



Letter from the Provincial Superior

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I wish you a most blessed and happy new year. In a most significant way, since our community is this year focusing on our core value of *joy*, I pray that 2011 will be a most *joyful* year for you and your families!

For the Handmaids, our joy is magnified as 2011 marks our eighty-fifth anniversary in the United States. Heeding the request of Cardinal Dennis Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia in 1926, two Spanish Handmaids, Sisters Virginia Vivanco and Gabriela Dillon, became the pioneers who opened our first house on 34th Street. We are humbled at knowing that the paths they took have given our Handmaid journey a solid footing on which we continue to travel. The sisters in our community find strength in the faith and vision of our predecessors and our foundress.

Today, after eighty-five years of journeying, building community, and serving “*with love and for love*”, we are striving to be a vibrant presence and constant reminders of God’s work on earth. You, our friends and supporters, continue to inspire our work and lovingly affirm our following the words of Saint Ignatius, and the example of Saint Raphaela Mary to “*seek God in all things.*”

We are grateful for our years in the United States and invite you to join us in celebration on Wednesday, April 27th as we highlight our 85th anniversary at our “Journey of Hope Celebration” at the Knowlton Mansion in Philadelphia.

Be assured of our prayers for you and your families during this new year and always.

With joy and hope,

Dorothy Beck acj



Did you know?

The incorrupt body of Saint Raphaela Mary is venerated daily and lies in the Retreat Center at the Sacred Heart Church in Rome.

Historic Meeting Convenes in Rome

In November 2010, Sister Inmaculada Fukasawa, General Superior of the Handmaids, convoked an historic meeting. All the sisters in ministries of leadership in the Congregation gathered in Rome to reflect on the topic, *Government ad edificationem*, (government for upbuilding the Handmaid community.)



From the USA province, Sisters Dorothy Beck, Cam Banh, Maria

Provincial Superior Sr. Dorothy Beck, Novice Directress Sr. Sagrario Núñez, and Juniorate Directress Sr. Kayjoy Cooper attended the historic meeting.

Jesús Sagaseta, and Kathleenjoy Cooper attended the meeting along with approximately 150 other sisters from all over the world. The participants reflected on and were greatly inspired by our Ignatian form of governance - authority exists for the sake of the mission; authority in our congregation is personal rather than capitular, and it is to be exercised in discernment, that is, in a common search for God’s will.

Also gathered in Rome in November 2010, along with their provincial superiors and the general team, were all the sisters whose ministry is

formation. From the USA, Sisters Dorothy Beck, Kathleenjoy Cooper, and Sagrario Núñez attended the



Local Superiors Sr. María Jesús Sagaseta and Sr. Cam Banh, met with the Superiors in Rome.

meeting. The theme to be pondered was, *The Eucharist forms us*. Reflecting on the Eucharist verbs - **took, blessed, broke and gave**, we explored and articulated a Handmaid pedagogy of formation. We were deeply grateful for the 130 young Handmaids throughout the world who are on the road to becoming finally professed.

Throughout the meetings, the mix of Handmaids nationalities offered the joyous confirmation to all of our unity in essentials and diversity in local applications. Sister Dorothy’s comment speaks to this reality: “*Handmaids are truly becoming one universal body for mission, as Saint Raphaela Mary envisioned. Today in Handmaid life, universality is not just a catch word; it is a reality in which respect and inclusion direct how we are with each other and with the great variety of peoples.*”

General Team Visits U.S.A.

The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus recently welcomed Superior General Sister Immaculada Fukasawa, acj, and two of her assistants, Sister Nélida Leguen, acj, and Sister Gabriela Espinosa, acj for a visit to the U.S.A. province. During their two-week stay, the Sisters traveled to each of the Handmaid communities, including Atlanta and Athens, Georgia; Miami, Florida; and Haverford, Philadelphia, and Wyncote, Pennsylvania.

A visit by the General Team occurs at least once every ten years. The visit is intended for mutual support, to encourage the living out of the Sisters' vocations fully and to invigorate their ministries. Sister Immaculada gave the Handmaids in the States the joyful opportunity to hear about Handmaid happenings throughout the world. This mutual sharing of life and mission deepens their union of minds and hearts and strengthens their belonging to a universal community.



