



The Newest Handmaids in the USA Province



Sister Jessica



Sister Uyen-Chi



Sister Theresa



Sister Oanh



Sister Joy



Sister Michelle

The Handmaid community is deeply grateful that the Lord is blessing them with young women who are called to the Handmaid way of life. Since 2004 the community has seen an increase in vocations, and currently have six sisters in initial formation: four of whom are in first vows and two who are postulants. The Sisters are also in contact with several candidates who want to discern about the Handmaid way of life. At present, Sister Jessica is studying theology at Comillas in Madrid, Spain. Sister Theresa is pursuing religious studies in Manila, The Philippines, and Sister Uyen-Chi is a student of theology at Villanova University. Sister Joy has returned to the Wyncote community after graduating from Comillas in Madrid. Her ministry will be at Ancillae-Assumpta Academy. Along with the Handmaids, please continue to pray that many young women will respond joyfully to the call to be Handmaids in service to our world.



New Statue at Vatican

A newly sculpted statue that depicts Saint Raphaela Mary, foundress of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was blessed and dedicated by Pope Benedict XVI on January 20, 2010. The statue was placed in the exterior of the apse of the Basilica of

Saint Peter in Vatican City, a space designated for those who founded religious congregations. It is the first and only statue of an Andalucian saint to adorn the Basilica.

The statue, designed and sculpted by Cordoba's Marco Augusto Dueñas, is made of marble, stands about nineteen feet in height and weighs 60,000 pounds. It features Saint Raphaela Mary, holding an open Bible in one hand, with sheaves of wheat representing the Eucharist, in the other. At the saint's feet is a figure of a young girl who appears to be reaching out to the saint's offering. At right, Dueñas works on a model for the sculpture.



Did you know?

The Core Values of a Handmaid are:

- JOY
- HOSPITALITY
- SIMPLICITY
- HUMILITY
- COMPASSION



Handmaids from various ministries throughout the USA Province posed with Cardinal Justin Rigali following the Liturgy of Thanksgiving on May 8, 2010. Story on Page 3.

Handmaid Presence in the USA is Celebrated with "A Journey of Hope"

"...AND SO IT IS THAT THE HANDMAIDS CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY OF HOPE, KNOWING, AS DID THEIR PREDECESSORS, THAT HOPE SEES THE INVISIBLE, FEELS THE INTANGIBLE, AND ACHIEVES THE IMPOSSIBLE."

ANONYMOUS

In a celebration to commemorate the past, present, and future of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, an Inaugural *Journey of Hope Celebration* was recently held at the historic Knowlton Mansion in Philadelphia. Two hundred guests took part in the festivities on April 14, an historic date which also marked the 133rd anniversary of the community's founding. Reflecting their history, it was in 1877 that Sister Raphaela Mary Porras and her community received the approval of the Cardinal of Madrid to begin the religious order of sisters known today as the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In a program introduced by Advisory Board chairperson, Dan Mealey and narrated by Philadelphia Broadcast Pioneer, Liz Matt, the celebration was highlighted by a look back at the USA Province from its beginning in 1926. Credited as the first to arrive from Spain, Sisters Vivian Vivanco and Gabriela Dillon were instrumental in laying the foundation for the Handmaids first ministry in the US. Opening their home on 34th Street in West Philadelphia, the sisters began offering classes to young women and children, and offered opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In a similar fashion, the program traced the beginnings of each of the current ministries, and also featured video clips of the newly professed sisters, each of whom described her personal experience as a member of the Handmaid community. A photo montage with music was the final



Guests for the Journey of Hope Celebration included Jacques (left) and Marie Phelan Gordon (right) and Jane and Chuck Auer (center.)



Sisters Philomena Monte and Uyen-Chi Dang were two of the twenty Handmaids who spent time reminiscing and sharing stories at the celebration.

part of the presentation and portrayed some of the thousands of individuals who are being served through the current ministries.

To capture the significance of their history, everything from the evening's decor to the menu reflected the Handmaids universality and multi-cultural influence. Food stations featuring delicacies from Italian, Spanish, and American cuisine were elegantly prepared and displayed under the direction of Advisory Board member, Beth Conroy. Photographs and mementos of Handmaids who had served in the USA Province during the past eighty years brought nostalgic reminders to many of those present.

In a brief address to the audience, Sister Dorothy Beck, Provincial Superior, expressed her gratitude for the continual support the Handmaids have been offered throughout their USA ministries. She maintained eagerly that, "while the journey has been a long one and has not been without its challenges, the faith and hope in our mission will continue to sustain us in all that we endeavor; due in large measure to the many friends who continue supporting our ministries." The festivities were capped by a champagne toast offered by Advisory Board member, Jack Conroy, and an anniversary

cake-cutting shared by Sisters Dorothy Beck, Maureen Gillespie, and Oanh Vo.

