



HANDMAIDS OF THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS,
USA PROVINCE

REPORT ON
PHILANTHROPIC
GIVING

2015-2016



**Handmaids of the
Sacred Heart of Jesus,
USA Province**
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STAY CONNECTED



Memories of the past 90 years in the USA
Pages 8-12



Newly professed
Sister Uyên-Chi Dang
Pages 6-7

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On the Cover - Top left corner: Hands belonging to Lisa Vanni, AAA faculty member and Project Fiat volunteer, embrace the hand of an unnamed woman. (Photo courtesy of Brynn Conroy, AAA '09 and Project Fiat volunteer)

Lower portion, clockwise from top left: Sisters Margaret Scott and Belén Escauriaza; Sister Jessica Kerber comforts Sister Ruth Held; Sisters Cecilia Tong and Mary Theresa Nguyen; Sister Belén Escauriaza witnesses the profession of Sr. Uyên-Chi Dang; Sisters Jessica Kerber, Catherine Kirwin-Avila, Oanh Vo, and Michelle Cimaroli in Philadelphia for Pope Francis' visit in September, 2015

From Our Leadership



**HANDMAIDS OF THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS, USA PROVINCE**

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Provincial Superior

Sister Mary Ann Craig, acj
Provincial Secretary

Sister Kathleen Helbig, acj
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Dear Friends,

My first year as Provincial Superior has been one of great joy and great possibilities. As I travelled to the places where our sisters are embracing and sharing the gospel message, I was constantly reminded of the beauty and privilege it is to serve God's people. In my visits to every one of our ministries, I saw the faces of little ones whose eyes looked for reassurance. I held the worn and weathered hands of the elderly, who grasped for stronger hands to lead the way. I heard the pleadings of young parents, whose words and prayers reached out for an answer. In their presence, there was God's presence and I was drawn by the common denominator for all of them - faith and trust.

Our ministry as Handmaids, wherever we are, is to help heal the wounds of a suffering people in a difficult and challenging world. Many are broken. Not just the poor, but the rich as well. The immigrant and the worker, regardless of color, ethnicity, race, or creed - their lives cry out for mercy and love. As Handmaids, it is our greatest desire to give all that we are and have.

We are able to fulfill our ministry because of you. Your prayers keep us alive. Your support and trust keep us moving. Your faith in us fills us with a desire to reach beyond what we think possible. Because we know that with God all things are possible.

As you look through the pages of this report, I hope you will take a moment to reflect on all that the Handmaids have accomplished this year. It is because of your faith, your trust, and your generosity that we are able to continue in our ministries and in our mission.

Please know that we are immensely grateful to you.

On behalf of all the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I pray that God will bless you abundantly.

With gratitude and hope,

Belén Escauriaza, acj
Provincial Superior, USA Province
Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Dear Friends,

What an exciting year it has been for the Handmaids! Their many good works throughout the United States and beyond have revealed the depth and breadth of their commitment, their dedication - their vocation. This report suggests just a few of the countless efforts the Handmaids have made in places far and near - the lives they've touched, the burdens they've shouldered, and the experiences they've shared.

As one who has come to know, love, admire, and respect this dedicated group of women religious, I ask that you consider supporting their efforts in as many ways as possible. They truly make a difference in today's world.

With my sincere best wishes,

Mike Valucci, Chairman
Handmaid USA Province Advisory Board

We are Handmaids.



Athens, GA

We foster community.
Oasis Católico

Miami, FL

We advocate & support.
Miami Community



The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is an international community of women who celebrate God's unconditional love with a passion for wholeness, peace, and reconciliation. In the United States, we rejoice in the gift that is ours to be interracial and multicultural in membership. The many talents of the Sisters 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. Ours is a rich human tapestry woven with faith and generosity. Prayerfully present in our world struggling for integrity and wounded by sin and selfishness, we know we are called to collaborate in the redemptive mission of Jesus. Our communities have the Eucharist at their center.

As Handmaids, we commit ourselves to:

- nurture faith development
- approach the world with hope and hospitality
- reverence the integrity of creation
- celebrate diversity
- side with the poor
- act as leaven for community building
- share all that we are and have

Our ministry is education in the service of the gospel. Whatever educates invites our collaboration.

- The Handmaids (3 sisters) conduct Oasis Católico, a place where English and Spanish speaking cultures can connect and enrich one another.
- Bringing healing to people's hearts, the Handmaids work to build community and solidarity, celebrate life, and promote the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of its residents.
- The Handmaids and volunteers provide after-school tutoring for over 100 children ages 3 years old to 3rd grade.
- The Handmaids offer services to the Latino community by distributing food, clothing, and other basic necessities.
- The Handmaids maintain Oasis as a safe haven for individuals and families.
- One of our Handmaid sisters provides legal assistance to immigrants, representing them in court and offering advice and advocacy.
- Two of our sisters work with the distressed and homeless. Partnering with the Hospitaller Brothers who sponsor Camillus House, the Handmaids help to find resources for the abandoned and those in need.
- One of our sisters is involved in pastoral ministry serving the needs of the Hispanic community and parishioners at St. Martha Church in Miami.

35 women making a difference

Haverford, PA

We offer respite.
St. Raphaela Center



- 6 Handmaid sisters provide hope and hospitality in conducting St. Raphaela Center.
- Nestled in a serene setting just minutes away from Philadelphia, the Center provides the perfect atmosphere in which individuals or groups of any religious tradition can come together to think, plan, pray, reflect, and grow.
- Individual and group retreats are hosted for a day, a weekend or several days, depending on the needs and desires of the group. The Center is able to host groups that range in size from 2 to 80 guests.
- Additional offerings include:
 - Centering Prayer
 - Days of Prayer
 - Daily Adoration
 - First Friday Liturgies
 - Spiritual Direction

Philadelphia, PA

We reach out.
Philadelphia Community



- Community outreach - locally, nationally, and internationally define the work of the four Handmaids who reside in Philadelphia.
- One sister assists the parishioners at St. Thomas Aquinas and Annunciation Church.
- One sister is a faculty member at St. Joseph's University and a representative to UNANIMA, an international coalition of women religious who educate policy makers and advocate systematic change to achieve a more just world.
- One sister coordinates the international digital network for the movement for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation and works in the Mission Center with the Handmaid missions worldwide.
- One sister works in an administrative capacity at La Salle University.

