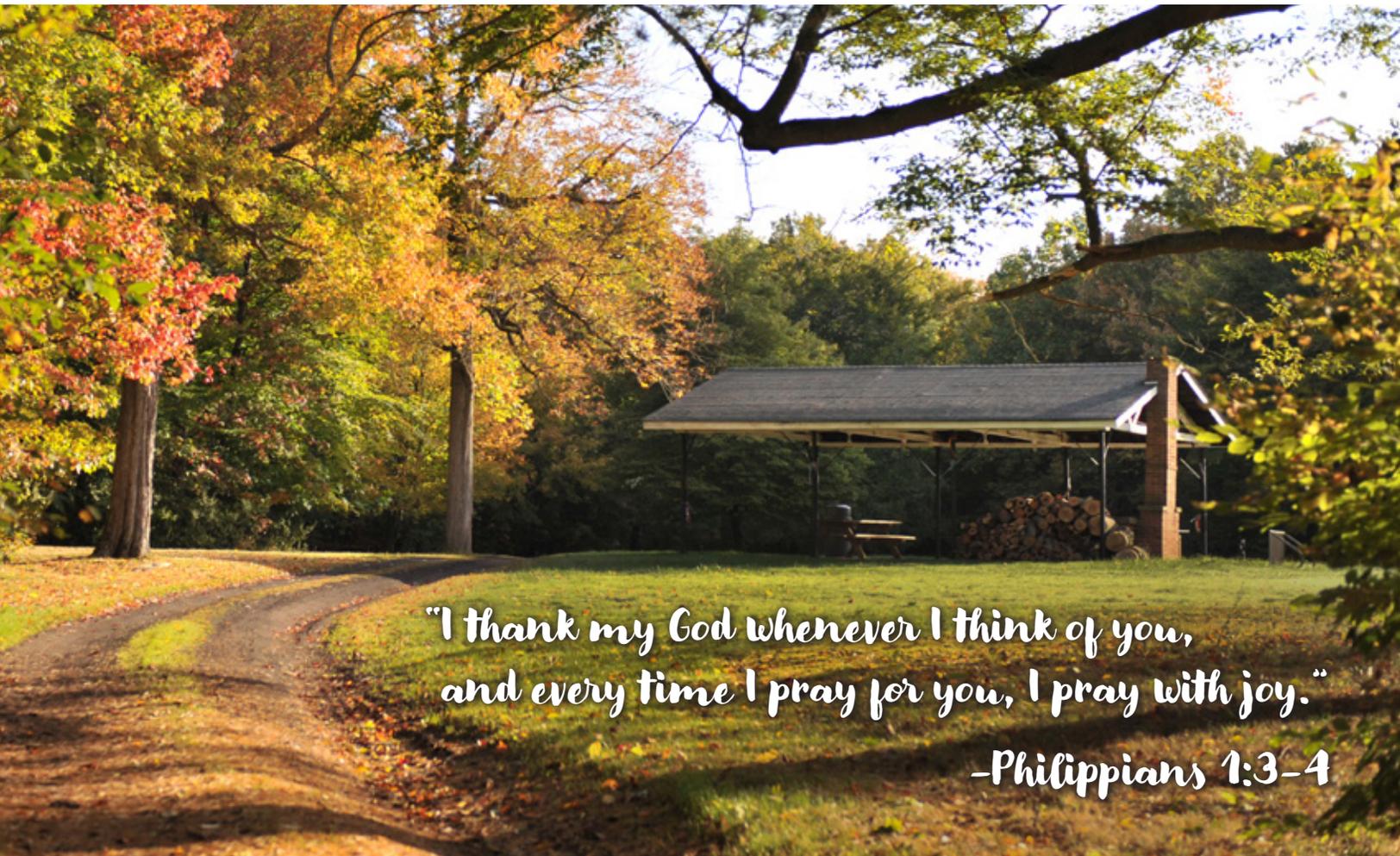
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and every time I pray for you, I pray with joy."*

*-Philippians 1:3-4*



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