HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS USA PROVINCE

> ANNUAL REPORT ON PHILANTHROPIC GIVING 2018-2019

With a nod to reverencing God's creation, the photographs in this publication celebrate the natural beauty found on the grounds of the House of Hope.

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This Annual Report presents the names of donors who made gifts to the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province between September 1, 2018 and August 15, 2019. While every attempt has been made to guarantee the accuracy of this report, omissions and errors may occur. Please advise the Province Development Office at 610-642-5715 of any inaccuracies.

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#### August, 2019

Dear Friends,

What an amazing journey we continue to walk. In my daily travels, I am inspired and encouraged by the commitment of our sisters and the breadth and scope of their ministries. Their lives embrace the Handmaid charism and follow in the footsteps of our foundress to offer a path toward hope and reconciliation for all those they serve. On the next few pages of this publication, in their own words, our sisters offer a brief glimpse of their individual ministries. Some reveal the day to day tasks they undertake, while others give a glimpse at their experiences, insights, and intuitive understanding of their consecrated lives as Handmaids.

This publication also reviews the abundant generosity of our friends and supporters whose commitment to our mission is vital. We are profoundly grateful for your trust, your goodwill, and your willingness to walk in solidarity with us. We could not embark on this journey without you.

With gratitude and love,

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

HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS, UNITED STATES PROVINCE

Sr. Cam Banh, acj Sr. Carmen Cabrejos, acj Sr. Cecilia Chen, acj Sr. Michelle Cimaroli, acj Sr. Kathleenjoy Cooper, acj Sr. Angela Cordero, acj Sr. Pilar Dalmau, acj Sr. Uyen-Chi Dang, acj Sr. Dona DeMarco, acj Sr. Belén Escauriaza, acj Sr. Kathy Gazie, acj Sr. Maureen Gillespie, acj Sr. Kathleen Helbig, acj Sr. Florentina Iruretagoyena, acj Sr. Marietta Jansen, acj Sr. Jessica Kerber, acj Sr. Catherine Kirwan-Avila, acj Sr. Margarita Martin, acj Sr. Betty Ann McDonald, acj Sr. Nhan Nguyen, acj Novice Sr. Sagrario Núñez, acj Sr. Mary Theresa Nguyen, acj Sr. Gloria Petrone, acj Sr. Alice Rodriguez, acj Sr. María Jesús Sagaseta, acj Sr. Asunta Thanh, acj Sr. Cecilia Tong, acj Sr. Lyan Tri, acj Sr. Oanh Vo, acj Sr. Julia Walsh, acj





"Lord, teach me to be generous; Teach me to serve you as you deserve; To give and not to count the cost; To fight and not to heed the wounds; To toil, and not to seek for rest; To labor, and not to ask for reward except to know that I am doing your will." - St. Ignatius of Loyola

I recently heard a Jesuit reflect upon the lack of "spiritual masters," or guides and teachers. We have a world full of spiritual hunger, of an awakening "spirituality" that is searching for depth, guidance, true spiritual wisdom, and yet even those whom one could expect to share greater spiritual wisdom find themselves more comfortable in "professional" realms. As a woman religious, there is a desire to respond to this unique hunger, whether it be an identified hunger or one that has not yet been named, by deepening into the spiritual questions of our time. Reflecting about this hunger and allowing it to resonate within arises within me an awareness of who I truly am within this vocation. -Jessica Kerber, acj

# The many faces of our Ministries

At my age, there are times when I feel that I may have nothing left to contribute to the vocation I began more than sixty years ago. But from deep within, I realize that our Lord's whisperings are still present in and around me. As a woman who has wholly accepted consecrated life, I can still surrender my feelings of diminishment to God. Still I can love. Still I can be engaged in helping those around me. Still I can offer whatever I have to my community. Most importantly, still I can rejoice in the Lord, with humility, gratitude, and love. In the words of St. Raphaela Mary, "Let us do all we can so that the life of Christ that lives in us may be reflected in all we do." -María Jesús Sagaseta, acj



It is a privilege and a blessing for me to be serving as the Director of the Saint Raphaela Center in Haverford. This wondrous and serene place invites me daily to feel inspired in my ministry. Caring for the property, with its acres of natural beauty allows me to marvel at God's handiwork. Looking after the rooms and their furnishings at the retreat house and the House of Hope in order to create a prayerful and welcoming space for our guests brings me great joy and the desire to make our home a place of refuge for those seeking God.

More than that, though, my ministry gives me the chance to move forward in creating programs and retreats for our prospective visitors - for example reaching out to the homeless population, caregivers, seniors and retirees to take part in our offerings. We continue to promote the 30 day Spiritual Excercises and the 19 Annotation. As Handmaids, we want to share the Eucharist as a part of our Charism and our Ignatian spirituality. It is our intention to bring together the countless spiritual gifts and resources from many religious organizations to provide for ALL.

