



From the Provincial Superior



The following remarks are excerpted from the address given by Sr. Dorothy Beck at the 85th Anniversary and Journey of Hope Celebration on April 27, 2011.

As I look out across this room filled with the faces of friends from long ago, and friends new to us, I am overwhelmed with many emotions. Thank you for your support, your love and your oneness with us. Thank you for taking the time to affirm our journey and the hope that it carries alongside each step. About a journey, the noted statesman Winston Churchill, once remarked: *"Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path.*

You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb."

Our 85-year journey has been, if nothing else, as Churchill's words describe, an ever-improving path. It has been one blessed by women who oftentimes dared to venture into uncharted waters. In 1926, two Spanish sisters sailed across the ocean to a place where there were only strangers. Slowly, through their earnest hard work and hopefulness, they grew a ministry that within two decades had found many friends and devotees. From that ministry came Sisters Ruth Held, Philomena Monte, Mary Ann Craig, Marietta Jansen, Betty Ann McDonald...and many others who are too numerous to name.

In 1946, with \$35,000 and on the advice of a banker friend of Cardinal Dougherty, Sister Marie McKeown purchased the Wyncote property. Through the dedication of many sisters including Assumption Escariaza, among others, the sisters expanded the teaching ministry that today stands as Ancillae-Assumpta Academy. I was fortunate to be a part of that school in its early years, and was the very last principal of Assumpta Academy. My counterpart there was our beloved Sr. Elizabeth McCoy, who at 27 years old, took over the reins as principal of the newly formed Ancillae-Assumpta Academy. When you talk about a hope-filled journey, there are few who epitomize that phrase more than Elizabeth McCoy. With Sisters Kathleen and Maureen as administrators, and Sisters Kathy and Joy on the faculty, the school's journey of hope continues and bears great promise for the future.

In Haverford, a similar journey can be traced. In 1957, the Handmaids began a fully formed retreat ministry, with Sr. Philomena Monte as one of its first directresses. Since then, Sisters Kayjoy, Sagrario, and myself have followed in Phil's footsteps. Today, the St. Raphaela Center, directed by Sister Margaret Scott, serves more than 5,000 individuals and groups as they journey with hope through meditation, contemplation, and prayer.

By 1976, when Ancilla Domini Academy closed, it had seen some familiar faces who had walked its halls become Handmaids. Srs. Elizabeth, Kayjoy, Kathleen, Julia Walsh, and Gloria Petrone are among those who entered religious life after having been students at ADA. Sr. Ruth Held and Sr. Rose Harmsen, were among the faculty there at one time or another, and shared their Handmaid mission with hope.

In Philadelphia, our sisters Cam, Mary Theresa, and Betty Ann work within the city in various community ministries where their reaching out to those in need brings the hope of better tomorrows and a future filled with optimism. The same is true of our ministries in Athens, Atlanta, and Miami. And our newest outreach, under the watchful direction of Sister Gloria Petrone, exemplifies a hope that is both tangible and heartfelt and reaches into the depths of the lives of Salvadorans.

The path of our journey has indeed ever-lengthened by thousands of miles from that first house in West Philadelphia. It is because of these sisters that we are here tonight...that we dare to continue to move forward. But in an even more significant way, it is because of you, our faithful and faith-filled friends, that we stand before you – small in number, but large in ambition, determination, and drive. Tonight we have in our midst five of the newest six sisters who have professed their intentions to become Handmaids. We realize the blessing that this is, and know that it is through prayer and faith and hope that these young women will continue our journey – the journey that you have so lovingly supported.

Please know that all you have done for us and with us continues to fill us with enthusiasm and hope. Together, we know that we will continue to work towards the dream of St. Raphaela Mary and the goal that she promised through her words: *"All of us united like the fingers of a hand, thus shall we succeed in all that we do because we have the Lord, God, for our very own."*

This reflection was written by Sr. Michelle Cimaroli following her entrance ceremony to the Handmaid novitiate.

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



As I prepared to enter the novitiate on May 18, St. Raphaela Mary's feast day, these words of hers were made concrete for me. Each time I saw the book of our constitutions

that I was to receive in the ceremony, I felt this fluttering feeling that bubbled up inside and spilled out into a huge smile that was impossible to contain. I think I was experiencing this "stirring of the heart" of which St. Raphaela speaks, and I felt consoled that this joy I was experiencing at becoming a novice was God's will.



