



Dear friends,

This year has been a year of serious reflection for me. With my biography being printed, the celebration of my Golden Jubilee (50 years in the priesthood) and with a couple trips to the hospital, I've celebrated the past while contemplating the future, including a future that won't have me immediately available as I am now. You may have come to a time in your life when these thoughts have come to mind. For all of us, it's eventually a necessary exercise because of the loved ones and projects dependent upon our involvement.

Earlier this year I took a significant step in planning for a S.E.A.E. (Soaring Eagle After Emmett). I invited a former associate of mine from St. Labre Indian School to come back to work for, and with me to prepare to take over for me when the time comes.

Mary Jo Fox was my "right hand" at St. Labre Indian School for nearly six years. She has come back to work for me at Soaring Eagle, particularly working right now with planned giving. I value her for her knowledge and understanding of the mission of Soaring Eagle and the vision I have for its long-term service on behalf of Native American elders. I'm heartened to know that Mary Jo will make sure that whether I'm here or not, Soaring Eagle will continue accomplishing the good work in which we've all invested.

Mary Jo worked for me at St. Labre for six years. She's also managed a successful governor's campaign in Montana and wrote speeches and represented Governor Marc Racicot to the Montana Legislature for several years. She has a head for business and the heart for our mission. She'll be a

tremendous asset to Soaring Eagle and its work for the Heritage Living Center. I hope you'll join me in welcoming back Mary Jo Fox. You'll be hearing more from her regarding Planned Giving opportunities (see article on Soaring Eagle charitable gift annuities in this issue) and in many other ways in the future.

With the additional help that's come from Mary Jo and our good staff at Soaring Eagle, I'm pleased to report that I've felt much

better in the past three months. My health has been restored. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for praying for my health. Those prayers have brought healing and renewed strength. I'm humbled by the birthday wishes and other kind messages throughout the summer. My prayers will continue to include you each day as I thank Maheo for our donor friends who make everything we do possible. You truly are His hands at work.

Your beggar friend,

*Fr. Emmett Hoffmann*  
Emmett Hoffmann



PHOTO BY JOHN WARNER

*Fr. Emmett with Fergie at the Heritage Living Center.*

The long hot summer weather has turned into a beautiful autumn as the elders at the Heritage Living Center enjoy the frosty mornings and cool days mostly filled with sunshine. On the days it does cloud up we hope and pray it will bring moisture to the dry and parched land. We are now nearly 4 inches behind normal precipitation for the year which is only 12 inches. The four year drought continues to plague eastern Montana.

None of us at the Heritage Living Center will soon forget the record-breaking temperatures during July and August. The hot dry winds spurred on by scorching temperatures soaring to more than 100 degrees for days on end, made the mountains, hills and plains of eastern Montana a tinder box.



Clear blue skies of Montana and endless visibility make this “Big Sky” country, but during much of July and most of August our skies were filled with smoke, blocking out the sun and limiting visibility. Many range and forest fires left thousands of acres in ashes. It was a terrifying night when one of the worst electrical storms I have ever experienced, started a fire less than a mile from the Heritage Living Center. The winds carried the flames directly toward the Center. Just as our safety engineer was ready to call for a complete evacuation of the building, the wind suddenly changed direction, followed by a calm, which enabled volunteer firefighters to control the fire.



The fire was a warning of the danger that lurks within the pine-covered hills and grassy plains. A wildfire out of control could easily endanger the lives of the elders and destroy the Heritage Living Center.

Thanks to a generous response to our appeal for a well, we are now able to move forward, hopefully before winter sets in, to drill a well and begin constructing a dam and reservoir. A lake reservoir and well will give us far better fire protection and irrigation at a fraction of the cost we were paying to the town of Ashland.

This fire protection project will be the first step toward developing a park with nature trails where we will be able to observe the many plants and wild flowers of Montana. Residents look forward to walking on the nature trail to the lake. The grazing deer, antelope, a variety of birds and other wildlife will add to the beauty of the park. The memorial wall will be a solemn and attractive entrance to the park honoring benefactors, their family members and friends. We look forward to having you visit the Heritage Living Center and taking a stroll through our park when it is completed.