I am very encouraged and inspired as well in my role as a spiritual director - accompanying people from so many ages and walks of life. Their struggles and relationships with God vary greatly but at the bottom of their struggles it is always the same: We are all longing for God. My ministry allows me to see that clearly and to help by offering time and space for the thirst for God to be satisfied. -Lyan Tri, acj



My ministry calls me to work for Catholic Legal Services in the Archdiocese of Miami where I represent immigrants who are attempting to obtain legal status in the U.S. When the U.S. government wants to deport them, I advocate for them before the Immigration Court to argue that they remain in this country legally. They are extremely grateful and appreciate receiving this help from the Church through me. I have won many cases for the immigrants whom I have served at a most important stage of their lives, enabling them to live in the U.S. legally. Religious sisters do not just spread the Gospel through God's words, but actually do so by helping to meet the NEEDS of others. The beneficiaries of this outreach come to experience God's love through religious sisters in the Church. Every time I win a case in the court or in the Immigration Office, or with the Department of Homeland Security, I know it is God's hand at work.

In my thirty-three years of ministry I have helped many people from a variety of nations including Africans, Eastern Europeans, Europeans, Asians, Mexicans, South Americans, and others. I find this ministry is unique in the way that it enables me to help those whose countries of origin do not have a Handmaid presence To prepare for their cases I have to read and study the condition of that particular country. It is a precious opportunity from God for me to serve people of God from whole world. -Cecilia Chen, acj

Coming back after two years in our community in Equatorial Guinea, my perspective on the world and on our mission have been greatly enriched. Being all foreigners and from different countries, the challenges of diversity opened me to see new realities and to approach difference with care and reverence. Living in communion in such a situation requires an active choice, and it is possible. All that I lived and experienced there made me very grateful for our efforts to live St. Raphaela Mary's desire to be "universal like the Church" and for the diversity of our communities in the United States, a much-needed sign of hope in our world. -Michelle Cimaroli, acj

"....my perspective on the world and on our mission have been greatly enriched."





After I finished my degree in Mathematics, I wondered what might lie ahead. Figuring that I could probably add and subtract, the community asked me to be the treasurer for our school and eventually for the Province. The journey has been interesting, to say the least. I went from "ins" and "outs" to credits and debits and, in my fiscal education over the years, met some astute, honest, helpful people in the financial world who were and are people of integrity. I learned that, even with a little, we could add our voice and put our money where our values are. My desire is to continue to work toward being a good steward with what we have been given. I write this now, not for my sake, but to steal this moment to let all those who share their time and treasure with us to be assured that we are humbled and filled with gratitude for their generosity. We remember them each day in our prayers. Not a bad payback... -Kathleen Helbig, acj

#### Our loving Lord is never outdone in generosity!



In one of my last trips to El Salvador, I was happily assigned to play with the children in Las Delicias. That morning, when Rosa interrupted us, we were engaged in one of their favorite activities - creating all kinds of colorful bracelets with a great assortments of beads. Rosa took me to a corner of the room and asked me for help. *"My busband,"* she said with no emotion in her voice, *"was killed last month."* I told her how very sorry I was to hear that. *"Don't be sorry, Sister,"* Rosa said. *"My busband used to abuse me and my boys; please, don't be sorry for him."* 

"A few days after my husband was killed, I took my boy friend home with me," Rosa continued. "But my eleven-year-old boy didn't get along well with him. So my son took a knife, and ran after him." Rosa called the police and since that incident, the boy has been in a juvenile facility. Her older son, a thirteen year-old, is in another facility for doing drugs. "And my boy friend," Rosa reported without any trace of sadness in her face, "a couple of days ago was accused of stealing corn, and is awaiting trial in another prison." Rosa needed money for her monthly pilgrimage to those three sites.

Rosa's story has weighed heavily in my soul for all these months. How privileged I was - I am - to have been able to listen to her story!

And with a heavy heart, I went back to the beads.

-Sagrario Núñez, acj

"It was truly God's initiative that I entered with the Handmaids ten years ago while being fully aware that I might never use my nursing skills again in a congregation whose main ministries have always been education and spiritual accompaniment. While it can be challenging at times when you are the only person in the province working in the health care field, I am deeply grateful for the gifts that God has given me and for the many opportunities to live out our charism of reparation in this healing ministry. In order to prepare for my last stage of formation before final profession of vows, I recently ended my two-year ministry working as a family nurse practitioner at Esperanza Health Center in North Philadelphia. My experience at Esperanza serving the under-served populations has exposed me to our country's broken health care system, brought me closer to the wounded Christ actively present in these people, and taught me how to concretely live the call of our most recent General Congregation of serving "from below, from within, and from beside." As I begin my next stage of the journey, I desire to follow the poor and humble Christ more closely by giving myself more fully in solidarity with the poor and marginalized and not being afraid of but instead run towards the brokenness and poverty in the world where Christ is waiting to be born." -Oanh Vo, acj





"I think about Abraham and Sarah welcoming the three strangers (Gen 18:1-15) and anticipating their needs with such generous hospitality."