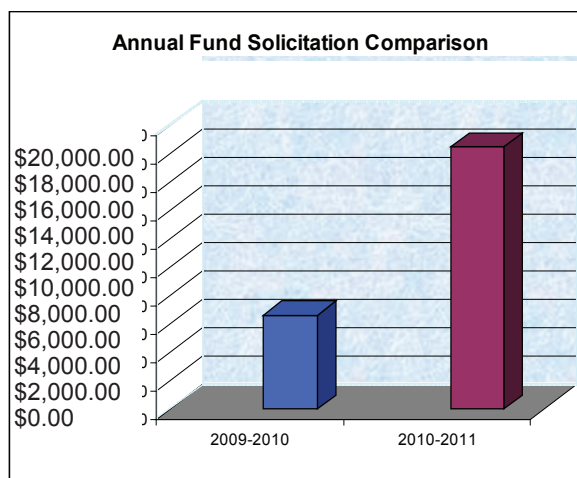
Sisters Cam Banh, Maureen Gillespie, and Immaculada Fukasawa at a meeting in Wyncote.

Following the visit, Sister Immaculada reported that she was *"pleased to see how the Sisters strive to respond in the spirit of our charism to the challenges presented by society."* Recognizing their sense of social responsibility, she noted the collaboration of the Sisters with diocesan social service programs, with at-risk families and with those in need. She also noted the *"highly esteemed"* Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, acknowledging its recent national award, and the ministry at St. Raphaela Center, calling the Sisters *"truly apostolic."* She was encouraged by the young women in the Novitiate and Postulantship. Regarding the senior Sisters she remarked, *"I was impressed by some of the elderly Sisters who dedicate themselves with great enthusiasm to the service of others."*

The visit of the General Team was a blessing in that it empowered the Sisters and their lay collaborators to rekindle their lives of joyful and humble service.

*Thank you...Gracias...Tapadh leibh...Arigatô.
Asante...Obrigada...DOHJE...Abui ngan...Grazie...
KOMAPsumnida...*

to all of the friends and supporters of the 2010-2011 Handmaid Province Annual Fund. Your contributions this year exceeded our expectations and tripled the amount we received in 2009-2010. (These amounts do not include any grants or proceeds from fund-raising activities.) Your generosity is deeply appreciated and will continue to assist the various efforts of the USA Province!



A Sharing of Joy



Sr. Oanh with her parents, Provincial Superior Sr. Dorothy Beck and Novice Directress Sr. Sagrario Núñez.

Simply, yet poignantly, Sr. Oanh Vo shares her experience of entering the Handmaid Novitiate:

"After living with the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for roughly a year, I entered the Novitiate on November 27, 2010 in response to God's continual invitation to follow Him in the footsteps of St. Raphaela Mary. In front of the Blessed Sacrament and in the presence of my parents, and all the sisters, I was officially welcomed into the Handmaid family. My eyes filled with tears as I was overwhelmed by love, joy, and gratitude to God and to those who have touched my life. My life, my vocation, and my new family are but pure gifts, generously given by the God of love. The only proper response to this immense love is to offer my entire being to be God's instrument.

Although I feel like I have known the sisters for many years, this stage is only the beginning of a journey of lifetime discernment and formation as a Handmaid. Lovingly described by my uncle, a priest with the Society of the Divine Word, as *"a time of desert experience"* and *"a long honeymoon with Jesus"*, this 2-year Novitiate is truly a special period for me to deepen my love for God and to know the Handmaids more intimately. In spite of the uncertain future, of my doubts, fears, and many limitations, I am joyously trying to live in the present moment of grace, knowing that God's unconditional love for me is my light and strength. It is God's invitation for me to *"be still and know that I am God"* (Ps 46:11). I strive to move forward on this journey with my dear Handmaid companions each day, and let God do the rest."

May God bless you, Oanh, throughout your journey!

"The heart stirs with joy when we are fulfilling God's will."

~ St. Raphaela Mary



A record number of University of Georgia students are taking part in the tutoring program at the Oasis Católico.