My “Golden Jubilee” as a priest was a personal highlight of the year. The memories alone of the past fifty years would have been enough to realize how blessed I have been to be called to live and work among the Northern Cheyenne. Joining with the elders and many friends in giving thanks to our Creator added to the joy of the celebration. During my many years on the reservation, I seldom had the opportunity to spend time with my family members and relatives in the Midwest—something I regretted after my parents passed away.

In those days, I was busy overseeing the many building and employment projects. It was particularly important for me in the summertime to partake in the cultural events and celebrations of the Cheyenne who adopted me as one of their own. I also felt



*Father Emmett celebrates his first Mass on August 30, 1953.*

obligated to make myself available to our friends and benefactors who came to visit during their summer vacation. My home visits became limited and, of necessity, very brief. This past August my three sisters in Wisconsin went all-out to welcome me home. It was a special time to celebrate and a privilege for me to be with them and their families. As I offered a Mass of thanksgiving with them I said a special prayer for our deceased parents who sacrificed so much of their own lives for their children.

I returned from my vacation revived in spirit and health. The pneumonia that plagued me for many months gradually disappeared. Now I am convinced that it weakened me physically and brought about the additional heart problems last December. The implanted defibrillator keeps the rhythm of my heart in check. The wonders of modern science and your many prayers are making “your beggar

friend” happy to be alive and able to continue fulfilling the dream of the “old chiefs” and their concerns for the elders.

A biography of my life entitled “Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne” will become available early in November. For years, author Renee Sansom Flood has picked my brain to recall events in my life. She interviewed hundreds of people, beginning with my family members, people I have worked with these many years and most importantly, the Cheyenne people who became my family. This first printing will not appear in stores. Several of my friends read the manuscript and decided it must be made available immediately even before a publishing company can acquire the rights to the book. They have financed the printing for which I am most grateful. I hope you will purchase a copy of the book for yourself and for others. The book will make excellent Christmas gifts. Look for details on how to order the book in this issue of the Newsletter.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving Day, the Cheyenne elders and all of us at the Heritage Living Center, including the children in our Montessori School and Day Care, realize that you make everything we



*The Heritage Living Center in Ashland, Montana*

have possible. Thank you for giving us elders this beautiful home, loving care, safety from danger and healthy meals we enjoy each day. We ask “Maheo” our Creator God to walk with you and bless you each day.

Every American youth as well as many adults are fascinated with the thrilling tales of wonder and valor of both the Indians and the Cowboys of the Western Plains. Your dedicated interest and care for the

Northern Cheyenne elders at the Heritage Living Center has encouraged me to again share a brief history of the Cheyenne in a series of articles that will appear in this and future issues of "SIGNALS."

The Cheyenne were village dwellers in the Midwest long before they became a Western Plains tribe. The early history of the Cheyenne is but vaguely known.

**The American bison commonly called buffalo roamed the great Western Plains for many thousands of years before the first ancestors of the Indians came into the area.**

From their own traditions and from the fact that they are of Western Algonquin stock, we know the Cheyenne gradually migrated West because of the increasing pressure from eastern tribes who were being pushed westward by the ever growing white population migrating primarily from Europe.

Their existence on the Western Plains was built around two animals, the buffalo and the horse. The buffalo's meat, hide and bones supplied almost all of their needs. The American bison commonly called

# Who are the

"buffalo" roamed the Great Plains for many thousands of years before the first ancestors of the Indians came into the area.

Horses were new to all Indian tribes. They were brought into America from Europe by the early Spanish settlers. As early as 1540, horses began to appear in southwestern

villages; by 1760 they were common throughout much of the region from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.

The America Indians hailed the new animal with joy and quickly rebuilt their lives to accommodate all that the horse made possible.

No other race of people had ever taken up a new tool more rapidly and efficiently than the Plains Indians adopted the horse. They used the horse for more than one hundred years before coming in serious contact with the White race.