Wyncote, PA

We teach.
Ancillae-Assumpta Academy



- For seventy years, the Handmaids have sponsored Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, a co-educational elementary school.
- Four of our Handmaids serve the Academy in administrative and teaching positions.
- The Academy models itself as an academic institution that places a significant emphasis on service learning through the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.
- The Academy offers an outstanding academic curriculum, enhanced by its extensive fine arts and technology offerings.
- Ancillae-Assumpta Academy has been recognized four times by the US Department of Education.

El Salvador

We build lives.
Project Fiat



- Since 2004, the Handmaids have been offering basic necessities to the people of San Salvador and its neighboring communities.
- The sisters oversee volunteers who have built homes, a library, a clinic, and other community structures.
- Food for the Elderly is a project that provides staples for abandoned and malnourished senior citizens.
- Food For Thought is a program to provide at least one meal a day in order to nourish children in preparation for classroom learning.
- Beca Program sponsors children with scholarships for grade school, high school, and college.

In Residence Elsewhere

We do what we are called to do.



- One sister spent the year in Spain and Rome as part of her final year of formation.
- One sister continues to work in Rome as a translator and a vital member of the international community.
- One sister has been part of an evangelization team that took her to Hong Kong and China for two years.
- Having lived a life of generous and abundant service to their ministries, four of our sisters are in residence at long-term care facilities. Their ministry allows time and space to pray daily for the needs of others.

~ Sister Catherine Teaches Children in Peru ~

As part of her novitiate formation. Sister Catherine Kirwan-Avila recently spent several months living among the people of northern Peru. She shares an account of her experiences.



¡Hermanita! ¡Hermanita! A tiny neighbor runs up and throws her skinny arms around my waist, looking up expectantly with a big smile. *¡Hola pequeña! ¿Cómo estás?*

These little greetings, peppered my dusty walk to and from school in the small neighborhood of "El Indio," outside the northern Peruvian city of Piura — God's joyful hospitality channeled through small children. Four Handmaids minister in El Indio, sharing responsibility for accompanying the many parish groups and for the administration and religious education at the Fe y Alegria school, which serves children ages 4-17. They have been in the neighborhood since the 1970's, arriving soon after it came into existence as a squatters' village.

In its early days, and still, some taxi drivers raise their eyebrows and shake their head when asked if they'll take you to El Indio. Its reputation has some basis in truth, but, as is almost always the case, falls far short of capturing the fullness of the reality of the barrio. In my short time there, I was struck by both the daily struggle of many families who simply could not make ends meet as well as the beautiful and unassuming Christian community that flourished in the school and parish, through which spiritual, as well as material nourishment flowed. There were the parents preparing one another and then their children for first communion; young adults mentoring children in a group that merged play, team building and Christian formation; students reflecting on how to apply the Pope's writings on mercy and care of creation in their lives; the faithful adorers and associates, to name just a few. What I witnessed shining forth through these groups was a genuine engagement with the wisdom and challenge of the gospel — people taking seriously the invitation to seek, knock, follow, and relying on their faith to guide them through the challenges of life.

One experience that stands out in my mind was a gathering of all of the leaders of the parish groups. We met in front of El Indio's small chapel and then marched with songs through the streets, inviting others to join the parish community. When we arrived at our meeting place, each group led an ice breaker or a sing along and then we all participated in an activity centered on mercy. Our groups included children and adults and the songs and activities were the occasion for much laughter and collaboration. I couldn't help but notice how no one seemed bored or embarrassed or aloof. We were engaged with one another in the shared joy of recognizing ourselves, one another, and all of creation as known, loved, sought out, pardoned, called, and sent to serve.

~ Sister Theresa Builds Homes ~

Sister Theresa Vu, acj recently spent a few weeks in El Salvador with Project Fiat. She was joined by Sisters Belén Escarriaza and Sagrario Núñez, all of whom worked with the villagers in Las Delicias to build twelve houses for those most in need. They also visited an orphanage in the town and spent time with the children there, providing a listening ear and loving hearts for those who have no parents.



This was not the first time Sister Theresa has contributed to the efforts in El Salvador. She feels a strong pull to this "special place" and understands why people who have volunteered with this mission come back year after year. She observes that, *"There is a strong bond of joy, friendship, closeness and sharing that draw and connect both volunteers and the El Salvadorian people together."*

Sister Margaret Raises Awareness

In addition to her representation of the Handmaids for the global efforts of UNANIMA, Sister Margaret Scott puts energy into local efforts, as well. Most recently, Sister Margaret was a member of the Media Sub-committee for the Philadelphia anti-human trafficking coalition that prepared for the Democratic National Convention in July. Made up of Catholic Sisters, church groups, Covenant House, and other committed members, the Coalition, with advice from the FBI and permission from the DNC, formed a Planning and also a Media Committee.

The sub-committee adopted various strategies to raise awareness about human trafficking including placing the committee logo on three central bus stops near the Convention Center. Literature, materials and other useful information about commercial sex exploitation were made available to the delegates, journalists, and the public. The Planning Sub-Committee also organized visits and training for all the hotels in Philadelphia and near the airport. Working together, the committees were successful in arranging for Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO) to prominently display their message, STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING in rotating lights atop the PECO building in Center City.

Sister Margaret reports that the efforts of the sub-committees were well-timed, well received, and critical to raising the awareness of such an important issue.

~ Sharing Traditions With Migrants ~



The Office for Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees organized the Philadelphia Archdiocese Family Fun Picnic at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary this summer. Representing the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, among the fourteen communities across different countries who came together to share in each other's cultures and traditions, was Sister Theresa Vu. Cultural performances, numerous games for children and adults and ethnic cuisine represented by the countries and communities present highlighted the day's festivities.

