



Catholic Peace Ministry

April 20th CPM Special Addition News Brief

**Bishop Maurice J. Dingman
26th Peace Award 2024**

Blessed are the Peacemakers!

To Our Honorees:

**Sr. Elaine Hagedorn, CHM, and Sr. Jeanie Hagedorn,
CHM**

We celebrate you and your lives, fully dedicated to “waging peace.”

You remind us of Bishop Dingman and his deep commitment to seeking peace. And you share qualities we revered in the Bishop.

Like Bishop Dingman, seeking peace is a lifelong vocation for both of you. Every day, every month, every year you work against war, including serving on the CPM board since 2001 (Elaine) and serving as Peace and Justice Coordinator for their CHM order (Jeanie).

Like Bishop Dingman, you believe (as Pope Francis declared) “War is a scandal to be mourned every day.”

Like Bishop Dingman, you answer Pope Paul VI’s challenge, “If you want peace, work for justice.” You do seek justice for the poor, the homeless, refugees.

Like Bishop Dingman, your faith helps you constantly strive to answer God’s call to be instruments of peace. And both of you inspire us when you offer prayers for us – as we often ask of you!

Like Bishop Dingman, you are humble and gentle – but also determined and courageous.

You carry on Bishop Maurice Dingman’s legacy.

We celebrate you! We thank you. And we love you.

Blessed are the peacemakers. The Board, staff, members and friends of Catholic Peace Ministry



Jeanie

Elaine

Sisters by birth and religious calling.

The sisters maintained their closeness through the years because of their “shared priorities—peace and justice, care for the Earth, family, and faith.” –Sr. Jeanie

Bishop Dingman Peace Award Celebration in Pictures



Bishop Keneetha Bigham-Tsai, United Methodist Church, Iowa Episcopal Area, congratulates Award recipient Sister Jeanie. Photo credit: Caleb Stewart



Photo credit: Caleb Stewart

CPM friends greatly enjoy the coming together in community at this annual CPM event. Food prepared by board member Roxanne Ruden, “with a little help from her friends” is always a great start to the evening festivities.



Photo Credit Kathleen McQuillen

Rev. Jackie Thompson and board member Bob Brammer, long time partners in peace-making, Planning a future peace action perhaps?



Photo credit: Caleb Stewart

In noted humility:

Sr. Jeanie (pictured here) shifted attention to Bishop Maurice Dingman: “Bishop Dingman was a man whose whole life was devoted to helping People, especially those who are marginalized. . .”

AND

Sr. Elaine shifted attention to those gathered:

“You are teachers by your words and actions. You are life-long learners who continue to be open to the wisdom and experience of others, the homeless, the children who might not “fit in,” the hungry or lonely or victims of war across the ocean, at our borders or in our streets. . .”

For Such a Time is This — Bishop Keneetha Bigham-Tsai

<https://youtu.be/Z4lo6LoFB5Y>

“Sometimes we are caught off guard to realize that ideas we thought were left behind are sneaking back in again.”



Today, “Christian Nationalism distorts the Bible into an exclusionary message of hate, instead of a welcoming message of love.”

“People of faith, we are called to use whatever position we have to speak out for justice. . . to tell truth to power. A call to stand with the marginalized, the immigrant, people of color, poor people, women, and children”

The time to keep silent is done!

Photo credit Caleb Stewart



Bishop Dingman Peace Award Celebration – A Personal Reflection

Luke Clausen, CPM Intern/Drake U Senior

As you all know, CPM held our Bishop Maurice Dingman Award celebration on Saturday, April 6th, where we honored the inspiring, amazing Hagedorn sisters for their lifelong work toward peace. Caleb and I were truly honored to have been able to help put on such an event. I meant it when I said that you all in the crowd inspired us more so than we might inspire all of you. Having a community where we don't have to rely solely on our own knowledge and connections to build peace here in Iowa and one that is constantly pouring into us in word and in spirit is absolutely invaluable.

I have been on a very long personal journey through the past year and a half or so that has me reckoning with much, including who I am, both in the absence and in relationship with other people. I happen to serendipitously find connections between unknown things in my life and their connection with others in the community and working with CPM is no different.

I recently discovered that my grandma, Mary Clausen, cared for Bishop Dingman at the end of his life. My grandma has been an active member of the local Catholic community at Christ the King on the South Side for several decades and she inspires me and encourages me through my life by her example. I forgot to mention that first important detail in my speech, but I was winging it and I guess more important things came to mind.

I have also been reading Bishop Dingman's authorized biography lately. In much of today's politics and social movements, principles are generally put aside for an organizational power, any-means-to-our-ends strategy that emphasizes survival and visibility over one that emphasizes action and influence. It's not quite so black and white, but it's trending in that direction. Bishop Dingman shows a different way to lead and effect change. I hope that I can, with all of you, continue to live out the legacy of Bishop Dingman to build peace here in Iowa.



Thank you for being partners for peace with CPM

Catholic Peace Ministry is a faith-based ecumenical peace organization that was founded in 1981 as part of the Des Moines Catholic Diocese. Since 1991 it has been independent of, and unaffiliated with, the Diocese. CPM today, is guided by an ecumenical board of directors, which follows the peace/wisdom teachings of numerous faith traditions.