Sincere gratitude is extended to the Conroys for their generosity in hosting this event, which benefitted the USA Province formation fund and care of the senior sisters.



Guests for the Journey of Hope Celebration included friends of the Handmaids from various ministries throughout the USA Province.

Save the Date!
The Second Journey of Hope CELEBRATION will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at the Knowlton Mansion in Philadelphia. Be sure to mark your 2011 date books and calendars now!!



Handmaids arrive in US and open a house on 34th Street in West Philadelphia.

1926



The Handmaids purchase the Lorimer Estate in Wyncote and begin teaching classes.

1945



In Germantown, the Handmaids begin Ancilla Domini Academy, a school for girls.

1953



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Cardinal Justin Rigali Celebrates Liturgy of Thanksgiving

An estimated nine hundred participants gathered at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia to celebrate a Liturgy of Thanksgiving held on Saturday, May 8th. Honoring the recent placement of Saint Raphaela Mary's statue at the Vatican in Rome, Cardinal Justin Rigali was the principal celebrant and homilist at the liturgy. He was joined by a host of concelebrants, and offered a beautifully inspiring homily reflecting on the life of Saint Raphaela Mary, the foundress of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Twenty five Handmaids from Miami, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; El Salvador, Philadelphia, Haverford, and Wyncote, Pennsylvania took part in the celebration. Invited dignitaries included Camilo Villarino-Marzo, a political counselor at the Spanish Embassy in Washington, DC, along with his wife, Susana and three daughters, and Dr. Herminio Muñiz, Honorary Vice Consul for the Consulate of Spain in Philadelphia, and his wife, Jeanine. (Pictured below).



In true Handmaid fashion and hospitality, the Cathedral was beautifully decorated with six-foot panels depicting the Handmaid ministries lining the entrance way. The side of the altar offered a display and tribute to Saint Raphaela Mary that featured her statue, the Handmaid constitutions, a crucifix, flowers, and 26 international flags.

The liturgy began with a procession of more than seventy selected representatives



and friends. They carried banners that emphasized the mission, values, and charism of the Handmaids. Drawn from a wide range of constituencies and groups, members of the procession served to highlight the universality of the sisters and their ministries through the numerous and diverse



ethnicities they reflected. Prior to the liturgy, a number of choral works were performed by an exceptionally talented volunteer choir, led by choral director Joyce Kelly and accompanied by organist Nile Weber. Volunteers for the choir were comprised of students, alumni, and parents from Ancillae-Assumpta Academy. Other musical works featured: violinist, Tamae Lee, (pictured above); pianist, Michael Klein; cellist, Eileen Wolpert; guitarist, Tanya Regli; and flutist, Kathy Brown. The choir also enhanced the service through their performance of the liturgical music, as well.

In delivering a poignant homily to the audience (pictured top right), Cardinal Rigali expressed, "The entire Church is now more than ever conscious of the heroic witness of Saint Raphaela Mary since, in the outdoor alcoves of Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, her image has been placed among statues of other prominent Founders and Foundresses of Religious congregations. This honor is not only a recognition of the life and vocation of Saint Raphaela Mary, but also a tribute to the enduring mission of the Handmaids to bear witness to the "Love of Christ in the Eucharist and the concern of His Heart for the salvation of all" (ACJ Mission Statement). What a great contribution to the Church is their offering and prayer of reparation and their passion for reconciliation." His message also encouraged the Handmaids "to continue this mission of service embraced and lived by your holy Foundress." Quoting Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Rigali reminded that, "Contemporary men and women need more than ever to draw from the springs of the Sacred Heart of Christ. Only in His Heart can they find peace in moments of anguish, which today's secular culture makes less and less bearable."

Following the liturgy, ACJ Associates and volunteers distributed individually packaged, home baked "lace" cookies to the congregants.



Handmaid Province Advisory Board members, Tom Breslin and Dan Mealey, receive a banner from one of the procession members.



The Handmaid Province Advisory Board members with Cardinal Rigali.

It was a perfect way to extend more of the Handmaid hospitality and combine the influence of one of St. Raphaela's pastimes - making lace.

Upon leaving the Cathedral, guests were invited to a brief reception held at the Public House on Logan Square. Several hundred were hosted to light fare and drinks through the generosity of Ancillae-Assumpta Academy parents, Brian and Molly Harrington.

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1975

Responding to a need for Spanish speaking sisters, the Handmaids arrive to serve the Miami, Florida community.