“The Church of the twenty-first century will be, as it has always been, a Church of many cultures, languages and traditions, yet simultaneously one, as God is one — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — unity in diversity.”

- Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity In Diversity

~ Sharing Magis With Youth ~

Sisters Jessica Kerber and Michelle Cimaroli recently returned from Poland where they first took part in MAGIS 2016, a Jesuit initiative, which brings together young people (ages 18-30) from all over the world who are interested in Ignatian spirituality. The sisters led an experiment titled, “Reparation Laboratory: A Response of Love to a Heart of Mercy” in Czechowice-Dziedzice. Four Portuguese Handmaids and two lay friends led three other experiments throughout Poland. The final MAGIS festivities were held in Częstochowa, where the sisters were reunited with the entire



international community of MAGIS. There, they reflected upon the Ignatian Experiments and entrusted them to Our Lady.

The sisters then made their way to Krakow, Poland for World Youth Day (WYD), an event for young people organized every three years by the Catholic Church. Among other adventures and responsibilities at WYD, Sisters Jessica and Michelle represented the Handmaids at a vocation booth, where visitors learned about the charism and ministries of the Handmaids.

~ Sharing the Message Abroad ~

With an eager and unrelenting desire, Sister Cam Banh felt drawn to expand the reach of the Handmaids in areas where a presence of the sisters does not exist. Proposing that the possibility of evangelizing in Hong Kong and China might be a productive effort, she was granted permission to visit and “test the waters.” She knew that it would be a difficult task, but Sister Cam never shied away from a challenge.

The Handmaids are an international community of about twelve hundred sisters found in twenty-seven countries. Much of their work is dedicated to reaching those who are impoverished or live in underdeveloped parts of the world, where every day presents an experience in survival.

Having travelled twice on “exploratory missions” as she refers to them, Sister Cam left the United States and her job at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic Social Services to embark on the unknown in 2015. She began working with Father Michael, an American Jesuit priest in Hong Kong and grew to love the time she spent counseling and providing a listening ear to those who sought her guidance. Her work has taken her to mainland China and parts beyond. She loves the work and the people and knows she is fulfilling a need and her ministry.

Yet, she recognizes the struggles of living outside of a Handmaid community. Asked about her future plans when visiting the US this summer, she simply smiled. “We’ll see what God has planned and whatever it is, I will do it.”

The Perpetual Profession of Theresa Đặng Ngọc Uyên-Chi

The expression on her face radiated pure joy - a joy that came from the depth of her heart and soul - a joy that came from the complete and perfect knowledge that this day, indeed, was written in her life, in her personal history. A lifelong commitment was about to be made. A promise, a covenant, a vow of poverty, chastity, and obedience. It was a culmination of years of discernment, reflection, prayer, study, work, and trust. Today, August 13, 2016, she would perpetually say "Yes" to God as a Handmaid of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Surrounding her in the church filled with family, friends, and the community of sisters she had come to know and love, this young Vietnamese American woman, full of hope and promise, would fulfill her desire to accept the will of God in walking with Him as a woman centered on the Eucharist, adoring the Lord of love.



The realization of her calling did not come as a flash, yet, as she shares, *"it became so clear. Never have I made a decision with such clarity."* And so it is only natural that the joy that was so evident on this day was truly a gift - a gift that God had bestowed on Theresa Đặng Ngọc Uyên-Chi.

For Sister Uyên-Chi, the journey began long ago. In fact, it was in her childhood that Uyên-Chi first sensed the possibility of a religious vocation, though she told no one at the time. She grew up in a faith-filled home - the middle child - with eight siblings. She graduated from college with a mathematics degree and later went back to school to become a math teacher. Along the way, she attended her first Ignatian retreat, in response to the nudging she felt toward religious life. She relates that it was on this retreat that she received valuable counsel from a Jesuit priest whom she would continue to see for the Spiritual Exercises for seven years. His words were direct and simple. *"God's desire for you is written in your life, in your personal history. Examine that."*

What followed were seven years



of patient and serious discernment, not only towards her ultimate vocation, but also of the steps along the way. She became a catechist in her parish and began to share her gift of faith. Teaching catechism awoke something greater within her and Uyên-Chi began to discover that the more time and energy she gave, the more life she felt. It was in this giving of herself that she knew more truthfully who she was, and gradually began to accept the truth of God's desire for her as a religious sister.

With hundreds of religious communities available to her, she narrowed her search to five. She emphasizes that it was not she who chose the Handmaids, but rather that what surfaced and became profoundly clear to her were three things that radiate with the Handmaids: the Eucharist, which defines their identity; the universality of their congregation; and the zealous, yet humble ways of their foundress, St. Raphaela Mary. While each of these aspects is important, it is Eucharist that Uyên-Chi finds most profoundly at the core of her existence. Eucharist, she knows, is thanksgiving. It unites us, brings us together, and creates community. The Handmaid practice of spending time in daily Eucharistic Adoration reinforces and prolongs her daily life - spiritually and otherwise. She smiles with a sense of reverence and peace as she describes the *"privilege it is for Handmaids to make adoration - to worship publicly and make Christ known and loved."*

She describes her relationship as totally centered on Christ, relating that *"if we are Christ-*

centered, we cannot afford to be angry or annoyed with others. On the contrary, we learn to love and accept the person as a gift from God, and try to discover the beauty that exists within each person. We are called to act with mercy and to look upon our broken world with hope." This, too, is at the heart of a Handmaid. - the ultimate desire to repair fractured relationships and mend a broken world.



On October 15, 2006, (the feast day of St. Teresa of Avila, who was an early influence on her life) Uyên-Chi entered the postulancy of the Handmaids. Three years later, she made first temporary vows, followed in 2012 by a renewal of temporary vows. In 2015, she began her tertianship, the final part of temporary profession, which generally lasts for six months and serves as a time of spiritual reflection, education, and cultural orientation. In that same year, in Martinez Campos, the house where St. Raphaela Mary lived and made final profession, she again renewed her temporary vows for the last time. Sister Uyên-Chi tells of the struggle it sometimes can be as a young sister. She states that, *"Religious life is an ongoing process. You have to live it - renew it - transform it - everyday."*

Crediting her parents and her large family for creating the foundation that set her on the journey she has so passionately embraced, Uyên-Chi speaks of the "very

A Handmaid Celebration

large love" that was ever present. It is a component that has grown over the years and has bonded all of her relationships.