That is the spirit of this house – The Saint Raphaela Center. I am part of the Hospitality Team that prepares for our guests from answering the phone and the door to the housekeeping, cooking, laundry, registering, preparing liturgy and spiritual direction that all creates an environment where retreatants can experience a deeper presence of the Lord. I love this ministry because I get to see the joy and excitement of the young adults and high school students as they take this opportunity to encounter the Lord and continue to make Him part of their life journey. I also love greeting and welcoming the Sisters for their Summer retreat. Everything is in place for them. I watch the transformation on their faces as they walk in the door, "They are home!" –Kathy Gazie, acj A special concern and important focus in my ministry as Principal is to communicate our charism as Handmaids of the Sacred Heart. I have begun presenting an understanding of our teaching principle, Pedagogy of the Heart. Seriously imbedded in this educational philosophy is the importance of reconciliation. I hope to continue these presentations in faculty meetings during the school year. Our charism is very necessary in our world and especially in the work and experiences that we have with parents. Providing real life ways of making reconciliation a part of a family's lived experiences will hopefully have a positive effect on the future of the children and parents as well. Equally as important is showing students what reconciliation looks like and feels like. Educating parents, students, teachers, and staff to embrace reconciliation as a way of life can enable all to grow in a deeper and closer relationship with God and one another. -Maureen Gillespie, acj

#### "Our charism is very necessary in our world."





Some mornings it is difficult for me to get up, but God calls me to get moving... He knows that I need to be at Mass. As I pray, I often ask the Lord to inspire me as to what He wants me to do. Each day, as I have done for more years than I care to remember, I try to answer God's call. I know that it is God's grace that allows me to do everything!

In the past, I was blessed to work with young sisters in the formation program in the Philippines. When I first came to the United States, I worked for Catholic Social Services with Vietnamese refugees – helping them settle into homes, families, neighborhoods, and jobs. Now in retirement, I am blessed to be with young children each afternoon in the Extended Day Program at Ancillae-Assumpta Academy. In this after school program I help the children with their artwork - coloring and making small projects. I love art as a way to prayer and I love to see God in the faces of these little ones. In their presence, watching their smiles and listening to their stories - teaching them to share with one another, I realize that I am responding to God's word. For me it is like celebrating the Eucharist! -Cecilia Tong, acj

A recent visit to Peru awakened in me a new sense of gratitude, hope, and purpose, as I took part in a conference of the ACI Family sponsored by the Province of Peru-Bolivia. Sr. Dora Vasquez, one of the members of the international commission of the ACI Family, invited me along with one of our Miami Associates to be part of the encounter. We were 112 participants - some sisters, but the majority of whom were lay persons. From the moment I arrived, when Sr. Vicky Barreda, the Provincial of Peru-Bolivia greeted us, I knew that this visit was going to be special. What I did not know was that it was going to be in many ways transformational.

The theme was based on the ACI Family Going Forth: Caring for our Common Home and Serving the Most Disadvantaged. The presenters were members of the ACI Family from Peru- Bolivia who shared with us many things, some of the most revealing being the testimonies of their experiences at the international conference held in Spain, where they met other members of the ACI Family. Their stories touched my heart, and I felt overwhelmed. What was most significant and meaningful to me was seeing the lay members of the ACI Family and their desire to wholeheartedly take part in our Handmaid mission. Yes, I thought, there is so much to do - but we have so many others who want to join in our efforts. That simple realization gave me courage and hope. It renewed my spirit for doing God's work and I remember thinking over and over... We are not alone; we have God's grace and the loving support of our lay associates!

Before leaving Peru, Sr. Dora, along with attendee Cecilia Portugal, hugged me warmly and expressed their great joy at my presence. They also voiced their gratitude to the USA Handmaids for the help they had been given when their province began. *"When I embrace you, I am embracing the USA Province."* Sr. Cecilia said. The entire experience is one I will not soon forget. -Carmen Cabrejos, acj





I hope to be meeting an unmet need of the Venezuelan exiles to Miami with a Support Group I now convoke, for which I suggested and they liked the name Soy Venezolana (I am Venezuelan!) Venezuela is in a very difficult situation, and everyone in the group has someone back home whom they know is lacking food, water, medicine, and safety as military are on the streets from "another country."

We meet once a month in our Miami home. The families are all professionals, high school and college teachers, an accountant, an engineer, and they are now working in manual labor which is very exhausting for them. The need that I intuited and to which they responded is for Venezuelans to talk among themselves while we have a snack, and then find and strengthen their faith base each time with an Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. I offer a bit of catechesis at the opening of the prayer time, and there are always questions. At prayer, we always invoke Our Lady of Coromoto, one of the patrons of Venezuela. They now feel at home in our home and even if only two families come, it seems to be a relief and joy to them. -Kathleenjoy Cooper, acj