Ancillae-Assumpta Academy earned its fourth recognition from the U.S. Department of Education when it was named a 2010 recipient of the Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

Athens

Wyncote

world youth day MADRID 2011 Jornada Mundial de la Juventud

Dates: August 11-22, 2011

Are you one of the million plus young Catholics who will gather in Madrid, Spain this August to meet with Pope Benedict & celebrate the Catholic faith?

Our young Handmaids, Americans who have lived in Madrid, who have studied the Spanish roots of our life, who speak fluent Spanish and have the inside scoop on how to get around, where to go, what to do, and who's who, will be leading young adults like yourself on a pilgrimage that takes in not only Madrid, but Pedro Abad, the birthplace of St. Raphaela Mary, Córdoba, and important landmarks that tell the story of Europe.

This trip is a trip by young adults, for young adults. We'll be staying, as most pilgrims do, in schools and convents along the way. This simplicity is part of the World Youth Day experience and allows us to offer this trip at a very low cost. The price, which includes airfare from Philadelphia, ground transportation, entrances to cultural attractions, all ten nights of accommodations, 11 breakfasts, 6 midday meals and 10 dinners, a World Youth Day registration packet and more, is only \$2650.

Don't let this unique opportunity pass you by! Pope Benedict and St. Raphaela are waiting for you. **WILL YOU BE THERE?** For more information, please contact Sr. Joy Payton, acj 215-576-6250 or joy.payton.aci@gmail.com.

Sharing Handmaid News from:

Haverford, Pennsylvania...Sister Carmen Cabrejos was recently missioned to Haverford and is working at St. Patrick's Parish in Norristown; Sister Philomena Monte, who still serves as sacristan and "kitchen assistant" will celebrate her 95th birthday in February.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania...Sister Gloria Petrone reports that the mission in El Salvador has recently completed another building project to provide Miguel and his family with a more structurally sound place to live. The mission is also working on a project that will make drinking water available to every house in Cantón de Las Delicias.

Wyncote, Pennsylvania...In response to the pressing educational needs of children throughout the world, the Ancillae-Assumpta Academy community recently took part in the Heart to Heart Program. Each \$20.00 contribution helps to keep a child in school for one year in countries where the Handmaids minister to those in need.

Around the Globe...Sixteen Handmaids recently made their final vows and are serving in Japan, Peru, the Congo, Colombia, Portugal, the Phillippines, Spain, India, and Vietnam.

A Very Special New Year's Eve Celebration

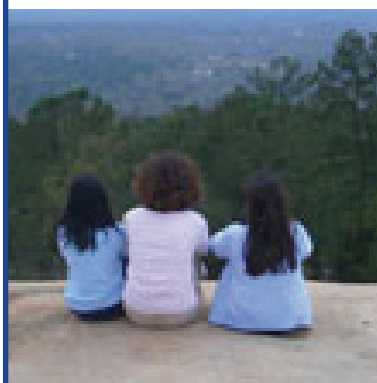
To bridge the old and new years, St. Raphaela Center celebrated the annual Midnight Mass, brief retreat and joyous party. This year, those events were particularly inspiring to the Handmaids and friends gathered to witness the renewal of vows of Srs. Theresa Vu and UyenChi Dang. Currently studying theology at Villanova University, both are actively involved in various Church ministries. During their years of temporary profession, Sisters renew their vows every six months. That renewal is preceded by three days of prayer in which they ponder their call to live in chastity, poverty and obedience as Handmaids of the Sacred Heart.



Rev. Bernard Farley, Chaplain of St. John Neumann Nursing Home, offers the Eucharist to Srs. Theresa Vu and UyenChi Dang.

Congratulations, Sisters Theresa and UyenChi! May God continue to bless you on your journey.

Have you ever wondered about becoming a Handmaid of the Sacred Heart of Jesus?



Discernment retreats are held periodically for women who are considering religious life. An upcoming Weekend Retreat will be held March 18-20. Check our website (www.acjusa.org) for more dates and information.

MASS CARDS AVAILABLE

The Handmaid USA Province has mass cards available for a variety of remembrances and other special occasions. Intentions and prayer requests will be remembered in the Sisters' daily Adoration and during a novena of masses during a month of your choice.