One need not look very far to find evidence supporting that claim. For as Uyên-Chi readied herself in the back of the church to profess her perpetual vows, her brothers, sisters, their spouses, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins - too many to count - were there in full measure. They hailed from North Carolina, New York, Texas, Virginia, and some as far as California. Walking down the aisle, she was flanked by her mother, Liên Đặng, and Sister Belén Escauriaz, the Provincial Superior of the Handmaids. It was unmistakably apparent that the woman who brought Uyên-Chi into this world was graciously and lovingly accompanying her daughter, giving her a mother's blessing as she was about to join a new "family" of women religious.

Admittedly, days and events like this happen ever so rarely. For the USA Province of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, seventeen long years had come and gone since they had celebrated the perpetual profession of a new community member. Through the grace of God, there will be more to come. On this day, though, it was Uyên-Chi.

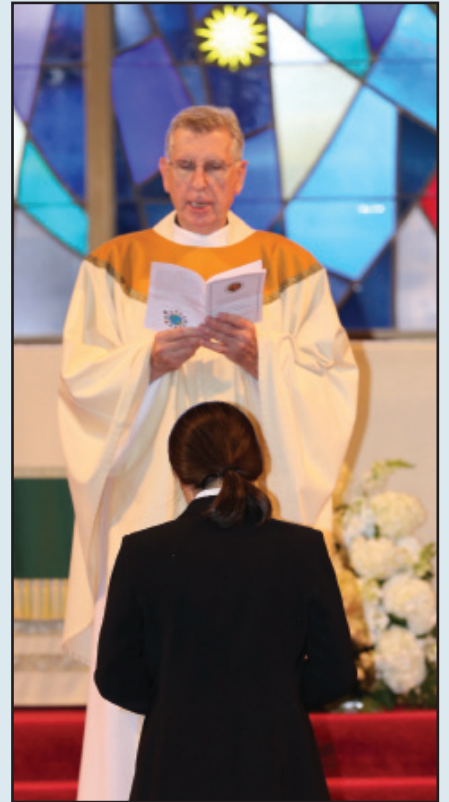
It was Uyên-Chi who had invited Rev. Thomas Pesci, sj along with four concelebrants, Rev. Joseph Brandt, Rev. Msgr. John Jagodzinski, Rev. John Lyons, and Rev. Joseph Cuong Pham to preside at the Eucharist of Perpetual Profession at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Glenside. It was also Uyên-Chi who had thoughtfully selected the liturgical readings offered in both English and Vietnamese and hymns offered in Spanish, English and Vietnamese.

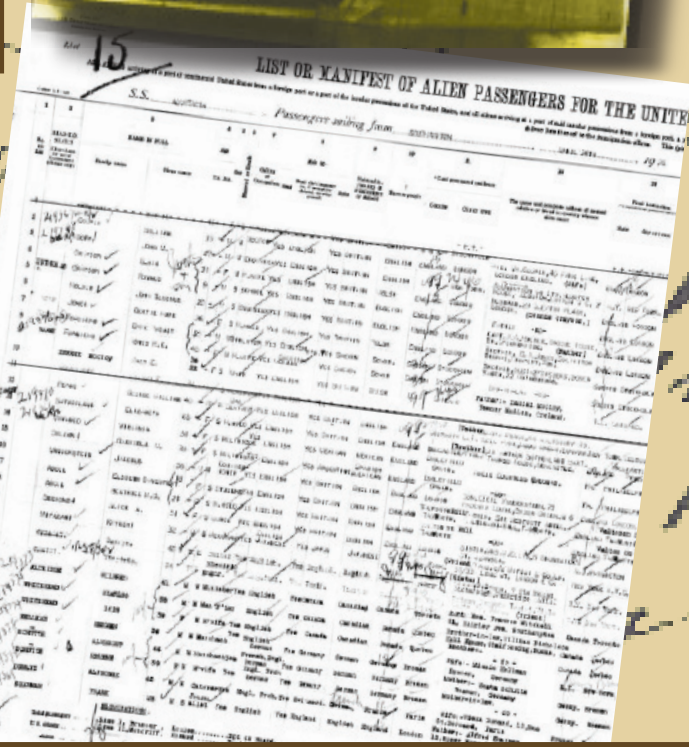
It was, to be sure, a celebration of inclusivity and universality, as St. Raphaela Mary desired from the very beginning of the Handmaid congregation in 1877.

Most importantly, it was a celebration of God's gift to Uyên-Chi, and in return, Uyên-Chi's gift to God. Responding to the call to be a woman for others, to allow God to use her hands and her heart to repair the breaches that wound our world and our human family, Uyên-Chi's "*Fiat*" serves the Church and its people as a sign of hope and faith and most assuredly, love.



*"God's desire for you
is written in your life,
in your personal history.
Examine that."*





August 31st, 1926.

Reverend and dear Mother:

I never saw anything so precious, so elegant, so artistic, as the vestments, the embroideries, the lace and the linens. They seem rather more suitable to be displayed in the museum than to be used; although, of course, nothing is too good for our dear Lord.

[by the extreme kindness of the Father General]

by the extreme kindness
Reverend Mother General

your part in this great
most sincere, heartfelt
gratitude.