### "So much of what we learned and read resonated and moved me at spiritual as well as intellectual levels."

I am just getting my feet planted again in the Province after being away during my juniorate studies (in Madrid, Spain). Last year I had the wonderful opportunity to dedicate an entire year to studying Ignatian Spirituality at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas. The program offers the chance to go deeper into the spirituality that was born out of the experience of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the first Jesuit companions, which has inspired and been enriched by many congregations and lay people over its 500 year history. We approached its study through a variety of different perspectives: historical, theological-spiritual, pastoral-applied and in relationship with the contemporary culture. Given that Ignatian spirituality is so integral to our charism and to the spirit of St. Raphaela (as well as to my own journey towards, and now in, the Congregation), it was a great gift. So much of what we learned and read resonated and moved me at spiritual as well as intellectual levels. I hope that it may be a gift for many others as well! As I step into a new chapter and begin more active ministry, I am eager to share and continue to deepen through praxis that which I have learned and prayed during the last couple of years. -Catherine Kirwan-Avila, acj





I came to the United States in 1961 and when I was learning English I used to say, "*I am very important!*" Being able to communicate in another language was vital to my ministry and gave me a sense of what I needed in order to be useful to others. Since then, I have lived in all the houses of the Province (except Miami) and always felt it was a privilege for me to know and be a part of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the USA and the wonderful American people.

In 2002, God took me to Athens, GA. There, with three other sisters, I live in the midst of 210 trailers where the majority of people are unauthorized Mexican immigrants. Being able to speak English has become very useful for me in helping these people. It allows me to translate their needs and concerns at physician's offices, in court, and in many other day to day situations. Being able to help our brothers and sisters in need is indeed one of my greatest desires as a Handmaid and something for wheh I am deeply grateful. -Angela Cordero, acj



Last year I was sent by the Province to be part of a number of missions. The year experience had helped me to understand better the global migration crisis. I felt the urgency of the call of Pope Francis to the Church and people of goodwill to respond and to open our hearts and borders to these people who are in dire situations. When I accompanied our volunteers to El Salvador, I witnessed first hand the extreme poverty that forces people to flee. Here we Handmaids try to give hope by building houses and offering scholarships for education. I was also sent to the border between Texas and Mexico where I met and accompanied people seeking asylum in the USA because of the extreme violence and poverty in their countries. I saw in the faces of the parents the desperation of ones who would risk everything for a chance to offer their children a brighter future. There I had the privilege of working alongside many people who recognized this border problem as the Humanity Crisis of our time and chose to stand in defense of the Human Dignity and Rights of immigrants and refugees.

Currently, I live in a trailer park among immigrants who have settled in the States and are working hard to provide for their families in a place that is hostile to them and where they do not have legal status and live in fear of deportation by ICE Raids or for driving without a license. Yet they are grateful to be here and hopeful that their children who are US citizens due to birthrights might be able to live a better life, a life free of violence and poverty. As a religious I feel called to live in solidarity with these brothers and sisters and to be their voice and to advocate for them. As a Handmaid, I continue to hear the plea of our General Congregation XX, that is, to allow the Crisis of Human Mobility to "complicate our lives." -Uyen-Chi Dang, acj

"As a woman religious I feel called to live in solidarity with these brothers and sisters and to be their voice and to advocate for them."

My ministry is a "behind the scenes" service to Handmaids all over the world. I am a translator English/Spanish, and my work involves many kinds of communication: documents of the Congregation, articles in our magazine "Handmaids Today," articles on our ACI website, books, etc. My work gives me the opportunity to delve daily into the many facets of Handmaid life and spirituality. This ministry gives me great joy, as it provides our English speaking Sisters with access to resources that enable them to participate more fully in what is happening in the Congregation, and thus feel more a part of the universal Body for the Mission. Moreover, it makes me feel very united with our Sisters throughout the world. -Julia Walsh, acj





Miami Handmaids have brought adoration to the people of Camillus House, a homeless shelter in Miami. Three times a week, we who work there, make adoration with the homeless. -Gloria Petrone, acj



It is four years since I was missioned back to the Philadelphia area, where I am a member of the Wyncote community. We consider the way we relate to one another as we live and work together, part of our ministry. Our home is part of our school, Ancillae-Assumpta Academy. Half of us work directly, in different roles, with the students, faculty, staff, and their families. Other members minister with clients, directees, and companions in a nursing facility. We make time, especially at dinner, to hear about everyone's day. Bringing people's intentions, or their persons, to prayer is a source of unity and connects us with those in need. I look forward to our Friday evening faith sharing as a community. I feel it nourishes us just as community prayer, daily celebrations of Eucharist, and our time of Adorations do. I am grateful to be visiting the refugee family whom we, as a province, are assisting. Once a week the mother of the family and I meet for class in English. Speaking in English is not the only thing we share during this time. Daily, I unite myself to all directly involved with those who suffer because of their realities as refugees. I pray with them, that they may be treated with the dignity, and for those who need to be converted by God's grace. -Dona DeMarco, acj

Bringing people's intentions, or their persons, to prayer is a source of unity and connects us with those in need."

