



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus USA Province

VOLUME 5 ■ ISSUE 2 ■ SPRING, 2014

A PUBLICATION OF THE USA HANDMAID PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR



Dear Friends,

Alleluia! He is risen!

To know and feel these words so profoundly proclaimed at the resurrection of Christ is both a blessing and a gift.

Easter is truly a time of great joy in the celebration of Jesus' life, in the memory of His death, and in the knowledge that He has been called to new life – a new life that one day we may all experience – eternal life. Scripture tells us that, "God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son." It is because of the Easter message and God's glorious promise fulfilled that we are given the opportunity to genuinely experience the depth of the love God has shared with us. It is also during the Easter season that we are reminded of all the new possibilities that await us, life-giving gifts that are at the heart of the promise of resurrection.

It makes sense then that Easter is also a time for us to show our gratitude for all the gifts and blessings we have received through the great mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Our Easter gratitude connects us to God and the experience of God's abundance. It opens our hearts in joyful celebration to share our gratitude for the gift of life and for the way in which God enriches our lives; for the dawn of each new day and the opportunity it affords us to continue our journey of becoming the loving, forgiving, generous people we have been created to be. We thank God for the grace and hope that fill our lives each and every day. Most especially, we thank God for those who share their love, compassion, and kindness with us, for us, and about us.

May the message of the risen Christ stay in our hearts always. Alleluia!

With joy, gratitude, and love,

Sister Dorothy Beck, acj

Sister Dorothy Beck, acj
Provincial Superior



Handmaids Saluted With Their Name in Lights

Driving into center city Philadelphia on the Schuylkill Expressway from points north and west, it was hard not to notice the message that shone through the darkened sky on March 29, 2014. Actually, the words had been in place for three days prior, adding to the anticipation and excitement of its message, *The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart Legacy Gala*.

Since 1976, PECO has been displaying messages atop its headquarters at 23rd and Market Streets. Now known as the PECO Crown Lights, the displays have become a symbol of recognition for countless local community and non-profit organizations.

For a community of women religious, whose core values include simplicity and humility, seeing their Congregation's name in lights may have suggested an inexplicable irony. They are, after all, quiet, prayerful women, many of whom work with little or no compensation or recognition.

To those who know the Handmaids and have witnessed their ministries in action, however, seeing the lighted message merely underscored the credit and acknowledgement they deserve.

For almost ninety years, the Handmaids, who have ministries in Philadelphia, Haverford, and Wyncote, along with Miami, FL and Athens, GA, have quietly, but consistently extended themselves to the mission of their Congregation, offering education in service of the Gospel. Not limited to schools, the Handmaid belief, "*whatever educates invites our collaboration*", has often taken them into uncharted waters. An international community, (it was founded in Spain and is now a presence in twenty-four countries throughout the globe), the Handmaids work largely with immigrant populations, educating and assisting with legal, social, and financial issues. Their retreat center continues to open its doors to all faiths and religious denominations for prayerful contemplation and healing. In 2002, they began a mission in El Salvador and have since established there a library and study center, a clinic, a center for the elderly, and homes for the poor.

Following their fiat, the Handmaids answer the call — wherever needed — to serve a broken world with compassion, hospitality, and joy (the other three of their core values). For this and so much more, with or without lights blazing, their legacy is saluted!
(Photo credit: Savaria Photography)

*M*ore than five hundred friends of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus packed the ballroom at the Hyatt at the Bellevue to celebrate *The Legacy Gala* on March 29, 2014.



The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Guests at this black-tie event sampled sumptuous appetizers during the cocktail reception and browsed through a unique silent auction that offered a beautifully presented array of gifts, coordinated by Handmaid Advisory Board members, Rodie Alvaré Henson and Susan Singer. A formal sit-down dinner and brief program followed. Emcee for the evening was longtime Handmaid friend and former La Salle University English professor, Dr. Jack Seydow. Reverend Dan Joyce, S.J., Assistant to the Vice President for Mission and Identity at Saint Joseph's University, offered the invocation.