I also felt a profound gratitude for God's call to become a Handmaid. I experienced a sense of this "immense God" that St. Raphaela always perceived, as I stood in awe of what God was calling me to: something so much greater than myself. Seeing so many Handmaids and friends say "yes" to God's invitation day after day gives me the strength and courage to say "yes" along with them. As I looked around, I found that this yes, this fiat, is incredibly life-giving; not only for ourselves, but for everyone around us. We can see this in a very clear and extraordinary way in the fiats of both Mary and Raphaela. This is what God so deeply desires for us because, to use St. Raphaela's words again, *"Our God is the God of life, so all that lives gives God glory and praise. Let's be full of life."*

Handmaids Celebrate 85 Years and A Journey of Hope

The second annual Journey of Hope Celebration honoring the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was held on April 27, 2011 at the beautiful Knowlton Mansion in Northeast Philadelphia. For the Handmaids, the event was marked with special significance as it coincided with the 85th anniversary of their United States Province.

"It was fitting that the Handmaids' 85th Anniversary Celebration was an evening filled with joy, generosity and gratitude. The Sisters have touched so many lives with their good works and the guests at The Knowlton Mansion were only too happy to shower them with public and private accolades and overwhelming financial support. I felt privileged to be among this extraordinary group of people."

~ Anita Alvaré, Development Advisory Board Member, Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

In recognition of the time period in which the USA Province began, a 1920's themed cocktail reception and delicious buffet dinner set the stage for the celebration. Both silent and live auctions added to the evening's enjoyment.

Guests also gave a standing ovation to a skit performed



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, United States Province: (pictured left to right) First row, bottom: Srs. Asunta Thanh, Betty Ann McDonald, Philomena Monte, Cam Banh, Belen Escauriaz, Theresa Vu; Second row: Srs. Dorothy Beck, Margaret Scott, Carmen Cabrejos, Uyen-Chi Dang, Kayjoy Cooper, Sagrario Núñez, Oanh Vo; Third row: Srs. Kathy Gazie, Mary Theresa Nguyen, Kathleen Helbig, Maureen Gillespie, Joy Payton; Fourth row: Srs. Mary Ann Craig, Gloria Petrone.

by Sisters Dorothy Beck, Kathleen Helbig, and Joy Payton. As part of the skit, the Sisters adapted the famous 1980's song, *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun*, by Cyndi Lauper to a Handmaid original song, *Girls Just Wanna Be Nuns*. The performance was a class act all on its own.

The event was well attended by over 200 guests who enjoyed the poignant remarks of the Master of Ceremonies, Jim Murray, a long-time friend of the Handmaids and previous General Manager of the Philadelphia Eagles. The program for the evening centered on hope – the hope that the Sisters bring to the people they serve and hope for future. As part of the evening's live auction segment of the program, auctioneer and Ancillae-Assumpta Academy alumni parent, Ken Boyden, encouraged guests to give the "gift of hope" by donating to the Handmaids' USA Province. The event raised over \$100,000, with nearly 80% of the audience participating in the live auction.



2010-2011 Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Development Advisory Board: (pictured left to right) First row, bottom: Sr. Dorothy Beck, Sr. Margaret Scott, Sr. Kathleen Helbig, Sr. Maureen Gillespie, Anita Alvaré, Marie Phelan Gordon, Jacques Gordon; Second row: Sr. Kayjoy Cooper, Sr. Mary Ann Craig, Dan Mealey, John DiBenedetto, Jack Conroy. Third row: Marie Teehan, Brendan Teehan, Mary Mealey, Sid Gosser, Mary Trautwein-Breslin, Tom Breslin, Beth Conroy.

For the Handmaids, celebrating the 85th anniversary of their United States Province was an occasion filled with immense gratitude – gratitude not only to their predecessors for their unyielding faith in God and their deep desire to expand St. Raphaela Mary's mission, but also to the many friends that have accompanied them along the journey. The Handmaids extend their deepest thanks to all who contributed to the overall success of the night and are filled with immense gratitude for the family and friends, both new and old, who continue to journey with them and energize and enrich their ministries.

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Sr. Asunta Thanh extends a personal thank-you on behalf of the Handmaids to one of the auction donors.