Each weekday, I leave my home on South Broad Street and travel to La Salle University to work as a secretary in the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Business. These are located in separate buildings and campuses. This is my 25th year at La Salle and I consider myself lucky and blessed to be there. Being in a university environment brings with it a great sense of belonging and one that allows me to interact with students and faculty whose common purpose is teaching and learning. It is gratifying to know that our foundress, St. Raphaela Mary, was inspired to pass along her wisdom in stating "Whatever educates invites our collaboration." Throughout my many years on campus, I have come to find that my role is one that requires collaboration and that a substantial part of my ministry is listening - paying attention to the needs of those with whom I come in contact and trying to serve those needs as best as I am able. It is in this way that I share my ministry and mission with others.

"Whatever educates invites our collaboration."

- Saint Raphaela Mary





I have been involved in the Oasis Católico of Athens (Georgia – USA) for sixteen years. As educators, the Handmaids there instituted an after-school program for primary school children in order to help them do well in school. Our program trains university students from the University of Georgia to work with our immigrant children. Beyond that, our goal is to expose the rich to poverty... in order to eliminate prejudices against unauthorized immigrants, and in order to encourage action to resolve the broken immigration system. This program is very powerful, since by means of the tutoring services, cultures, races, social strata and religious traditions are brought together. The tutors are told that their principal "job description" is not "tutoring" but "healing hearts", since theirs is a healing presence which conveys to the children and their parents that not everyone in Georgia or in the United States is against them. Moreover, this program is a gateway to education about social justice.

At Oasis, we continue to offer religious education to the 2nd and 3rd grade students in their preparation for First Communion. We also prepare parents and godparents for the baptism of their children. As Handmaids we believe that everything we do centers around "education in service of the gospel" and in so doing educating "with love and for love." -Marietta Jansen, acj



A few years ago, after the our community in the Diocese of Atlanta had closed, my ministry brought me to the "City of Brotherly Love." It is in this city with its multi-racial, multi-ethnic neighborhoods that I find myself working to promote the gospel message to the parishioners of two inner city churches located in the South Philadelphia area, St. Thomas Aquinas and Annunciation. For me, it is a gift to be able to teach young children and adults in preparation for the sacraments, and to witness them growing in faith.

St. Raphaela Mary once wrote, "We need to work so that everyone will come to know and love Jesus the Christ." My ministry calls me to do that work. -Florentina Iruretagoyena, acj

"We need to work so that everyone will come to know and love Jesus the Christ."

Almost all of my Handmaid life, I have been offered the opportunity to take care of the financial records and accounts for several of our Handmaid communities. I have enjoyed the accounting and bookkeeping challenges of my ministry very much, and so far, have never "cooked the books" or had to declare bankruptcy. I am grateful for those blessings!

Recently, I have been tasked with another ministry. In some ways this ministry also involves taking care of the books. At first, I hesitated to accept this ministry because this new set of books has no numbers – only categories. Imagine the difficulty of keeping everything accurate in this unique set of books. It scares me! Rather than credits or debits, assets or liabilities, in the columns of this set of books are the words Love, Charity, Compassion, Forgiveness, Cooperation, Responsibility, and Sharing. Of course you can add to this list.

I am inviting you to take part in my ministry and "COOK THE BOOKS." Add to or subtract from the columns as necessary, knowing that we are all in the same boat with Jesus, and that He is the only one we need to account to. I have found that the longer the cooking process, the better the result will be with God's grace and our prayers. - Asunta Thanh, acj





#### "I will try to be a person who listens a great deal." -St. Raphaela Mary

The words of St. Raphaela Mary resonate in me each day as my ministry calls me to work with Catholic Social Services/Family Services in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. My service is different from other Handmaids in that I assist pregnant women, mostly from Mainland China, with what they need during their pregnancy. Providing pre-natal and pregnancy classes, helping with language translations, and assisting in the application process for Emergency Medical Assistance after giving birth are just a few of the responsibilities that come along with my ministry.

With the recent closing of Hahnemann Hospital, and before having their health care transferred to Jefferson Hospital, many of my clients experienced great anxiety. Understandably, navigating the health care system is often a challenge for the most capable individual. But when facing language barriers and the normal apprehensions that accompany pregnancy, it is an even greater difficulty. I saw God's hand leading me to listen to their fears and to help them. -Cam Banh, acj



Being the Provincial of the USA Province, and realizing the individual and collective events that have shaped us as Handmaids, it is difficult to recount all the many beauties and joys I have experienced this year...

