



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province

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Sr. Margarita Martin Honored

To begin each new year, the community of Athens, Georgia, commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation by honoring individuals and groups at their Emancipation Proclamation and Pioneer Awards Observance. Held on January 1, the remembrance is one which is both spiritually and educationally rewarding.



Sr. Margarita Martin, seated second from right, poses with honorees and distinguished guests.

At this year's event, one hundred and fifty years after the effective date of the proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln to free those in bondage in slave states, Sister Margarita Martin, acj was singled out as one of its distinguished honorees. Hailed as an "unsung hero", Sr. Margarita received a "Lifetime Achievement Award" for her work at Oasis Católico Santa Rafaela, and with the immigrant and Spanish speaking population of Athens.

According to Observance Chairman Marvin J. Nunnally, "The Emancipation Proclamation and Pioneer Awards Observance has shined light throughout Georgia saluting unsung heroes of the community. The theme of this year's event, *To Serve the Least of These* set the tone for highlighting seventeen individual, civic and corporate stewards."

Those who know Sr. Margarita understand and appreciate how deserving she is of this recognition. The driving force of Oasis Católico Santa Rafaela, the Handmaid ministry that she operates along with two additional Handmaids, Srs. Marietta Jansen and Angela Cordero, Sr. Margarita is a tireless advocate for Spanish speaking immigrants. Her unwavering commitment and dedication to those who are "the least among us" is an inspiration and underscore the difference she has made in the lives of countless men, women, and children in the Georgia community.

But this is not the first time Sr. Margarita's achievements have been noted. In 2009, she was presented with the "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award" by the Athens Area Human Relations Council. The next year, the East Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross selected her as the recipient of the "2010 Community Impact Hero Award."

It is clear in all that she is and does that Sr. Margarita believes in the power of the human spirit, and in the empowerment of those who do not have a voice or need to find a way to make their voices heard. Fortunately, for the people of Athens, Georgia, Sr. Margarita's voice rings loud and strong, bringing with it sincerity, compassion, understanding, and most importantly, hope.

Did you know that the Handmaids at Oasis Católico Santa Rafaela...

sponsor an after-school tutoring program for children in grades PreK-3?
work in conjunction and cooperation with the University of Georgia?
serve over 2,000 individuals with the basic necessities of food and clothing?

LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL



Dear Friends,

Greetings and peace to all of you who are part of the Handmaid's extended family!

As this New Year 2013 enfolds, we remember the many joy-filled as well as heart-rending events that occurred in our world during 2012. We look with hope to the New Evangelization message of the Synod held in October, 2012. We see the horrific devastation of human life through the misuse of guns, e.g. the killing of children and adults in Newtown, Ct. Events such as these cause us to ponder the mystery of life, its joys and its sorrows. They call us to "let go" and "let God". They humble us to surrender to God's loving embrace. In this surrendering, it makes me realize the importance for quiet time and for reflection. It invites me to do this, and I invite you to do this with me... NOW.....

Lately, I have been pondering two phrases – *"the love of power"* and *"the power of love"* – the same words, but so different the meaning... the reaction...the consequences. *"Love of power"* stirs self-centeredness within me...control...I'm in charge...aleness. *"Power of love"* stirs reaching out within me...togetherness...community living...building up. And you....what thoughts are stirring within you?

If we take time to reflect further, we realize that so much of the pain, suffering and injustices in our world today are motivated by *"the love of power"*. Those who are advocates for peace and justice, who befriend the needy, the lonely, the forgotten...act out of *"the power of love"*. As followers of Jesus, we are called to act out of *"the power of love"*. **Let us accept Jesus' invitation and let the "power of love" motivate us always.**

In the name of all the Handmaids, I wish you a love-filled 2013. Count on my prayers, and I ask a remembrance in yours.

With Gratitude and Hope,

Sister Dorothy Beck, acj

Sister Dorothy Beck, acj

Renewal Days Held

From August 2 through August 5, 2012, the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province, came together at Saint Raphaela Center in Haverford, PA to refresh, reflect, and be renewed in spirit. The sisters came with joy and enthusiasm to go deeper into the CALLS of General Congregation XIX – "The Lord is changing the Institute. Let us rise to the challenge and allow ourselves to be transformed by Him." During these days, two task forces were formed: Vocations Promotion and A Planning Process for the USA Province through an Ignatian Apostolic Discernment. The members of the task forces will be working and leading the Handmaids in this three-year endeavor.

During the renewal days, each community shared its creative response to one of the two booklets, "Creative Spirituality and the Charism of Reparation" and "Living the Vows from an Environmental Perspective." The Adoration periods were prepared by Sr. Kayjoy Cooper and meaningfully reflected the four calls of General Congregation XIX – COMMUNION, CONSECRATION, CHARISM, and YOUNG PEOPLE. At the close of these energizing days together, the Handmaids ritually commissioned each sister to service in the footsteps of Jesus.