"What a memorable evening! The room was filled with hope, love, and togetherness. Truly, we are ONE in the Lord. Thanks a million!"
~ Sister Dorothy Beck, acj, Provincial Superior Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

"Our life must be a continual weaving of faith and generosity."

~ St. Raphaela Mary



Jim Murray, long-time friend of the Handmaids and consummate entertainer was in perfect form as the Master of Ceremonies for the 85th Anniversary and Journey of Hope Celebrations.



With style and substance, auctioneer Ken Boyden paved the way for an enormously successful live auction. More than \$100,000 was raised within a twenty-five minute time frame!

2012 General Congregation Convoked

Every five years, the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus convene to review the state of the Congregation and each of its Provinces. On March 25, 2011, General Congregation XIX was officially convoked by General Superior Inmaculada Fukasawa. According to Sister Dorothy Beck, Provincial Superior for the US, "This international gathering will focus on an examination of our lives and looking to the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the future. The province will also prepare a document on the theme: *"The Lord is changing the Institute. Let us rise to the challenge and allow ourselves to be transformed by Him."* In concert with Ignatian theology and terminology, the term 'congregation' instead of 'chapter' is used to describe the gathering, which will be comprised of representatives from every province throughout the world. The meetings will begin in Rome on February 2, 2012.

Prior to and in order to prepare for the General Congregation, each section of the Institute is required to convene a Provincial Congregation. The US Handmaids Provincial Congregation was convoked by Sister Dorothy Beck on April 4, 2011. Twenty-one sisters from the US Province will participate at this in-depth meeting which will be held in Haverford. The Provincial Congregation will begin the evening of July 31, 2011 and will be concluded by August 7, 2011. During this time, the Handmaids will elect the two representatives who will travel to Rome with Sister Dorothy for the General Congregation. While all the sisters in the Province will not attend the meeting, each may submit a proposal that will be studied. A report on the State of the Province will also be presented.

In describing the importance of both the General and Provincial Congregations, Sr. Dorothy stated, "Both congregations are critical to the continued success of the Handmaids' ministries. Because of this we count on the prayers and support of all our friends."



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Sister Angela Cordero distributes snacks to the children at the Oasis Católico Santa Rafaela in Athens, Georgia. Among their other ministries, the sisters coordinate with the University of Georgia in providing tutoring services for students in pre-school through grade three during the school year. According to Sister Margarita Martin, who organizes the program, the tutors' comments regarding their work with the students reveal the personal rewards they receive in offering their voluntary services. *"I love it when the children run into the room each day and their faces light up when they see us tutors waiting there for them. Selfishly, it's an incredible feeling to know that they love us so much! However, they don't know how much I love being there and the fact that I receive far more from them than I could ever give them."* Another relays, *"A couple of weeks into the program my kids started hugging me and told me that they loved me. I have never felt so much warmth and love from children who barely knew me."*

Spotlight On Miami

The ways through which the Handmaids' work impacts others take shape in many different forms. In Miami, the sisters are engaged in diocesan and pastoral outreach and serve a variety of multi-ethnic groups. Sister Dona DeMarco, who works at Camillus House, an organization sponsored by the Brothers of the Good Shepherd that provides humanitarian services to the poor and homeless, recently



In addition to providing social service in the Miami area, Sister Cecilia Chen (right foreground) conducts a Bible studies group for the Chinese.

received the following note from one of the clients she has assisted. It reads, *"From Robert to Sister Dona: To the most compassionate, caring and concerned person I know, who cares about other peoples' problems and issues! Who listens and tries to help them with their issues! Who offers good advice and will take time out of your daily work to try to help people! Wonderful, you are not a selfish person! I feel that it makes you happy helping others. God Bless U!!! Surely yours, Rob!!!!!! I love You!!!!!!"*

In an effort to serve the Hispanic community at the local parish, which had been largely under served until her arrival a few years ago, Sister María Jesús Sagaseta recently organized a talk on the conversion process of Lent. More than sixty people attended "From the Cross to New Life." Father Federico, the parish pastor, shared his sentiments regarding the Miami community of Handmaids with Sr. María Jesús. *"I feel so happy to have the Handmaids in my Parish. I cannot do everything myself, but the Sisters substitute [for] me in such a wonderful way: Sister Teresita with the RCLA, you with the prayer group, and Sister Dona, besides being a Lector and Minister of Holy Communion, takes a blind lady to church every week. I cannot remunerate you for your work, but I really appreciate what you do."*



Handmaids in the Novitiate program will host a pilgrimage to Spain, where they will attend World Youth Day in August, 2011.