The joy of having a new final professed sister in the province and the beauty and fulfillment in celebrating all that has been and will be for her;

The joy of having a new novice in the Province and the prayers and hopes we share for her to overcome any struggles and barriers that may create difficulties for her; The joy of receiving the canonical visit of the superior general and two of her counselors and the deep gratitude we feel for her words of encouragement and her call to go forward;

The joy of making the Ignatian retreat together as a Province, with the theme of the Eucharist and the prayerful anticipation that the faith abiding in each of the sisters will lead them to a concrete response to the call that God is whispering to them. The breadth and scope of my ministry has many rewards, but as well carries with it many expectations. My deepest desire is to meet each day with hope and to fulfill the will of our Lord with a heart that is overflowing with love - knowing that God never fails to give to us abundantly! -Belén Escauriaza, acj

I am blessed to have had an active ministry for many years, and now spend my days at St. Joseph's Manor, bringing the message of Christ to all with whom I come in contact. Decades ago, when I first arrived at Saint Raphaela Center, I had no knowledge of the path that God had put before me. But my trust in Him alleviated any fear or apprehensions that I had. My "job" was to serve the retreatants and our community as the resident cook, and I came to love the work that I was doing. It was there that I learned to cook and there that I found joy in serving others. It was also there that I came to find that others appreciated the fruits of my labors.

Today, as a resident at St. Joseph's Manor, my cooking days have come to an end. But my joy in serving others has not. I make it my daily goal to greet everyone I see with a cheerful word - to encourage others no matter how great their struggles may be - and to create peaceful and loving relationships that are sure to please God. - Alice Rodriguez, acj





God has given us life, and through this life he communicates his love to us. I wonder how I can know he is loving me - through the bible, through my prayer, through the Church teachings, yes, but more vividly it is through my life experience everyday. I have been in Cochabamba, Bolivia for three months for my Novitiate. New place, new community, new culture, new people, new language... One thing that is familiar is the same love of God in whom I met, in what happened to me and to others, through the gesture of love we share, through the pain that we embrace with Jesus.

Every weekend, my companions and I go to Las Lomas for tutoring, catechist, visiting families, and celebrating Sunday mass with the people in the village. Every time we come, the children run to us with joy shouting "hermanita, hermanita" and we exchange kisses and hugs. I realize that it is God who gives me kisses and hugs, as he waits for me to come. I have learned to love Jesus as well and to recognize his love for me through my life experiences. He is always present - showing himself to me everyday! Can I pay attention to his love in every moment? I ask God to open my eyes, my ears, my heart, and my hands to receive Him who wants to love me everyday. - Nhan Nguyen, acj Novice

For many years my ministry called me to heed God's call in whatever way he directed. I did my best and served in many different ministries from Pennsylvania to Georgia. Today, I hear His call as a retiree, living out my vocation at St. Joseph's Manor, where I am surrounded by those whose youth is behind them. It is a new ministry, but I am trying to embrace it with joy and simplicity.

At the Manor, I continue to spend much of my day in prayer and contemplation. One of the ways I have managed to do this is through sharing St. Raphaela's desire to "present Christ for the Adoration of all people." Once a week, in the chapel of St. Joseph's Manor, I am privileged and grateful to be able to present the Blessed Sacrament for all to worship and adore. It gives me great solace and comfort to know that our loving Lord remains a present and faithful source of everything we are and have. -Pilar Dalmau, acj



"The more difficulties we encounter, the more trusting we should be and the more united to God in prayer."

-St. Raphaela Mary



Every day I work in a group home called Don Guanella. My ministry through Catholic Social Services calls me to do what I can to assist individuals who are challenged or handicapped and to support their families. The needs of this special population are great, as are their struggles. But my daily work offers a chance for offering comfort and compassion. I take people to church, offer catechism classes, and accompany clients to workshops and appointments to a doctor or hospital. As a caretaker it is my responsibility to engage and encourage - to be a source of hope and hospitality. My ministry asks me not merely to espouse the Handmaid charism, but to live it. -Maria Theresa Nguyen, acj

## "Regard each child as someone of immense value. For every one of them, Christ shed His own blood."

These words of St. Raphaela Mary resonate with me each day at Oasis Católico in Athens, GA, where my ministry calls me to build bridges of understanding and healing. Seeing God at work healing and comforting the hearts of the children afraid of having their father or mother taken away in a raid or traffic stop renews my faith and brings hope to a troubled situation.

Recently, our Handmaid community was able to distribute over two hundred school backpacks with school supplies for the children in the neighborhood and well beyond! It was beautiful to witness the generosity of so many reaching out to these immigrant descent little Athenians. Witnessing God's hand at work reassures me that the bridges we create can and do carry us across the fears and desperation that exist in today's world. -Margarita Martin, acj



**St. Raphaela Mary Society** (\$10,000 and above)

Lisa Blackburn and Charlie Kittell in honor of Sister Jessica Kerber Thomas and Monica Forst Friends and Supporters in Miami

## **Circle of Compassion** (\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Raymond and Carol Angelo in memory of Sisters Dorothy Beck and Philomena Monte Jeffrey W. Barker Michael Cipollone in memory of Lena Cipollone, Mildred Bianco, and Sisters Dorothy Beck, Ruth Held, and Philomena Monte Joseph and Jean Eble Gary and Karen Farley in honor of Lawanda Sheridan Donald and Theresa Ferrari Caithlin Grimes J.J. White Inc. Donald and Lisa Kerber in honor of Sister Jessica Kerber G. Wesley and Crystal Kuehnle Maggie McGill Silvia Nilsen Kelli Powell in honor of Sister Catherine Kirwan-Avila David and Mary C. Reid Saint John Neumann Church Parishioners Deacon David Schaffer in memory of Mary and Chris Schaffer Jack and Peggy Seydow in memory of John C. Seydow Michael and Nancy Valucci Jeannette Velazquez Hoyt and Rosalie Walter in honor of Antonia Romano

