

What can 33 women do to make a difference ?

Offer Hope and Support

Casa Voluntariado, El Salvador – In a country stricken by poverty, social divisions and natural disasters, Handmaids have worked their way into the hearts of Salvadorans. Casa Voluntariado Santa Rafaela, a residence in San Salvador, houses up to 40 volunteers of all ages. Through Project FIAT: Faith in Action Together, they offer hope. Volunteers provide food, education, basic necessities, medical care, job counseling, and assistance with building basic infrastructure in two villages. They also support an orphanage and hospital for malnourished children. Project FIAT has had a powerful impact on both the volunteers as well as the people they serve.



Sister Margarita Martin speaks with young adults in Georgia.

Enable and Serve Communities

Atlanta, Ga. – The Handmaids have taken a lead role in serving immigrant Catholics from Central and South America who came to Georgia seeking employment opportunities in the bustling Atlanta area. With their fluency in Spanish, strong organizational skills, and solid pastoral education and experience, the Handmaids were charged by the bishops to organize the Hispanic ministry at the diocesan level and serve the Hispanic community in local parishes. Through the years, they have ministered to young adults and provided opportunities for vocational discernment.

Bring Calm in the Storm

Oasis Católico, Athens, Ga. – At the Oasis Católico in the Pinewood Estates Trailer Park, Handmaids advocate for over 1,000 immigrants who have fearfully fled their countries due to extreme violence and poverty. Urged by their mission of Reparation, the Handmaids have become a lifeline for all, transitioning a frightened, chaotic community into a nurturing environment that has earned the respect and cooperation of the local business district and government.

Provide Counseling

Miami, Fl. – The Handmaids welcome young adults into their home, accompanying them in their psychological and spiritual growth and individualized religious education. They also advocate for immigrants in Federal Court. At Camillus House, the Handmaids cooperate with the Brothers of the Good Shepherd who provide shelter and emergency services to the homeless population in Miami. Handmaids bring healing to many by being present to those who are often ignored, demeaned, and even abused because of their status.

Connect People with God

Saint Raphaela Center, Haverford, Pa. – Handmaids are committed to accompanying people in their search for God. They provide spiritual direction, retreats, and other programs aimed at facilitating people's human and spiritual growth. Each year, over 5000 guests of all faiths, ages and walks of life visit the Center for spiritual nourishment. The Saint Raphaela Center's serene and tranquil environment provides a place where individuals can meet and be touched by God.

Advocate for the Voiceless

Philadelphia, Pa. – In the City of Brotherly Love, Handmaids care for the poor and oftentimes forgotten members of society. Here, the Handmaids serve the Anglo and Hispanic communities, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Chinese, Indonesian, and Filipino refugees and immigrants. Because of their fluency in Spanish and Asian languages, Handmaids are able to advocate for the voiceless. Their services range from application for citizenship to connecting individuals with the vital social, financial, religious, and other critical care they so desperately need.



Sister Sagrario Núñez shares a special time with young friends.

Educate with love and for love.

Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, Wyncote, Pa. – Wyncote is the headquarters for the Handmaid's U.S. Province, and also the home of Ancillae-Assumpta Academy. This Blue Ribbon "School of Excellence" educates nearly 600 pre-kindergarten to eighth grade students with love and for love. At Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, the Handmaids embrace education in the service of the Gospel, promoting empowerment through shared responsibility, creativity, and human interdependence.

Handmaid Province News



Sister Dorothy Beck

After serving for seven years as Provincial Superior of the U.S. Province of Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Sister Sagrario Núñez recently completed her term of service. Sister

