



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province

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FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

Dear Friends,

Every May 18th, the Handmaids worldwide celebrate the feast day of our foundress, Saint Raphaela Mary. It is a day when we cannot help but be reminded of her great wisdom and faith, and the extraordinary love of Christ she demonstrated in her every deed. Her example leads us today to continue the mission she established and to be collaborators in “healing a broken world.”

To that end, much of the work we have done in recent months has resulted from the Handmaids General Congregation XIX, where we addressed the changes in our world, the Church, and the Institute, agreeing to “*rise to the challenge and allow ourselves to be transformed by Him.*” With a wholehearted spirit of faith and gratitude, and through serious contemplation and personal prayer, we continue to reflect on our identity and mission, asking for the Lord’s infinite guidance and wisdom. No small request, this process requires collaboration and trust.

Having a deep desire to move forward in ways that will serve our mission and our ministries now and in the years to come, we have engaged the services of a team of facilitators who will assist us with apostolic discernment and a planning process for the future. It is one of the first steps in determining the direction we must follow, as individuals, in our communities, and in our province.

As we take on this initiative and continue working on a day-to-day basis at Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, St. Raphaela Center, Project Fiat, Oasis Católico, and at our community ministries in Philadelphia and Miami, we ask for your support and your prayers.

With Gratitude and Hope,

Sister Dorothy Beck acj

Sister Dorothy Beck, acj

St. Raphaela Center Welcomes the U.S. Open



Sisters Kayjoy Cooper, Asunta Thanh, and Michelle Cimaroli “get into the swing of things” for the U.S. Open.

The 2013 U.S. Open, which will be held in June is expected to draw more than 200,000 visitors to the Main Line suburbs. Because of its proximity to Merion Golf Club (less than one mile), the Saint Raphaela Center and the Handmaids in Haverford have extended their hospitality to volunteers and spectators during the week of June 10 - 16, 2013.

Room accommodations and parking are the amenities being offered by the Handmaids. Additionally, the chapel will be open daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for prayer or meditation.

Those interested are asked to contact the Center at (610) 642-5715 for more detailed information.

Described as an “oasis of peace,” the Saint Raphaela Center is an ideal place for those who need a quiet rest or want to walk the grounds of a beautiful and serene setting. All faiths are welcome.

Handmaids Celebrate Liturgy of Gratitude



Diane & Jim Murray at the liturgy.

Reaching out in gratitude for the faithful friendship they have been shown, the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus hosted nearly one hundred invited guests at St. Raphaela Center in Haverford to celebrate a liturgy led by Msgr. John Jagodzinski on February 10, 2013.

The liturgy was also an opportunity for the Handmaids to offer an event that accentuated the Church's "Year of Faith," which began on October 11, 2012. Participants in the liturgy included Sisters Maryann Craig, Kayjoy Cooper, Uyen-Chi Dang, Belen Escauriaz, Sagrario Núñez, and Handmaid Advisory Board member, Jeanne Hisey.

In a welcome prior to the liturgy, Sister Dorothy Beck, Provincial Superior, warmly thanked the attendees for their constant and consistent support of the Handmaids' endeavors, especially with their ministries in Wyncote, Haverford, and Philadelphia. She also noted the continued need for their faithfulness in following the mission of St. Raphaela Mary, the Handmaid foundress.

Following the liturgy there was a lovely luncheon reception and informal tours of the Saint Raphaela Retreat Center. Handmaid Advisory Board member Susan Singer, assisted by fellow board member, Mary Mealey, helped the sisters in coordinating the event.



Joann and John DiBenedetto, Jack Conroy, and George Wetton enjoy the reception.

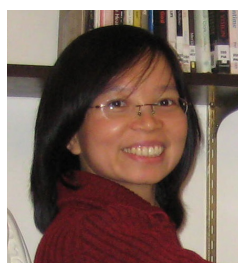
Handmaid News

Sister Uyen-Chi Dang recently graduated from Villanova University with a Masters Degree in Theology. Currently a member of the Haverford community, Sr. Uyen-Chi will begin a new ministry in June, when she will assume the position of Director of Religious Education at Ancillae-Assumpta Academy (AAA) in Wyncote.



Sister Oanh Vo will continue studying theology at Villanova University, and will begin working towards a Masters degree in Nursing, majoring in the Nurse Practitioner program.