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The Seeds are Sown

Just as the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was founded by two women, Raphaela Mary and her sister, Dolores, the first community of Handmaids in the United States was also begun by two women: Virginia Vivanco and Gabriela Dillon. Joining them shortly after their arrival to the USA, were sisters from Havana, Cuba - Maria de los Reyes, Albertina Ferroni, and Justa Aguierreche, and others from throughout Europe - Natividad del Valle, Antonietta Manca, Agnes Moroney, Rosario Ramirez, Sofia Altuna, Fuensanta Portilla, Maria Bengoechea, Amparo Martinez, Josefina Vidaurre, Antonia Sada, Josephine Bascou, Oliva Eguia, Estanislada Arzanegui, Francisca Imas, and Maria Cruz Hernandez. This group of pioneers worked tirelessly in promoting the education of young women, and by 1928, there were over two hundred University students and one hundred business women enrolled in classes that offered instruction in sewing, art, music, typing, English, and Spanish. 1928 also marked the year that Marie McKeown and Mary Brennan, two young American women, entered the Handmaid novitiate in Rome. Throughout their twenty years in West Philadelphia, the Handmaids, in addition to their ministry of education, were also deeply committed to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, days of recollection, and sacramental preparation for entrance to the Church.

The Roots Take Hold

After establishing a solid foundation for their ministry, many of the sisters returned to their native or other provinces. Those who remained in the USA were Josephine Bascou, Oliva Eguia, Estanislada Arzanegui, Francisca Imas, and Maria Cruz Hernandez. In a short time, they were joined by additional sisters from South America and Europe, and gradually, the Institute grew, spreading beyond 34th Street, which closed in 1945. It was then that the Handmaids moved to Wyncote, and in the years that followed, added communities in Germantown and Haverford. These were the sisters who, now deceased, enabled the mission and ministries of the Handmaids to branch out: Luisa Amado, Jane Anderson, Monserrat Barjau, Ana Rosa Beltran, Candida Bescansa, Mary Brennan, Catherine Byrne, Eladia Consul, Elena Corsanego, Angela de la Ossa, Kathleen Doherty, Antonia Escauriaza, Assumption Escauriaza, Elene Evers, Angela Gamarra, Marina Garcia, Maria Geldres, Socorro Gonzalo, Soledad Gonzalez, Virginia Hajinian, Irene Halahan, Margaret Mary Ingelsby, Maria Luisa Linares, Maria Teresa Mannucci, Amparo Mendez, Mary McCabe, Elizabeth McCoy, Elizabeth McDonald, Brigid McGarvey, Marie McKeone, Philomena Monte, Consuelo Montoya, Juana Moronati, Agnes Morrissey, Angelica Nan, Margaret Noble, Ruth Nuckols, Sara Ortega, Olga, Oscanou, Avelina Peydro, Josefa Querolt, Ramona Quintas, Ines Quintero, Constance Redmond, Maria Rivas, Custodia Rocha, Marian Rothman, Mercedes Ruiz, Dolores Rull, Lourdes Saavedra, Ma. Antonia San Emeterio, Dolores Tena, Josefa Uria, Sara Videla, Pilar Ymaz, and Laura Zambrana.

The Growing Continues

The Handmaids of the USA Province who continue to grow the present day ministries in Athens, GA, Miami FL, Haverford, Philadelphia, and Wyncote, PA, and El Salvador are: Cam Banh, Dorothy Beck, Carmen Cabrejos, Cecilia Chen, Michelle Cimaroli, Kayjoy Cooper, Angela Cordero, Mary Ann Craig, Pilar Dalmau, Uyên-Chi Dang, Dona DeMarco, Belén Escauriaza, Kathy Gazie, Maureen Gillespie, Rose Harmsen, Kathleen Helbig, Ruth Held, Florentina Iruretagoyena, Marietta Jansen, Jessica Kerber, Catherine Kirwan-Avila, Margarita Martin, Betty Ann McDonald, Mary Theresa Nguyen, Sagrario Núñez, Gloria Petrone, Alice Rodriguez, Maria Jesus Sagaseta, Margaret Scott, Asunta Thanh, Cecilia Tong, Lyan Tri, Oanh Vo, Theresa Vu, and Julia Walsh.

Sisters who are presently serving elsewhere, but at one time contributed to the Handmaids' flourishing efforts in the USA are: Ana Maria Casas, Pilar Cremades, Norma Dominguez, Rosalba Gutierrez, Rosa Maria Molina, and Teresita Motos.



The Handmaid Journey Unfolds

In 1877, Saint Raphaela Mary envisioned a universal community of sisters who would spread the Gospel message throughout the globe. By 1921, there were Handmaids ministering in Spain, Italy, Cuba, Argentina, England, and Peru. Four years later, the Handmaids made foundations in three new countries - Bolivia, Chile, and the USA.

- *1926* At the invitation of Cardinal Dennis Dougherty, Sisters Virginia Vivanco and Gabriella Dillon laid the first seeds for the USA province. From humble beginnings in a house on 34th Street in West Philadelphia, the Handmaids began teaching classes for women and children and regularly conducted days of prayer.
- *1945* The Handmaids purchased the Lorimer estate in Wyncote, Pennsylvania and began teaching kindergarten classes. Wyncote also served as the United States novitiate.
- *1946* Ancillae Academy, a school for girls, began in Wyncote. Sr. Mary McCabe is the founding principal
- *1951* The Handmaids closed the house on 34th St. and moved to the Germantown section of Philadelphia to start an elementary and high school.
- *1953* The Handmaids opened Ancilla Domini Academy, a high school for girls, which remained in operation until 1975.
- *1956* Assumpta Academy, a school for boys named for Mother Assumption Escauriaza, begins in Wyncote. Sr. Margaret Mary Ingelsby was the founding principal.
- *1957* The Handmaids purchased and converted the William Scull mansion on Coopertown Road in Haverford, Pennsylvania, to the Blessed Raphaela Mary Retreat House, a place of prayer that could house fifty overnight retreatants. Today, the Center annually welcomes over 5,000 guests from all walks of life for private and group retreats, days of prayer, centering programs, and more.
- *1959* The Handmaids ventured to Baltimore, Maryland to begin teaching at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. The Handmaids remained there until 1979.
- *1967* The Handmaids began teaching and assisting the parish community at the School of Saint Basil the Great in Kimberton, Pennsylvania. The founding principal was Sr. Ruth Held. The Handmaids remained there until 1983.
- *1968* The schools in Wyncote merged to become Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, with Sr. Elizabeth McCoy as the first principal. The school, recognized four times by the US Department of Education, remains a vibrant educational offering for students in preschool through grade eight.
- *1975* The Handmaids established a community in Miami, Florida in response to an influx of Cuban refugees. This community remains active in pastoral work.
- *1982* The Handmaids opened a house on 2nd Street in Philadelphia in order to reach out to various ethnic groups. The community moved a bit later to South Broad Street and remains there today.
- *1985* The Handmaids travelled to Atlanta, Georgia to organize a Hispanic ministry. The sisters served the Diocese of Atlanta until 2012.
- *1988* The Handmaids began a pastoral ministry in Charlotte, North Carolina and initiated various Hispanic and Vietnamese ministries. The sisters accomplished their mission here in 1994.
- *1996* The community of Beaumont, Texas began when the sisters established a Hispanic ministry which was continued by the laity in 2002.
- *2002* The Handmaids responded to the Church's outcry for serving the English and Spanish speaking Catholics in Athens, Georgia. Located in a trailer park, Oasis Católico continues to serve over 2000 individuals by providing basic necessities, as well as academic tutoring, religious education, and spiritual nourishment.
- *2004* The Handmaids ventured outside of the country to establish Project FIAT, Faith in Action Together. This project, which is part of the Philadelphia mission center, continues to serve children and adults El Salvador.