Friends and Handmaids from Miami feted Sister Kayjoy Cooper with a celebration for her fifth "kidney birthday." Here, Karma Prieto reads the diploma from the "University of Life" to Sr. Kayjoy, aka the "Kryptonite Kidney Kid." For more information about the significance of this celebration, please visit http://www.miamiarch.org/ip.asp?op=Article_1169214843407. This was the second 5-year anniversary celebration held, as the Haverford community honored Sr. Kayjoy in February, 2011.



Prayer Requests

We ask that you please keep in your hearts and daily prayers, the following special requests: All the intentions of those who wish to remain anonymous, all married couples who are trying to conceive, all who are undergoing surgery, that their healing process be smooth, all who are sick or suffering, all who are seeking employment, all married couples, family peace, for the souls of those who have died, our gracious benefactors, people of Haiti, and for the economy to improve. Please also kindly remember the individuals and families who have requested our prayers: Alday Family, Alvaré Family, Melina Angelo, Beck Family, Sister Dorothy Beck, acj, Benner Family, George Beschen, Sr., Jody Boyle, Nicky and Donna Brennan, Briggs Family, Paul Brophy, Burgig Family, Francis Caputo, Bill and Susan Carney, Mary-Joan Carson, Denis Cassidy, Cianciulli Family and Friends, Clam Family, ✠J. Patricia Connor, Cook Family, Sister Kayjoy Cooper, acj, Michael Cosentino, Barbara Craig, Mary Joe Dalu-Williams, Josie D'Amico, DeGrasse Family, Frank and Emily DiPietro, ✠Pedro and Carmen Directo, Sister Phyllis DiRenzo, IHM, John P. Donohue, Dougherty Families, Dyer Family, Marta Embree, Tim Eckert, Barbara Eichman, Farnon Family, Helen I. Ferrier, Ferrier Family, Flannery Family, Rachel Freed, Joan Frisco, Peg Gaffney, Gallagher Family, Beth Gallagher, John Gallagher, Joan Gitzen, Pat Hafferty, Dan Healey, Leonard Helbig, Herron Family, Emilie Higgins, Pat Higgins-Ganther, Peggy T. Higgins, Hogman Family, Kathy Hoy, John Hulferty, Hurm Family, Steven Jameson, Connie Kempf-Pattison, Elizabeth Kenney, Trish Kenney, Joan Knight, Mark Knight, Edward Knox, Ted Koerper, Langan Family, William and Eileen Larkey, Mildred A. Lester, Robert Joe Lester, David Lipton, Charles Lynch, James Lynch, Magee Family, Mancusco Family, Marino Family, McAndrews Families, McAvoy Family, McCann Family, Harry McClaren, Molly McDonnell, Monte Family, Norbert J. McGettigan, McHugh Family, Chip Moran, Dagoberto Mosquera, Bernadette Mullen, Murray Family, Nicoladse Family, Bob Nicoletti, Noga Family, Novielli Families, O'Callaghan Family, Orr Family, Potts Family, Quigley Family, Reilly Families, John Ryan, Sharkey Family, Shaw Family, John and Lee Shiffer, Zoey Shute, Bob and Margaret Mary Spillane, Alfred Spitalieri, Stach Family, Stanton Family, Tinari Family, Tolbert Family, Vander Neut Family, Bill Vinci, Jack Widoman, William Family, Winter Family, Winters Family, Angie Woods, and Zimmer Family.



Facebook Cause Page:

<http://tiny.cc/helpthehandmaids>



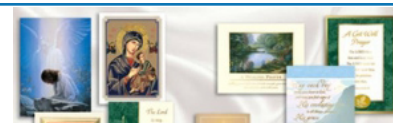
Facebook Fan Page:

<http://tiny.cc/handmaids>



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 June 10-12. 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 & 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. Mass cards may be ordered on-line via the acjusa website or by phoning the USA Province Development Office at 610-642-5715 ext. 15.

Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus USA Province Development Office

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