Sister Jessica Kerber is continuing her theology studies in Spain. She will return to the U.S. for the summer months and will be involved in the ministry in Athens, Georgia.



Sister Theresa Vu will receive a certificate in accountancy from Villanova University this summer, and in September will be a part-time assistant to the treasurer at AAA. She will also be the community treasurer in Haverford and continue as a staff member at Saint Raphaela Center.

Sister Michelle Cimaroli will make her first profession of vows on Sunday, May 26 at Saint Raphaela Center in Haverford.



The Multi-Faceted Face of St. Raphaela Center

In its earlier days, the Saint Raphaela Center in Haverford was known as a refreshing place for Catholic retreatants. Today, it is not just Catholics who make their way to the Center. Rather, groups of all faiths, religions, and cultures have sought out the quiet, peaceful setting for various programs and offerings.

Most recently, the Center hosted a group who came with grief and suffering, as well as with hope and justice. Sponsored by the Dialogue Institute at Temple University, the group held a Memorial Service, with Dr. Shorsh Rasool Haji, an expert on genocide in Iraqi Kurdistan and member of the Iraqi Parliament, as the keynote speaker. (Story at right)

The Center embraces the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic dimension of all guests by offering many different types of retreats, prayer experiences, and spiritual programs. Hosting individuals and groups of all faiths, the Center averages over 5,000 visitors annually.

Towards the end of the Iran-Iraq War, on March 16, 1988, chemical weapons were used by the Iraqi government in the Kurdish town of Halabja in Southern Kurdistan. The attack killed between three and five thousand and injured another seven to ten thousand, many of whom later succumbed to complications and diseases caused by the attack. Twenty-five years later, five remarkable and courageous individuals — survivors of the genocide — remembered their loved ones and friends who lost their lives in one of the most horrific incidents in history. Saint Raphaela Center was the place they chose to honor those whose lives were lost, and remember the events of that fateful day.

Journey of Hope is Celebrated

Event Lauds Handmaids



Four years ago, the Handmaid Province Advisory Board determined that much of its mission was to assist the Handmaids with friend raising and fund raising. Today, that effort continues, and to that end, on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 the Advisory Board hosted the Fourth Annual Journey of Hope Celebration at the Knowlton Mansion in Philadelphia. The event included a cocktail reception and a select live auction, and raised over \$100,000 for the Handmaids.

Co-Chairpersons for the event were Mary and Dan Mealey, members of the Advisory Board. Other committee chairpersons were Rodie Alvaré-Henson and Susan Singer, who coordinated and organized the auction, and Carol Angelo, who designed and produced the advertisement and program book. Debbie Giordano served as the event's auctioneer.

Sponsors for the event (many pictured at right), were Anita Alvaré and Rodie Alvaré-Henson, Ray and Carol Angelo, Tom Breslin and Mary Trautwein-Breslin, Jack and Beth Conroy, Nance Dicciani, Joe and Donna Ferrier, Helen Garofalo, Sid and Helena Gosser, Rod and Kerry Henkels, Terry and Jeanne Hisey, Dale and Amy Lintner, Dan and Mary Mealey, Austin and Trish Meehan, Chuck and Betsy Minnich, the Romano Family, the Seravalli Family Foundation, Jack and Peggy Seydow, Brendan and Marie Teehan, George and Eileen Wetton, and William R. May Funeral Home.

The evening's program was highlighted by the poignant remarks of Reverend Mike Olivere and Nance Dicciani, longtime friends of the Handmaids. Both shared stories and anecdotes that described the impact and influence the Handmaids have made in their lives.



Rev. Olivere traced his acquaintance with the Handmaids to his La Salle College High School experiences, beginning with Sisters Jane Anderson and Gloria Petrone. In offering a historical and humorous background, Rev. Olivere described that with the closing of the Handmaid high school, Ancilla Domini Academy (ADA), the sisters were given the permission to have the final class of girls attend school at La Salle, under the supervision and guidance of Srs. Jane and Gloria. He remembered with some fondness that it was Sr. Gloria who first instilled in him "a push towards the priesthood." Fast forwarding to the early years of his priesthood, he recalled meeting Sister Elizabeth McCoy, the director of Ancillae-Assumpta Academy. Some years later, when asked by a fellow priest to "help out" with one of the sacramental programs at the Academy, he agreed. "I can do it for just one year," he replied, the jokingly reminisced that his "helping out" has turned into a relationship with the school and the Handmaids that has spanned more than fifteen years. He bases his commitment to and love for the Sisters on their charism and the deep reverence they share for Eucharist in every sense of the word.