Before the horse arrived, there had been life on the Great Plains, but it was cramped and limited. Only a small population could exist, moving their camps on foot with dogs dragging their belongings and supplies

Arapaho, Blackfeet and Cheyenne spoke Algonquian dialects related to the speech of distant tribes similar to the Mohegan, Delaware and other New England tribes.

# e Cheyenne?

Because these various tribes lived in the same region but spoke different languages, they learned to talk with sign language. An

idea could be expressed simply and easily understood. This means of communications spread until it came to be recognized as the universal language of the Plains Indian. A tribal member could tell a stranger from another tribe that he left home two nights before, by making the sign of a tipi (bringing both fingers together to form a triangle), holding up two fingers, and resting his head on one side above his open palm to indicate sleep or night.

on wooden poles, as they followed the buffalo. The Cheyenne as village dwellers in the Midwest, living in their dirt-covered log houses, made periodic hunting expeditions to the Great Plains for buffalo meat. In general they depended more on smaller game and vegetable crops. When the horse appeared, making it possible to travel vast distances to follow the buffalo herds, to travel many miles in search of water, the Cheyenne like many other tribes moved to the Great Plains of the West.

Thirty-one separate tribes made up the Plains Indians. They spoke such different languages and had other variations indicating that they came from separated Indian people. The Comanche spoke a Shoshone tongue, related to the Aztecs of Mexico and the Hopi branch of the Pueblos. The Crow and Teton-Lakota were members of the Siouan language group; while the

**The Cheyenne, as village dwellers in the Midwest, living in their dirt-covered log houses, made periodic hunting expeditions to the Great Plains for buffalo meat.**

The customs and ceremonies of the Cheyenne are both colorful and instructive. We will introduce you to them in the next issue of *SIGNALS*.



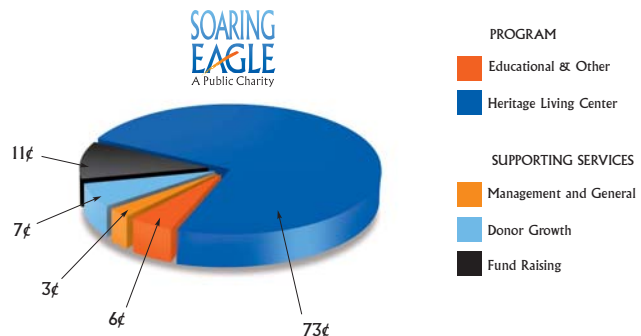
# Soaring Eagle Societies

Soaring Eagle has established societies to give proper recognition for outstanding gifts that have been given for the construction of the Heritage Living Center. Each society shows the level of donors and our gratitude for their generosity.

Donors who contributed \$100 or more between January 1, 2003 and September 30, 2003 were enrolled in the Dawn of Hope Society. They received a beautiful personalized certificate suitable for framing. During this period 3,527 were enrolled. Thank you for your generous and caring gifts.

<p><i>American Eagle Society</i> \$25,000 &amp; up</p> <p>Ms Otilie Champion Mr Paul Morigi Sr Mary Jo Yutt</p> <p><i>Spirit Coming Home Society</i> \$10,000 to \$24,999</p> <p>Fenske Media Mrs Gertrude Just Mrs Carol Morris Mr S E Rule Mr Rudolph F Valois</p> <p><i>Journey of Life Society</i> \$5,000 to \$9,999</p> <p>Mrs William Ball Miss Ethel Bruning The Bernard Carmer Family Mrs Madelyn Chafin Mr &amp; Mrs Frank Curtis Mrs Mary Duffy Mrs Gerta M &amp; Karin Ellison The Saint Francis Foundation of Michigan Mr Virgil E Hawk James Quick John G Raffensperger MD Mr &amp; Mrs David &amp; Patricia Russell Mrs Barbara R Smart</p> <p><i>Light of Life Society</i> \$1,000 to \$4,999</p> <p>Mrs Alice Ahern Mrs George Allison Ms Judith Andruczyk Dr Mary F Argus Dwight Arnold Patricia Ballweg Ms Gloria Barr Ms Lois Berlage Mr. &amp; Mrs. Alfred Bertoncini Ms. Elsie Bleimiller Mr &amp; Mrs William E Boger Mr &amp; Mrs James J Boock Mrs Margaret Bowers Mr. Louis Brown Mrs V W Bunker Ms. Sadie Cartwright Mr &amp; Mrs Neil W Cole Ms Eunice Coriell Mrs James H Countryman Dock Curtis Mr Jeffrey Dennis Mr &amp; Mrs Marvin Deschepper Lynn Diamond Ms Janet Dodd Mr Charles Domingus Ms Mildred Dreyer Mrs Mathilde Easley The Church of the Epiphany Mrs Betty Mae Erb Mr &amp; Mrs Wynston E Erickson Ms Ethel Eusebio Mrs Celeste Farr Mrs P F Fisher Ms Magdalen Fritz Mrs Shirley Fultz Ms Loretta Gardellin Mrs Lilia M. 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## Where the dollar was spent for the year ended June 30, 2003