The Legacy Gala paid tribute to the legacy of the Handmaids with an on screen projection of hundreds of photos highlighting their ministries from 1926 to the present. The photos documented the many varied undertakings the sisters have responded to, including those of the present day thirty-seven sisters who oversee five communities in the U.S. The legacy of the Handmaids was also remembered in the program and advertisement book, designed and coordinated by Handmaid Advisory Board member, Carol Angelo. It included the names of every Handmaid who served in the U.S. Province, beginning with Srs. Virginia Vivanco and Gabriela Dillon, the first to emigrate from Spain to establish the Handmaids' first ministry in West Philadelphia.

Special recognition, however, was reserved for Sister Elizabeth McCoy, who until her death exactly ten years earlier

(March 29, 2004), spent more than thirty-five years as the principal and later Director of Ancillae-Assumpta Academy (AAA), the Wyncote school founded by the Handmaids in 1945.

In a video documentary filmed by Bradley Digital and edited and produced by Michael Dondero, AAA '02, guests were given the opportunity to witness the life and legacy of Sr. Elizabeth. Interviewed for the project were Handmaids, colleagues, friends, and former students. Their recollections of the dynamic and charismatic woman were poignantly articulated, and lauded Sr. Elizabeth's visionary leadership, her affinity for collaboration, and all that she gave to the world as a Handmaid, educator, and friend.

Special guests attending the event included nearly all of Sr. Elizabeth's nieces and nephews and their spouses, along with other family members. As a tribute to their "Aunt BJ" and honoring a long held tradition of the McCoy family, niece Carolyn Braithwaite organized the family's efforts in baking for each guest a homemade scone, one of Sr. Elizabeth's trademark hospitality gifts. A note sharing the symbolism and significance of the scone accompanied each gift.



The Family of Sister Elizabeth McCoy

the gala was an unprecedented success that brought together old friends, members of the AAA school community, alumni, and their families. *"Tonight was the culmination of a tremendous amount of work shared by a tremendous amount of Handmaid friends and supporters. It is so gratifying to see that everyone had such a wonderful time and at the same time, raised funds for such a remarkable group of sisters."*

Guests filled the dance floor until the evening's end to the fabulous, rocking sounds of the Sofa Kings.

With Gratitude to The Legacy Gala Sponsors

Alvaré Associates
Jack and Beth Conroy and Family
Nance K. Dicianni, ADA '65
The Ferrier Family
Sean and Anne Flynn and Family
Foundation Capital Management
G.J.W Builder, Inc.
John and Franny Glomb and Family
Sid and Helena Gosser
Tom and Rodie Henson
Terry and Jeanne Hisey and Family
INTECH Construction
The Lintner Family
Dan and Mary Mealey and Family
Dan and Terry Murray and Family
Louis and Anne Janiczak-Nees
Peruto and Peruto
Ernie and Joan Pighini and Family
Raynier Institute and Foundation
Ralph and Toni Romano and Family
The Seravalli Family Foundation
Jack and Peggy Seydow
Brendan and Marie Teehan
Utility Line Services, Inc.

Elegantly designed floral arrangements featuring yellow roses, another reminder of Sr. Elizabeth, adorned the tables throughout the ballroom and beyond. Emily Haff Reddington, AAA '98, owner of Sweet Magnolia, generously donated her services and the floral designs.

According to event co-chair and Handmaid Advisory Board member Mary Mealey,

SISTER CECILIA MARKS 50 YEARS



On Mother's Day, Sunday May 11, 2014, Sister Cecilia Tong celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a Handmaid of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Many friends attended as well as Handmaids from the Philadelphia and Wyncote communities. Reverend Daniel Joyce, S.J. presided at the liturgy with concelebrants Reverends Anthony Quinn and Joseph Dang, and Deacon David Schaffer. The liturgy

used Vietnamese and English in the proclamations of the Word, the music, and the homily by Father Dang. The homilist developed three themes with respect to the life of Sister Cecilia: the Good Shepherd guiding her first dramatic steps toward the Handmaids, Consecrated Life, and Mother's Day with its jubilee invitation to consider a Handmaid's spiritual leadership and pastoring. There have been many opportunities in Sister Cecilia's life to extend motherly love to refugees, families and immigrant Vietnamese religious congregations. Sister Cecilia has been instrumental in nurturing, protecting, and instructing many hundreds of persons across the United States in their struggle to adapt their lives to many new ways.