Dr. Dicciani's personal remarks centered on her Ancilla Domini Academy student experiences and being profoundly marked by the encouragement and wisdom of Sisters Jane Anderson and Pilar Ymaz. With moving testimony, she told of Sister Pilar's sage advice to her - pursue her dream, and not settle for the conventional path of many women graduating from high school in the mid-sixties. She described the advice as "truly life-changing" and in following it, went on to earn a BS degree in chemical engineering from Villanova University, a MS degree in chemical engineering from the University of Virginia, and a PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania, where she also earned an MBA from the Wharton School of Business. Having served in some of the most prestigious positions in the chemical industry, her vitae reads long and illustrious, and includes recognitions and appointments on the national level, and twice being ranked by Forbes Magazine. as one of the "World's Most Powerful Women."

The reflections and insights offered by Rev. Olivere and Dr. Dicciani capped off an evening that honored a small group of women religious who continue, despite the many challenges of the 21st Century, to journey humbly, simply, and with hope, doing God's work.



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
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"LET US ABANDON OURSELVES INTO GOD'S HANDS, PEACEFULLY, SERENELY, AND WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE."

St. Raphaela Mary

IN THE HANDMAIDS' PRAYERS



Please pray for the souls of our dearly departed including:

Frank Bell, Anthony Bellomo, Rev. Msgr. Thomas Birch, Joseph Brown, Nancy Burke, Nelly Castle, Phillip Cocozza, Ralph Datto, James Devlin, John M. Dick, Jr., Jean DiFalco, Mary Dorley, Jim Fee, Dan Fritz, Sr. Mary Isadore Gilewitch, OSBM, Theodora Gorde, Joseph Haggerty, Kathleen Heil,

Nancy Hughes, John Jardine, Lynn Kelly, Linda Taormina Kuhn, Jerome Lewis, Regina Logan, Pepe Luzarraga, Winifred Marino, Teresa Marquard, John McBride, Mary McCarthy, Muriel McDonnell, Edward McGinniss, Mr. McLaughlin, Dorothy Morgan, Josephine Mercurio, Helen Nolter, Abby O'Beirne, Thomas Michael O'Hara, Alice O'Toole, Helen Palmieri, Roman J. Pastushak, Joseph G. Perri, Fred Persi, Helen Pieffer, James Reinert, Helen Rodgers, Bernie Rohan, Caroline Saitta, Rodney Salnal, Marie Scalfaro, Mary Gates Segal, Peg Spillane, Mike Stanko, Albert Trottnow, Larry M. Trumbore, James Walsh, Louise Wronoski, Jane Yeakel, Jim Young, and those who died at Sandy Hook School in Newton, CT. and at the Boston Marathon.

Please pray for the requests offered on behalf of:

Al and Joan, Bill and Suzanne, Margaret Allen, Baby Mary Grace, George Beschen, Sr., Mary Lou and Walt Butte, Alex Caldwell, Lorraine Caldwell, Marie Cosgrove, John Crowley, John Delaney, Bernadette Dowling, Eleanor Farangalli, Mary Lou Fazio, The Fleming Family, Marianne Goodwin, Kitty Green, Joanne and Richard Harkins, Sr. Ruth Held, acj, Eva Hubert, Toni Kedris, Liz Kelsch and Family, Caroline Kimeu, Sr. Lilia, Maureen Mastrobuono, Craig McCarter, Lisa McCurdy, Sr. Bridget McGarvey, acj, Joe McGee and Family, Rie McShea, Sr. Philomena Monte, acj, Edward Nolan, PhD, Mia Nygen and Family, Mary O'Neill, Diane and Fred Orazi, The Reinert Family, Jeanne Russo, Marge Scivab, Jack Serroni, Tanya Stoeber, Rev. James Whelan, Joanne and Andy Wrublaskyi Morante, Loretta Morris, Mark Norkus, Adolph Revilla, Lawrence Reynolds, George Rodgers, Patrick Rohan, Edward Santarpio, Joseph Sheridan, Christine Skocynski, Patricia F. Strenge, Roberta Sweeney, Olga Symonds, Daniel Thistle, Philomena Ventresca, Margie Walsh, and Herman Zingraf.