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#### **Circle of Joy Continued**

Suzanne McGowan Jose and Debbie Moreno *in honor of Sister Gloria Petrone* Rev. Mr. Joseph L. Nines Maria Orellano Bourne Ruthrauff Richard and Ellen Ryan *in memory of Sisters Dorothy Beck and Rose Harmsen, and the Ryan and Spillane Families* John and Dorothy Scanlon *in memory of Sister Elizabeth McCoy* Tri Vo and Dung Huynh

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(to \$99)

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The *Journey of Hope* is an annual fundraising endeavor organized by the USA Handmaid Province Development Office and the Advisory Board for the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The event offers exposure to the Handmaids in an effort to assist them in furthering their mission and their ministries.

Thank you to our donors listed below. Unless otherwise indicated, contributions to Saint Raphaela Center are designated to the Retreatant Scholarship Program.

SRC Major Gifts (\$500 and above)

Reverend Ray Donaldson, sj Reverend Bernard Farley John and Frances Shutack

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We are deeply grateful to all of the individuals, groups, and companies who have generously donated furniture, carpets, paintings, books, lamps, and other furnishings for the House of Hope. We are also deeply grateful to Ed and Sue Buck, who handcrafted and donated the altar and tabernacle for the chapel; and to Deacon David Schaffer and Kathy Fitzgerald for their countless hours of time and expertise in assisting with the renovation of the House of Hope.

#### We are deeply grateful to the donors listed below for their contributions to Project Fiat in El Salvador. Your generosity continues to support the basic needs of the Salvadorians and the programs we have established. Many thanks to all of our volunteers who work with and assist the people in El Salvador.

Steve Abbett R.A. Adams-Licciardello Lydia Alvarez Ancillae Assumpta Academy John and Susan Andre Scott and Kimberly Andrien Anonymous Tran Hue Banh Maria Barbato Jeffrey W. Barker Martin and Joan Bates Joseph and Siobhan Bertone Annette Bilobran Robert and Estelle Blankenship Christi Bonner Anne Bradley William and Jennifer Briese Dennis D. Brogan Caroline Brown Jim and Anne-Marie Brown Edward and Angela Burke Thomas Burke William and Patricia Burke Maura Carroll Chaminade College Preparatory School John Cipollone Frank and Gerri Clyatt Ellie Coakley Ellinore Coakley Randi and Jon Cohn Mark and Kathryn Cole Michael Connelly James and Kathleen Costello Court of St. Dominic No. 2222 Nicholas Danter Andrew and Karen D'Ascenzo Philip and Kathleen Daubney Merry Derham Elizabeth Jean DelRosario Robert Denault Thomas Devlin David Didden Maria DiMarco Allen Dorsey Leslie Dozsa Garv Driller Matthew Durkin Agustin Escobar Laura Esposito Loretta Falls Gary and Karen Farley Helen Farnon Melissa Fedor Luis Fernandez

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## Memorial Gifts





In memory of Sister Mary Ann Craig August 25, 2018

The following contributions were made to the Handmaid USA Province to perpetually honor the memory of a beloved Handmaid.

Anonymous Richard and Mary Beth Austin Lisa Blackburn Joseph D'Amore Emily DiPietro Lawrence and Marian Dondero Neil and Bernadette Dougherty Martin and Maureen Howe Jane Johnston John and Rosemary Lutz Mary Jane Magee Caroline Mancini Barbara Mas Jerry and Terry McConeghy ♥Virginia McDonald Joanne Petrone Kathleen Petrone Prayer Shawl Ministry Lawanda Sheridan Susan Smith John and Carol Thomas Tom and Winifred Vander Neut Miriam Zimmer

✤ indicates deceased



#### In memory of Virginia (Jean) McDonald July 7, 2019

For the past 27 years, Jean McDonald served in just about every capacity in the daily life of the retreat center, and – as she often pointed out-knew the house and its history better than anyone else. For many groups, Jean was the face of hospitality, caring exceedingly for the practical needs of the retreatants. She was like a mother or grandmother to the retreatants, and a sister and friend to the Handmaid community. As part of our family, Jean's spirit will always be present with us. At the request of the family of Jean's family, 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.