Photos on opposite page: From top left to right - Sister Rose Harmsen with Ancilla Domini graduates; Sister Ruth Held reviews the work of an Ancilla Domini Academy student; Young postulants at the Novitiate in Haverford; High school retreatants are welcomed at Blessed Raphaela Mary Retreat Center; Dismissal time at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Baltimore, MD; Early days at Ancillae-Assumpta Academy

90 Years in the United States



90 Years in the United States



Handmaids are Honored

The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus were honored at the *2016 Journey of Hope* held on Saturday, April 2, at the Sheraton University City Hotel, in West Philadelphia. The location was especially meaningful, since only a few blocks away was the site of the Handmaids first ministry in the United States. The USA Province Advisory board hosted the event.

The program for the evening of celebration began with a series of interactive displays that chronicled the sisters' nine decade journey. Designed and coordinated by event chairperson Lori Stefanowicz, guests wandered through a maze of artifacts and memorabilia that defined the works and presence of the Handmaids. The cocktail reception also featured a silent auction that rounded out the evening. Before the event's conclusion, Msgr. Hugh Shields, a friend of the Handmaids, presided at a Blessing Service that also recognized the selfless and spiritual gifts of the sisters.

Prior to the event, Advisory Board members, Jacques and Marie Gordon, chaired a "*Celebrate the Sisters*" initiative to raise funds to acknowledge the Handmaids for their years of dedication and service.



Photos from top left to right - Sisters Irene Halahan, Marietta Jansen, Margarita Martin, Laura Zambrana, and Pilar Dalmau gather in their new home in Atlanta; From six different nationalities living side by side in Charlotte, NC are Sisters Dona DeMarco (USA), Cecilia Chen (Taiwan), Rose Harmsen (Peru), Cecilia Tong (Vietnam), Pilar Dalmau (Cuba), and Sagrario Núñez (Spain); Sisters Angela Cordero, Marietta Jansen, and Margarita Martin at the Saint Rafaela Center at Oasis Católico in Athens, GA.

Celebrate the Sisters

With heartfelt gratitude, we warmly acknowledge the generous donors who made contributions to the initiative to honor and celebrate the Handmaids' dedication and commitment in the United States for 90 years.

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"IT IS NOT JOY
THAT MAKES US
GRATEFUL.
IT IS
GRATITUDE
THAT MAKES US
JOYFUL."

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(\$250 to \$499)

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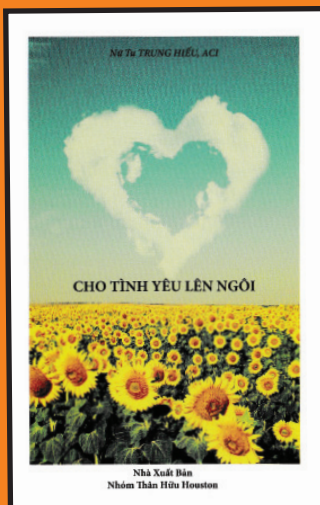
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David and Hermie Wilder
Karen Willis
Marguerite Young

Sister Cecilia Tong Authors Book



Sister Cecilia Tong recently published her sixth book which is based on her journey and experiences as a Handmaid of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Entitled CHO TÌNH YÊU LÊN NGÔI (Let Love Be Supreme), it is written in the language of the Vietnamese.

Coming from Rome in 1975, Sister Cecilia was asked to minister to the Vietnamese community in Philadelphia. She assisted refugees with obtaining legal documentation for citizenship, worked feverishly towards their inculturalization, and provided spiritual guidance and support. After that, she was sent to minister in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she served for thirteen years as director of the

Vietnamese ministry for the diocese. In 1998, Sister Cecilia was missioned to the Philippines. During the next fourteen years, she developed an association with Radio Veritas. She also served as a professor at the East Asian Pastoral Institute and as formator for the postulants. Sister Cecilia's extensive experiences as a Handmaid have led her to chronicle some of her life's journey and spiritual realizations. Back in the USA since 2012, Sister Cecilia works and lives at Saint Raphaela Center.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of Sister Cecilia's book is asked to contact her at 610-642-5715.



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Circle of Simplicity

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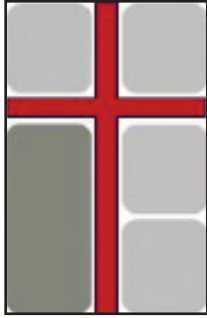
Following the annual renewal conducted in August, 2016, by the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Provincial Congregation Team (comprised of the leadership team and consultors) met to plan the course of the direction for the Institute.

Frank and Ada Gil
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 Michael Hallman
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In memory of Thomas E. Zerbe, Jr.