1985

Engaging in a number of ministries, the Handmaids begin serving the diocese of Atlanta, Georgia.



2002

The Handmaids open Oasis Católico in Athens, Georgia to serve the needs of an immigrant population.



2004

Handmaids begin a volunteer mission and ministry in El Salvador.

Advisory Board Announced

Sister Dorothy Beck, acj, Provincial Superior of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus recently announced the selection of the 2010-2011 Advisory Board for the Handmaids USA Province. The board includes:

Dan Mealy, Chairperson
Anita Alvaré
Tom Breslin
Beth Conroy
Jack Conroy
Patricia DeAngelis
John DiBenedetto
Sean Flynn
Jacques Gordon
Marie Phelan Gordon
Sid Gosser
Mary Pat Heilmann
Mary Mealey
David Reid
Brendan Teehan
Marie Teehan
Mary Trautwein

The Advisory Board assists the USA Province in its efforts to gain the public interest and voluntary financial support necessary for continuing its mission and ministries among the people of God.

Visit Planned

Superior General of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Sister Inmaculada Fukasawa, will visit the USA Province in September, 2010.

Her travels are expected to take her to the six USA ministries including those in Florida, Georgia and Pennsylvania.



**Discover the Handmaids at:
www.ascjusa.org**

Become a Facebook friend and check out the Handmaid Cause Page.



Facebook Fan Page:

<http://tiny.cc/handmaids>



Facebook Cause Page:

<http://tiny.cc/helpthehandmaids>

Prayer Requests



We ask that you please keep in your hearts and daily prayers, the following individuals and families who have requested our prayers: Carolina Alday, Juan Alday, Luis Alday, Alvaré Family, Melina Angelo, Beck Family, Sister Dorothy Beck, acj, Benner Family, George Beschen, Sr., Jody Boyle, Briggs Family, Francis Caputo, Susan and Bill Carney, Mary-Joan Carson, Denis Cassidy, Sister Kayjoy Cooper, acj, Barbara Craig, Josie D'Amico, DeGrasse Family, Peg Dougherty and her brother, John, Dyer Family, Tim Eckert, Barbara Eichman, Marta Embree, Farnon Family, Isabelle Ferguson, Joan Frisco, Peg Gaffney, Beth Gallagher, Gallagher Family, Joan Gitzen, Pat Hafferty, Emilie Higgins, Peggy T. Higgins, Hogman Family, Hurm Family, Elizabeth Kenney, Joan Knight, Mark Knight, Edward Knox, Langan Family, Mildred A. Lester, Robert Joe Lester, Charles Lynch, James Lynch, Magee Family, Georgie McAndrews, John McAndrews, Kevin McAndrews, Tom McAndrews, McCann Family, Harry McClaren, Kate McHugh, Chip Moran, Victor Nicoladse, Nicoladse Family, Noga Family, Daughter of Helen Novielli, Molly Novielli, Rosemarie Novielli, O'Callaghan Family, Orr Family, John Reilly Jr., Joseph Reilly, Mary Ann Reilly, John Shiffer, Lee Shiffer, Margaret Mary and Bob Spillane, Stanton Family, VanderNeut Family, William Family, Mary Joe Dalu Williams, and Zimmer Family.

(If you would like to remain on our prayer list, please submit your request to asaracino@acjusa.org or by phoning the USA Province Development Office at 610-642-5715.)

RENEWAL DAYS PLANNED

The Handmaid USA Province will convene in August at the Saint Raphaela Retreat Center for their annual renewal days. Sister Margaret Scott, acj, author of *The Eucharist and Social Justice*, will be the main speaker for the event.

Sharing Handmaid News from:

Atlanta, Georgia... The Handmaid community is celebrating their 25th year of serving the people of the Atlanta diocese. Congratulations to Sisters Carmen Cabrejos, Pilar Dalmau, and Florentina Iruretagoyena for continuing to spread the message of God's love and grace.

Haverford, Pennsylvania... Sister Ruth Held will celebrate her 90th Birthday with a liturgy and reception on July 31st at St. Raphaela Retreat Center.

Sister Asunta Thanh (pictured at right) recently completed her studies at Temple University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting.



Miami, Florida... Sister Teresita Motos recently arrived from Spain and will be working with the Miami community.

Wyncote, Pennsylvania... Sister Belen Escauriaza (niece of Sister Assumption Escauriaza) recently joined the Wyncote community.

Around the Globe... Sisters Cam Banh, from the Philadelphia community and Cecilia Chen, from the Miami community, recently traveled to China, where they joined other Handmaids in looking at ways to extend the reach of their ministries.