These one-time or cumulative contributions were received between January 1, 2003 – September 30, 2003. Contributions received after September 30, 2003 will be listed in the next Soaring Eagle Signals newsletter. See our website at [www.soaringeagle.org](http://www.soaringeagle.org).

# A Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity

One of our good donor friends, Joe, called me one day and expressed his dismay over his aunt's investment portfolio whose rate of return (on her 2-year Certificates of Deposit) was an abysmally low 1.88%.

"Can a Soaring Eagle annuity do any better?" he asked. I said, "I'm sure it can. Would you like to see how?" "At this point, I have nothing to lose." Joe said.

I worked out the details based on Joe's aunt's birth date. It turns out that an \$8,000 Soaring Eagle annuity would provide her with a whopping 12% guaranteed annual rate of return on her investment for life, not to mention an immediate charitable deduction of \$4,275.00 for 2003.

Joe was amazed. "That sure beats 1.88% doesn't it?"

Not only that, but Joe's aunt Anne would receive quarterly payments on her investment of \$240.00. When Anne passes away, her \$8,000 personal investment would become an \$8,000 gift to Soaring Eagle.

Anne and her nephew Joe were quick to take advantage of an investment that would provide better than 6 times the return of a two-year Certificate of Deposit, while also receiving a charitable deduction on taxes AND providing an eventual charitable contribution to one of her preferred charities.

A Soaring Eagle annuity is a WIN WIN WIN opportunity. You win on the guaranteed rate of return (when compared to many other investment vehicles); you win on taxes because of the charitable deduction you receive; AND you win one for Soaring Eagle because it will eventually benefit from the investment you make today in a SE charitable gift annuity.

Would you like to see what a Soaring Eagle gift annuity would do for you? Call, email, fax or write to Mary Jo Fox at Soaring Eagle. She'll provide you with a free, no-obligation proposal showing your personal rate of return based on your age. (one or two annuitants allowed on each annuity). Just let her know the amount you're considering (\$5,000 minimum) and your birth date.

## A SOARING EAGLE ANNUITY OUT-PERFORMS A CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT. LET'S COMPARE...\*

Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity		Certificate of Deposit
\$8,000	Contract Amount	\$8,000
12.0%	Rate of Return	1.88%
\$760/yr	Tax Free Income	\$0
\$200/yr	Taxable Income	\$150/yr
\$960/yr	Gross Annual Income	\$150/yr
\$910/yr	Net Income (after taxes)	\$112/yr
\$4,275/yr	Charitable Deduction	\$0
\$1,283	Income Tax Savings	\$0

\*Based on a 90 year-old individual in a 25% Federal tax bracket, making an \$8,000 investment. Soaring Eagle Annuity contracts are irrevocable, resulting in the large contribution deduction. The Certificate of Deposit is a 2-year rate.



## Your Gift Lives On

Please use one of the following sample forms of bequest:

A. (Whatever is left after other bequests have been granted) "All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, I bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana."