† indicates deceased

Memorial Donors



At the request of the family of the deceased, the following contributions were made to the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province. Through this generosity, we hope to perpetually honor the memory of our family members and friends.

In memory of Josephine Dicciani April 9, 2016

James and Alice Brogan
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Richard and Frederick
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Christine Lautner
Vincent and Carol Leskusky

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In memory of Anita Martorano January 31 2016

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Paul and Patti Scalia
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In memory of Brigid McGarvey, acj February 10, 2016

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Charles and Margaret Glancey
Claire Gueriera
Georgette Kazanjian
Frank and Camille Pica
Jeanne Richs
Elizabeth Seiffert
Mary Jane Stahler

At the request of the family of the deceased, the following contributions were made to the Saint Raphaela Center. Through this generosity, we hope to perpetually honor the memory of our family members and friends.

In memory of Kathy McNamee April 19, 2016

Jeffrey and Joanne Burns
Albert DiBartolomeo
Lisa McNamee
Mimi Stauffer

In memory of Eleanor Zerbe May 23, 2016

Anne Clarke
Vincent and Lynn DeLuca
GE Friends of Mark Zerbe
(Ivan, Viney, Joe, Mark, Peg, & Tomas)
Christopher Giranda
and Elizabeth Seeber
Robert and Rita Huffman
Marie Longo
Joseph and Camelia Nocella
Carolyn Rolli

† indicates deceased

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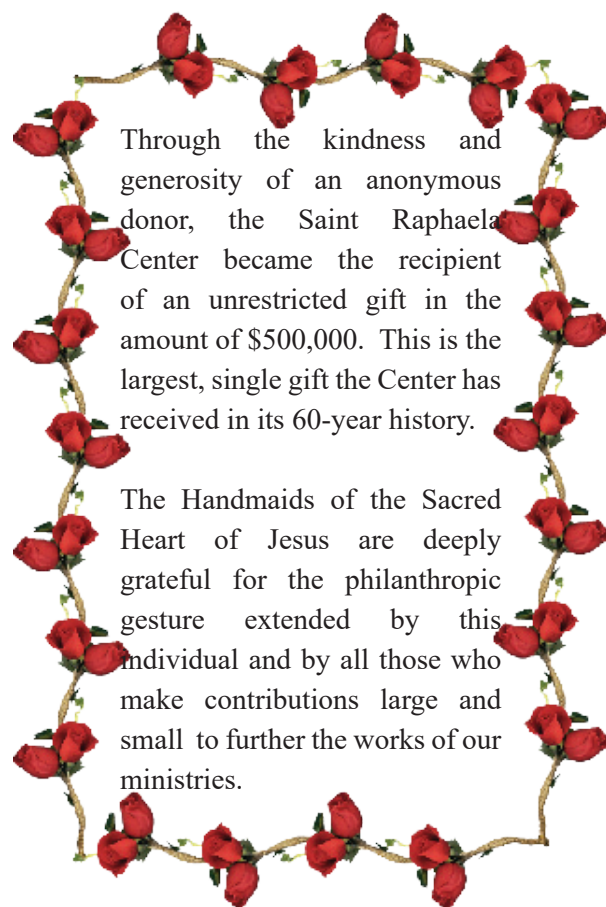
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In memory of Celine Carmona
The Vu Family

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Elaine Gartland
Mary Harbison
Mary Herron
Lois John
Anthony Joseph
Adrienne Karle
Kathleen Kelly



Through the kindness and generosity of an anonymous donor, the Saint Raphaela Center became the recipient of an unrestricted gift in the amount of \$500,000. This is the largest, single gift the Center has received in its 60-year history.

The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus are deeply grateful for the philanthropic gesture extended by this individual and by all those who make contributions large and small to further the works of our ministries.

Gifts to \$99 Continued

Agnes Leinheiser
Evelyn Lynch
Mary Jane Magee
Reverend James McKeaney
Patricia Mehalick
Anthony and Roberta Michaelis
Karen Muir
Helen Novielli
Charles and Marianne O'Neill
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Andrea Wilczynski



Volunteers work at St. Raphaela Center to install a walking path.

Grants and Gifts-in-Kind

During the 2015-2016 year, the following agencies provided support to the Handmaids USA Province. We are deeply grateful for the generosity they offered to our mission and ministries.

The **Berdan Support Fund** provided a \$2,000 grant and an additional grant in the amount of \$5,000 for continued support of the Formation Program.

The **Donald D. Lynch Foundation** provided a grant in the amount of \$12,000 for the Project FIAT Food Program.

The **Koch Foundation** provided a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the Formation Program.

The **National Religious Retirement Office** provided a grant of \$33,768.12 for retired sisters.

GRANTS

The **PHA Interdiocesan Fund for Religious** provided \$6,850 for retired sisters.

The **Raynier Institute and Foundation** provided an unrestricted grant in the amount of \$25,000.

The **Sullivan Family Charitable Fund** provided a grant of \$4,000 for the Athens community to use at their discretion.

The **Sullivan Family Charitable Fund** also provided a \$1,000 grant for unrestricted use by the USA Province.

GIFTS-IN-KIND

The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus are deeply grateful for non-cash gifts which were received during 2015-2016.