Barbara Benedict Tom and Mary Breslin Susan Carey County Line Construction Company Deirdre McHugh Dooner Martin and Maureen Howe Mary Kelly Mary Magee Antonia Romano Greg Southard Alisa Taddei Regina and Gloria Taddei



Corrina Albright Colleen Babich Jeffrey W. Barker Ernie and Betty Beck CB Blackburn Nora Blumenstein Tom and Mary Breslin Carol Buono Sister Mary Carboy, SSJ Timothy Denny Diane Griffin Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Miami Community

## Honor Gifts

At her request, contributions honoring Sister Jessica Kerber on the occasion of her Final Profession as a Handmaid of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, were offered to PROACIS, an international organization created by the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This group works to eradicate poverty by acting on its main causes: lack of access to education and health, lack of decent housing and infrastructure, gender inequality, physical and mental disabilities, and unfair economic actions. The mission of PROACIS is carried out in some of the poorest countries on earth, and among the most needy. We are grateful for the outpouring of generosity offered by those listed here that amounted to a total of \$7,560.

Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Philadelphia Community Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Wyncote Community Terry and Jeanne Hisey Martin and Maureen Howe Donald and Lisa Kerber Dale and Amy Lintner Mary Jane Magee Richard and Mary Anne McKeone Lara Miller Isabel Perera Megan Prilutski

Audrey Renschen John and Maureen Rilling Antonia Romano Richard and Ellen Ryan Deacon David Schaffer Joshua Schrier Thomas Sheibley Lawanda Sheridan Lisa Taddei John and Carol Thomas Angela Verghese Miriam C. Zimmer

## Grants and Charitable Fund Support

During the 2018-2019 year, the following agencies provided \$209,827.25 in 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 for continued support of the Formation Program.

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

The **Darren and Kathryn Ash Foundation** provided a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to be used at the discretion of the Athens community.

The **Friends at Susan's Story**, on behalf of Lisa Vanni, provided a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for the Capital Campaign at Ancillae-Assumpta Academy.

The **National Religious Retirement Office** provided a grant of \$39,595.25 for retired sisters.

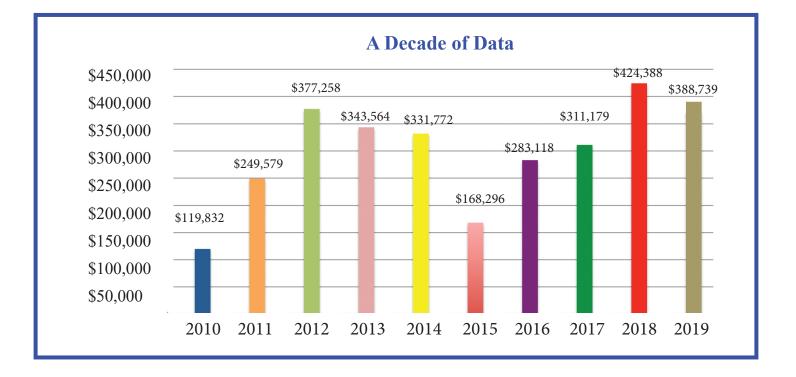
The **PHA Interdiocesan Fund for Religious** provided a grant of \$5,232 for retired sisters.

**Raynier Institute and Foundation**, on behalf of Michael Valucci, provided an unrestricted grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the Handmaid Province.

The **Steven Molinari Family Fund** provided a \$72,000 grant to Project Fiat for a water treatment project and for furnishing books to the school in the Las Delicias neighborhood.

The **Sullivan Family Charitable Fund** provided a grant of \$4,000 for the Athens community to use at their discretion and a \$2,000 grant for unrestricted use by the USA Province.

This chart details the total financial support received for each fiscal year beginning with 2010 and ending with 2019.



## Contribution and Gift Designations



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 <u>directly</u> to Saint Raphaela Center or Project Fiat.

Designations	Grants	Annual Fund	Other	Total	
Aged and Infirm	44,827.25	6,367.40	<b>4,822</b> (Novena of Masses)	56,016.65	To Contribute to the Handmaids
Ancillae-Assumpta Academy	15,000			15,000	of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province, you may:
Athens	14,000			14,000	
Cuba Project		650		650	<ul> <li>Remit a check by mail to the: Handmaids</li> </ul>
Formation	12,000	9,525		21,525	of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA
Philippines		5,000		5,000	Province Development Office
Project FIAT	72,000	27,803.68		99,803.68	616 Coopertown Road Haverford, PA 19041 • Contribute
Province General Operating	52,000	49,839.69	<b>69,335.90</b> (Journey of Hope) <b>1210</b> (Memorial Gifts)	172,385.59	
Saint Raphaela Center		4358		4358	on-line through visiting our
TOTALS	\$209,827.25	\$103,543.77	\$75,367.90	\$388,738.92	website, www. acjusa.org.



## how can you help?

#### annual fund

Our Annual Fund helps provide support for the general operating expenses of the province, for formation and training, and for the continued 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.

## 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
- Alumni and alumni families from Ancillae-Assumpta Academy
- Clergy and members of religious communities
- Businesses and foundations

## Are you connected???

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

**STAY CONNECTED** 



*The heart of a Handmaid must not be limited*. - St. Raphaela Mary

# Hospitality Simplicity Compassion

Glimitity

Joy