Along with the local Handmaid community, Sister Oanh Vo was surrounded by members of her family as she made her first temporary profession of vows in November. Rev. Francis Nguyen Dinh Sang was the presider at the liturgy which was offered in both English and Vietnamese.

A reception for over one hundred guests followed in the St. Raphaela Center in Haverford. Sr. Oanh has recently begun her theological studies at Villanova University, and is residing with the Handmaid community in Haverford.



Sr. Mary Ann Craig and Sr. Margarita Martin were recently feted with a liturgy and celebration commemorating their golden jubilees as Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Sr. Mary Ann, a native of Philadelphia, first met the Handmaids as a young girl attending Adoration at the community's chapel in West Philadelphia. Serving in a variety of capacities, her ministries have taken her throughout the United States. Sr. Margarita, who was born in La Coruna, Spain, served in ministries in Ireland, England, and Spain before coming to the US. We congratulate both of these remarkable women and pray for their continued commitment and service to the Handmaids and to the people of God.

Saint Raphaela Center Opens Its Doors for the U.S. Golf Open

The Handmaids at St. Raphaela Center in Haverford have extended their hospitality to volunteers for the USGA U.S. Open during the week of June 10 - 16, 2013. Because of its proximity to Merion Country Club (less than one mile) the center is an ideal place for those who need a quiet rest or want to walk the grounds of our peaceful and serene setting. All faiths are welcome.

The chapel will be open daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for prayer or meditation. St Raphaela Center can house groups up to 55 persons overnight with shared baths. A limited number of rooms will be available Monday through Thursday for \$150.00 per night double occupancy with a continental breakfast. Please contact the center for information and reservations at (610) 642-5715 or at info@straphaelacenter.org. Reservations will be handled on a first come first serve basis. Visit the website for a list of current programs and directed retreats.



Sr. Assumption Escauriaza

A WOMAN OF FAITH WHO HELPED BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM

Sr. Assumption Escauriaza, a member of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus community for 77 years died peacefully on Monday, September 24, 2012.

Assumption Escauriaza was born in 1914 in Bilbao, Spain, part of the Basque region. She was one of six children, born to Manuela and Pepe, and enjoyed a life of some privilege, taking advantage of the experiences life would offer. As a young adult, she was always eager to join her many friends in the activities they enjoyed — especially traveling.

In 1935, Assumption reached a decision that would forever change her life when she entered the Handmaid's novitiate in Salamanca, Spain. She later studied at the University of London, where she received a certificate of proficiency in English, and a teaching certificate from the Royal Drawing Society of England. In 1942, in Loyola, Spain, Sr. Assumption professed her final vows as a Handmaid of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and embarked on a journey that would take her across the globe in the service of God and the gospel mission of the Catholic Church.

In July, 1946, Sr. Assumption moved to the United States. Six months later, her calling took her to Cuba, where she undertook the challenge of assisting in the efforts to build a school for the young students there. 1954 brought a similar challenge when Sr. Assumption returned to the Philadelphia area, to the Handmaid community in Wyncote, which operated Ancillae Academy, a school for girls. There, Sr. Assumption was charged with the mission of building a school for boys. Her "Madison Avenue" style of salesmanship was responsible for securing donated services, supplies, and equipment, and within a short time, the boys' school was completed. As a tribute to her hard work, determination and vision, the school was named in her honor, Assumpta Academy. In 1968, the two schools merged to form a co-educational offering: Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, which has on four separate occasions earned recognition from the US Department of Education.

Sr. Assumption always welcomed the opportunity to build. In 1965, another opportunity presented itself — to establish a community in the

Philippines. There she worked among the poor, creating opportunities for students and their families. By the time she left the Philippines, a Handmaid novitiate was instituted.

Rome was her next destination, where she assumed a position within the Vatican. Commissioned as a missionary, she received a medal from Pope Paul VI. Her position was one of great responsibility, yet she remained simply, "God's servant, doing God's work." Her apostolic ministry later took her to Miami, where she spent nineteen years in parish ministry. At age 79, Sr. Assumption returned to the Wyncote community to retire.

Retirement for Sr. Assumption meant conducting pilgrimages and tours, prayer groups, and Bible study. It also meant organizing monthly meetings with the Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament, volunteering in the school that bore her name, and designing renovations for a chapel in the Handmaid Retreat Center in Haverford. As an octogenarian, she learned to use the computer and mastered the skill well enough to prepare materials that would assist in her passion — sharing the word of Christ.

In 2010, with her physical limitations mounting, Sr. Assumption moved to St. Joseph's Manor, where she continued to live out her vocation through prayer, devotion, and commitment to her Handmaid ministry.