B. "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate."

C. "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_."

D. "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at 745 Indian Trail, P.O. Drawer 879 in Billings, Montana, 59103, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Wall of Living Memories Fund, to care for Cheyenne elders, the principal of which shall remain in perpetuity."

These are sample forms only. Consult your attorney when preparing any legal document.

DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL

YES, I'm interested in a Soaring Eagle charitable gift annuity. The better rate of return, tax deduction and eventual charitable contribution to Soaring Eagle sounds like a WIN WIN WIN opportunity.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date(s) of annuitant \_\_\_\_\_

(up to 2 names/birthdates allowed per annuity.)

This is a non-binding proposal. Upon receipt of actual payment for an annuity, a formal contract will be mailed. For more information call Mary Jo at (406) 256-8500.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Renee Sansom Flood is the author and editor of 15 books of historical nonfiction. In 2002, a PBS documentary by South Dakota Public Television based on her book, *Lost Bird of Wounded Knee* (Scribner) won an Emmy. A New York film production company has optioned the book rights for a feature film based on *Lost Bird*.

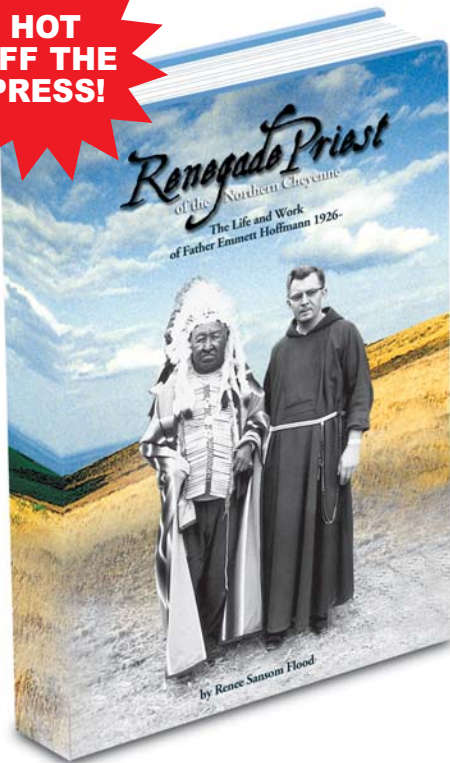
Renee has received The South Dakota Governor's Award for History and the South Dakota Hall of Fame Writer of the Year Award in 1996. She also received the Karl Mundt Distinguished Historical Writing Award. A review of Renee's book appeared in the *Library Journal*: "Flood's book is highly recommended," and in *Publisher's Weekly*: "Her work is well-documented, powerful and chilling." Her most recent book, *Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne, The Life and Work of Father Emmett Hoffmann 1926*—will be available by mid-November. Renee lives in Montana and lectures nationally on her writing and publishing experiences. She is currently working on a book for children and two books about women and frontier life in the American West.



# Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne

The Life and Work of  
Father Emmett Hoffmann 1926–

Father Emmett's remarkable story  
of success is unequalled in the history  
of the 20th century Catholic Church  
in the American West.



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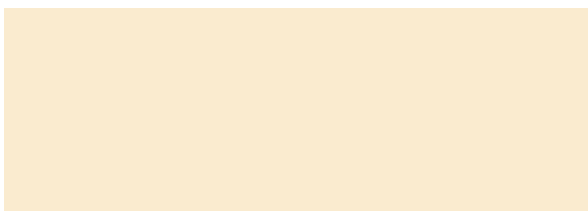
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**Father Emmett's Biography,  
Renegade Priest of the  
Northern Cheyenne**

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ON BACK**

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## Soaring Eagle

### Important Days We Want to Remember in Our Prayers

*You are in our prayers each day and we want to remember your loved ones on their special days as well.*  
Please print the name(s) you want remembered and return in the envelope provided.

Birthday\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birthday\_\_\_\_\_

Birthday\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birthday\_\_\_\_\_

Deceased\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death\_\_\_\_\_

Deceased\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death\_\_\_\_\_