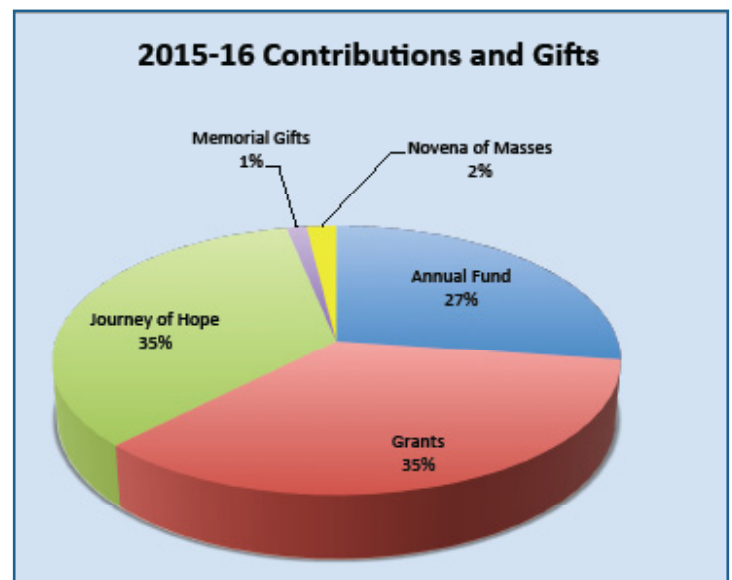
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Adam and Lori Stefanowicz
This Little Gallery
Timber Forge Woodworks (Jack Braithwaite)
3 Graces Jewelry (Gabrielle Antonini)
Michael and Nancy Valucci
White Dog Cafe

YEAR END TOTALS

2015-2016

Fundraising Income	\$97,345.00
Grants	\$99,618.12
Annual Fund	\$76,966.16
Novena of Mass Cards	\$ 5,436.00
Memorials	<u>\$ 3,752.75</u>
TOTAL	\$283,118.03



Contributions and Gifts



According to the requests of our donors, designations to specific funds have been honored. The following chart details a breakdown of contributions. These gifts do not include gifts or memorial gifts made directly to St. Raphaela Center.

Designations	Grants	Annual Fund	Other	Total
Ancillae-Assumpta Academy		100		100
Aged and Infirm	40,618.12	6,605.50	5,436 (Novena of Masses)	52,659.62
Athens	4,000	1,600		5,600
Formation	17,000	4,025		21,025
Project FIAT	12,000	2,810		14,810
Caibarien Project		250		250
Philippines		400		400
St. Raphaela Center		11,025		11,025
Province General Operating	26,000	50,150.66	97,345.00 (Journey of Hope) 3,752.75 (Memorial Gifts)	189,248.41
TOTAL	\$99,618.12	\$ 76,966.16	\$ 106,533.75	\$283,118.03

To Contribute to the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province, you may:

• Remit a check by mail to the: **Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province Development Office**
616 Coopertown Road Haverford, PA 19041

• Contribute on-line through Network for Good

One-time or recurring contributions can be set up and managed through our website, www.acjusa.org.



DO YOU KNOW what connects us?

Some of the supporters and contributors to the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province, include:

- Our former Ancilla Domini Academy students and Mirimar students
- Retreatants from St. Raphaela Center
- ACJ Associates
- Friends from our ministries in Athens, Philadelphia, and Miami
- Volunteers and friends from Project Fiat, El Salvador
- Parents and alumni families from Ancillae-Assumpta Academy
- Clergy and members of religious communities
- Businesses and foundations

how can you help?

annual fund

Our Annual Fund helps provide support for general operating expenses, formation, and the care of our senior sisters. The campaign extends from September 1 through August 31 of each year.

foundation support

If you or a family member has established a foundation, contributions to the Handmaids may be made through your foundation.

if you serve on the board of a foundation, or if your employer has a foundation, please make us aware. Opportunities for grants are often available to organizations such as the Handmaids.

planned giving

Significant tax advantages are available for making contributions to charitable organizations through planned giving, (including bequests, securities, life insurance, annuities, and more). Please consider the Handmaids when planning your estate.

events

The *Journey of Hope* is quickly becoming the "signature" event benefitting the USA Province of the Handmaids. A great opportunity for getting together with friends and contributors, the event offers a variety of ways to support the Handmaids. If you would like to host or sponsor an event to benefit the Handmaids, please contact us.

matching gifts

You can double or triple your support by designating the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province as the recipient of matching funds when your employer has a Matching Gift Program. Please check with your employer to determine whether a Matching Gift Program is offered.

memorial bequests

Oftentimes when a loved one dies, the family wants to memorialize their loved one in a significant and meaningful way. One of the simplest ways to do this is to request that contributions in memory of your loved one be designated to the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province.

226

*number of donors who
contributed to the
2015-16 Annual Fund*

33,768.12

AMOUNT OF THE
LARGEST GRANT
TO THE 2015-2016
ANNUAL FUND



6

**Number of
USA
Ministries
served by young gifts**



7

*number of
Journey of Hope
events held*



128

**number of
gifts received
to "Celebrate
the Sisters!"**



HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS, UNITED STATES PROVINCE 2016 TO 2017



ATHENS COMMUNITY

Sr. Angela Cordero, acj
Sr. Marietta Jansen, acj
Sr. Margarita Martin, acj
Sr. Asunta Thanh, acj

MIAMI COMMUNITY

Sr. Carmen Cabrejos, acj
Sr. Cecilia Chen, acj
Sr. Gloria Petrone, acj
Sr. María Jesús Sagasetta, acj

PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY

Sr. Florentina Iruretagoyena, acj
Sr. Betty Ann McDonald, acj
Sr. Margaret Scott, acj

HAVERFORD COMMUNITY

Sr. Mary Ann Craig, acj
Sr. Dona DeMarco, acj
Sr. Belén Escauriaza, acj
Sr. Kathy Gazie, acj
† Sr. Ruth Held, acj
Sr. Jessica Kerber, acj
Sr. Cecilia Tong, acj
Sr. Lyan Tri, acj
Sr. Oanh Vo, acj

SERVING ELSEWHERE

Sr. Catherine Kirwan-Avila, acj
Sr. Cam Banh, acj
Sr. Julia Walsh, acj
(Rome)

WYNCOTE COMMUNITY

Sr. Dorothy Beck, acj
Sr. Michelle Cimaroli, acj
Sr. Kathleenjoy Cooper, acj
Sr. Pilar Dalmau, acj
Sr. Uyên-Chi Dang, acj
Sr. Maureen Gillespie, acj
† Sr. Rose Harmsen, acj
Sr. Kathleen Helbig, acj
Sr. Sagrario Núñez, acj
Sr. Mary Theresa Nguyen, acj
Sr. Alice Rodriguez, acj