When using the cards, simply place your request and include a donation to the Handmaid Sisters. By making a gift through using the mass cards, you will be contributing to support the needs of the senior and infirmed sisters. For information or to place your request for cards, contact Angela Saracino at the USA Province Development Office at 610-642-5715 ext. 15 or via email: asaracino@acjusa.org.



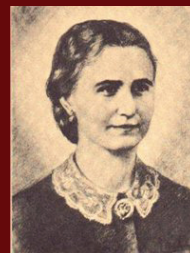
Haverford

The shrine and adjoining gathering room in the St. Raphaela Center have recently been refurbished and were rededicated by Fr. Dan Joyce, sj.



El Salvador

A new project has been undertaken to "Buy a Goat" for a family. Once a family receives its goat, it is provided with unlimited fresh milk to sell or to use for themselves!



Facebook

Become a friend of Raphaela Mary on Facebook! Visit at

<http://tiny.cc/raphaelamary>



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, Donna and Nicky Brennan, Briggs Family, Francis Caputo, Susan and Bill Carney, Mary-Joan Carson, Denis Cassidy, Friends and Family of Alana Cianciulli, Cook Family, Sister Kayjoy Cooper, acj, Barbara Craig, Josie D'Amico, DeGrasse Family, Emily DiPietro, Frank DiPietro, Sr. Phyllis DiRenzo, IHM, Peg Dougherty and her brother, John, Dyer Family, Tim Eckert, Barbara Eichman, Marta Embree, Farnon Family, Isabelle Ferguson, Helen Ferrier, Ferrier Family, Joan Frisco, Peg Gaffney, Beth Gallagher, John Gallagher, Gallagher Family, Joan Gitzen, Pat Hafferty, Emilie Higgins, Peggy T. Higgins, Hogman Family, John Hulferty, Hurm Family, Elizabeth Kenney, Joan Knight, Mark Knight, Edward Knox, Ted Koerper, Langan Family, Eileen and William Larkey, Mildred A. Lester, Robert Joe Lester, David Lipton, Charles Lynch, James Lynch, Magee Family, Angela Mancuso, Frank Mancuso, Georgie McAndrews, John McAndrews, Kevin McAndrews, Tom McAndrews, Jack McAvoy, Mary McAvoy, Scott McAvoy, McCann Family, Harry McClaren, Molly McDonnell, Norbert McGettigan, Kate McHugh, Chip Moran, Dagoberto Mosquera, Bernadette Mullen, Kathleen Murphy, Mary Murphy, Murray Family, Victor Nicoladse, Nicoladse Family, Bob Nicoletti, Noga Family, Daughter of Helen Novielli, Molly Novielli, Rosemarie Novielli, Sagrario Núñez, O'Callaghan Family, Orr Family, John Reilly Jr., Joseph Reilly, Mary Ann Reilly, John Shiffer, Lee Shiffer, Margaret Mary and Bob Spillane, Alfred Spitalieri, Stach Family, Stanton Family, Celeste Tinari, Matthew Tinari, Philip Tinari, Sandra Tolbert, VanderNeut Family, Bill Vinci, Weinrich Family, William Family, Mary Joe Dalu Williams, Mary Winters, Tracie Winters, Angie Woods, Albert Zimmer, 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 extension 15.)



Discover the Handmaids
at: www.acjusa.org

Facebook Fan Page:

<http://tiny.cc/handmaids>



Facebook Cause Page:

<http://tiny.cc/helpthehandmaids>

SAVE THE DATE

Having arrived in Philadelphia in 1926, the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will commemorate 85 years of presence in the United States with the second **Journey of Hope Celebration**. The event will include a cocktail reception, a silent auction, and a live auction.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the endeavors of the USA ministries. Plan on spending an evening with the Handmaids and their friends on **Wednesday, April 27, 2011** at the Knowlton Mansion. For information on tickets or sponsorships, contact Angela Saracino at asaracino@acjusa.org or by phoning the USA Province Development Office at 610-642-5715 extension 15.



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
USA Province Development Office
616 Coopertown Road
Haverford, PA 19041

www.acjusa.org

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 2303
Jenkintown, PA

Address Service Requested