A spirited and energetic woman, Sr. Assumption's joy for life was infectious. A natural storyteller, she loved conversation and sharing the message of God, through word and deed. Engaging others with her hearty laugh, and at times a mischievous glance, Sr. Assumption, to be sure, knew how to make things happen and get things done. Her life's work, whether building schools, communities, or friendships is a reflection of the gifts she so lovingly and earnestly shared, and underscore her most genuine mission — helping to build the kingdom of God.

Sr. Assumption's funeral liturgy was celebrated at Joseph Manor Chapel, on Saturday, September 29th, with interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Cheltenham, PA.



The Sr. Assumption Escauriaza Memorial Scholarship Fund has been set up to honor her life's work and all that she inspired in fulfilling the Handmaid mission. Contributions may be made to the Sr. Assumption Escauriaza Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province, 616 Coopertown Road, Haverford, PA 19041.



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.

Check our website (www.acjusa.org) for dates and information.

The Fourth Annual Journey of Hope Celebration will be held at the Knowlton Mansion in Philadelphia, on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. A cocktail reception will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a LIVE auction and program.

Co-Chairpersons for the event are Mary and Dan Mealey, members of the Handmaid Province Advisory Board, which hosts the event. Please plan on joining the sisters and their friends and supporters for an evening that promises to be a memorable one! For additional information, visit www.acjjourneyofhope.org.



**Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
USA Province Development Office**

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www.acjusa.org

www.acjjourneyofhope.org

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"LET US BE PERSONS OF PEACE."

St. Raphaela Mary

**IN THE
HANDMAIDS'
PRAYERS**



Please pray for the requests offered on behalf of:

Frank Alton, Sr. Dottie Apprich, SSJ, Valerie Baruch, Beth Beck, Sr. Anita Bolton, Miriam Brusco, Patricia Campbell, Sr. Mary Carboy, Mary Ann Carlin, Mathew Carmody, Sr. Mary T. Coll, Sr. Uyen-Chi Dang, Rev. Jeff Dnaime, C.S.Sp., Kathy Dominik, Maria Doran, Vera D'Orazio, Angela Duke, Marge Flannery, Sue Franckowiak, Jerri Hreha, William

Joseph, Chuck and Theresa Keehan, Sr. Paula Knox, Al Kocher, Kevin Joseph Magee, Carol Mensen, Rosemary Mirabella, Winne & Jim Moore, Deacon Ed Morris, Carole Murray, Patty O'Hara, Deacon Jim Owens, Linda, Hannah, and Liam Reeves, Reitmeyer Family, Eileen Schaeffer, Margaret Schueller, Paul Smith, Diane Speietal, Cecilia Stankovitz, Anne Weisenhutter, and Edward & Mary Wuillerman.

Please also kindly remember our deceased friends and family members: Mary Albertini, Louis Altieri, Carmela Avato, Patrick J. Barrett, Jr., Marian Barretta, Mary Bartlomiejus, Hortensia Baudin, Marguerite Behr, Jeffrey Bellino, Joseph Berenato, Robert Boland, Joseph Bradigan, Kitty Broderick, John Burns, Richard Carbone, Mary Ann Casey, Margaret Caviston, Alvin Clay, Barbara Conicello, Anthony Coppa, Lorraine Coyne, Dorothy Jean Daily, James E. Day, Suzanne DeRosa, John Dever, Jr., Robert DiMemmo, Marie Doran, Vincent Dougherty, Ron Ebertz, John Engler, Sr. Assumption Escauriaza, acj, Daniel Fitzgerald, Raymond Flannery, Mary Frawley, Dennis Friel, Grace Galante, Anne Giacomucci, Rose Marie Gitzen, Albert Grebe, Reba Green, Kathryn Griffin, Elsie Gullianno, David Haeussler, Michael Harron, Richard Heppler Family, Hon. Richard Hodgson, Mary Jo Homsher, Irene Hutchings, John Jackson, Michael Kelly, Kevin Kirk, Joanne Knapp, Wilson Krewson, Iwan Kuszniir, Mrs. Lallier, Christine Ligo, Joseph Marcelli, Sr., Jessie Marcellus, Jr., Steve Marchese, Helen Markert, Hugh McCadden, Catherine McCool, Mary McCarthy, Gary Meekens, Giovanni Morante, Loretta Morris, Mark Norkus, Abby O'Beirne, Fred Persi, Adolph Revilla, Lawrence Reynolds, George Rodgers, Patrick Rohan, Edward Santarpio, Mary Gates Segal, Joseph Sheridan, Christine Skocynski, Peg Spillane, Patricia F. Strengge, Roberta Sweeney, Olga Symonds, Daniel Thistle, Philomena Ventresca, Margie Walsh, Herman Zingraf, and those who died at Sandy Hook School in Newton, CT.