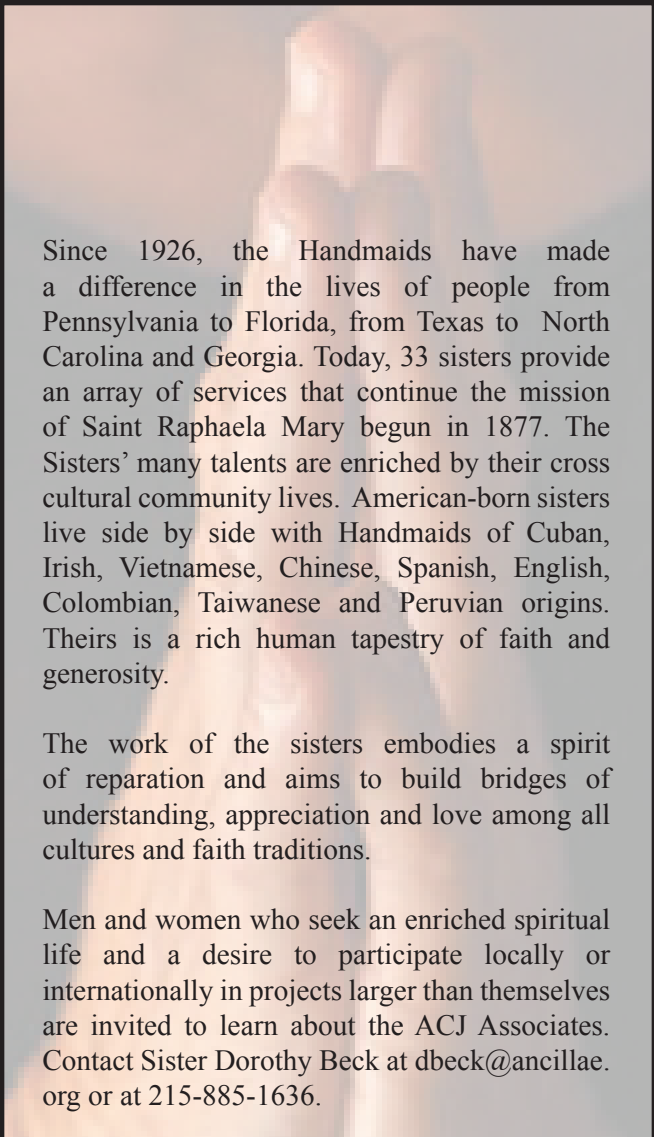
Sagrario will continue to

be Novice Director. Handmaid General Superior Inmaculada Fukasawa has named Sister Dorothy Beck as Provincial Superior, effective June 29, 2009. Known to many throughout the Philadelphia and Haverford communities, Sister Dorothy previously served as coordinator of the St. Raphaela Center. Currently, she works at Ancillae-Assumpta Academy as the Mission Effectiveness coordinator.

- Welcome back to Sister Kayjoy Cooper, who heads the house of studies at St. Raphaela Center. Sister Kayjoy returns from Miami, Florida, where she worked as a Marriage and Family Counselor and Spiritual Director with young singles and couples.

- Many thanks to Toll Brothers, Inc. for their generous donation of five computers and flat screen monitors to the St. Raphaela Center. The Sisters and staff at the center are deeply grateful for such an immediate and generous response to the center's request, and for the Toll Brothers' goodness of heart and willingness to provide this much needed equipment.

- A liturgy to commemorate the 50th anniversaries of Sister Sagrario Núñez and Sister Gloria Petrone, and the 75th anniversary of Sister Assumption Escauriaza was celebrated on August 6, 2009 at the St. Raphaela Center. We pray for God's continued blessings for these dedicated women.



Since 1926, the Handmaids have made a difference in the lives of people from Pennsylvania to Florida, from Texas to North Carolina and Georgia. Today, 33 sisters provide an array of services that continue the mission of Saint Raphaela Mary begun in 1877. The Sisters' many talents are enriched by their cross cultural community lives. American-born sisters live side by side with Handmaids of Cuban, Irish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish, English, Colombian, Taiwanese and Peruvian origins. There is a rich human tapestry of faith and generosity.

The work of the sisters embodies a spirit of reparation and aims to build bridges of understanding, appreciation and love among all cultures and faith traditions.

Men and women who seek an enriched spiritual life and a desire to participate locally or internationally in projects larger than themselves are invited to learn about the ACJ Associates. Contact Sister Dorothy Beck at dbeck@ancillae.org or at 215-885-1636.



For information about assisting the Sisters in their various missions, please contact the Handmaid Province Development Office:

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Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



United States Province