Currently, Sister Cecilia is on the staff of Saint Raphaela Center, active in hospitality in center programs, and in developing connections with the Vietnamese communities of PA and NJ and reconnecting with the Vietnamese congregations of Sisters across the U.S.

Handmaids Plan Intermediate Meeting

The Intermediate Meeting of the Handmaid Congregation will take place from September through October, 2014, in Haverford. This meeting, which is governed by the Handmaid Constitutions, is held during the five-year interval between two General Congregations. Its function is solely consultative, and is attended by the Superior General, the Assistants General, General Secretary and Treasurer, the Provincials of Spain, Italy, Europe- Atlantic, Japan, Argentina-Uruguay, Peru-Bolivia, Colombia-Panama, Ecuador, USA; Vice Provincials of Chile and the Philippines, and the Regional Superiors of India and Africa. In all, twenty Handmaids are expected to be present.

During the course of their participation, the sisters will reflect on the reconfiguration of the Congregation, including one provincial for the whole of Spain, a new entity made up of what had been the provinces of England, Portugal and the houses in France, and the newly created region of Africa. They are also expected to report about the implementation of the decisions of General Congregation XIX and discuss the state of the Congregation throughout the world.

This is the first time that this periodic gathering will be held in the United States. Having until recently convened only in Rome, the Handmaids saw the value of alternating the location between Rome and other sites. Two earlier Intermediate Meetings were held in Latin America and the Philippines.

Novena to Saint Raphaela Mary

In preparation for celebrating the May 18th Feast Day of Saint Raphaela Mary, the foundress of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the sisters will offer a novena beginning Friday, May 9th.

The novena will be prayed at the conclusion of daily Vespers (Evening Prayer) through Saturday, May 17th in the chapel at Saint Raphaela Center in Haverford. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for silent Adoration beginning at 5:00 pm, followed by Vespers at 5:20 pm.



The public is warmly invited to take part in the novena and Adoration. Written petitions may be placed at the statue of Saint Raphaela each day. The chapel at the Center is open every day from 9:00 am to noon for daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

HANDMAID NEWS AND TRAVELS

Sister Cam Banh will be visiting China where she will explore the possibility of a Handmaid presence there.

Sisters Dorothy Beck and Mary Ann Craig will visit Project Fiat in El Salvador in June.

Sisters Belen Escauriaza and Kathleen Helbig will take part in the General Treasurer's Meeting which will be held this summer in Rome.

Sisters Kathy Gazie and Mary Theresa Nguyen have relocated to the Haverford community. Sister Mary Theresa will soon be taking part in the Handmaid renewal program in Rome.

Sister Sagrario Núñez is in Spain where she will have the opportunity to visit with many of her family members.

Sister Theresa Vu recently returned from a visit to the Handmaid community in Athens, GA. In July, she will travel to volunteer with Project Fiat in El Salvador.

Novena of Mass Cards Available

Novena of Mass cards are available and may be requested from the Province Development office in Haverford. The cards feature exquisite photographs taken by Sister Belen Escauriaza and quotes from Saint Raphaela Mary or scripture. The cards may be used for a variety of occasions. All proceeds from the donations received when a card is used, go to support the needs of the senior sisters.



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
USA Province Development Office

616 Coopertown Road
Haverford, PA 19041
610-642-5715

www.acjusa.org

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 2303
Jenkintown, PA

Address Service Requested



**IN THE
HANDMAIDS'
PRAYERS**

Please pray for the requests offered on behalf of:

Suzanne Altieri, Anne Buckley, Alfred Buonanno, Heather Casper, Joseph Colianni, Louis Dolente, Jack Donnelly, Morgan Dougherty, George Edwards, Mary Ann Eiler, Beverly Enamamorato, The Ferraro Family, Baby Joel A. Fernandez, Francie Fitzgerald, The Fitzgerald Family, Jane Goggin, The Guenieri Family, John and Pam Jardine,

Marmir, Linda and John Messer, Archbishop John Nienstedt, Penny Ochs, Bernard A. Rock, Lena Sabatino, Jessica Shane, The Sheridan Family, The Smyth Family, Stephanie, Delia Stroud, Janet Torrens, and Danielle and Andy Ward.

Please pray for the souls of our dearly departed including:

Kathy Hunt Alibrando, Angie Altomare, LaVerne Bajorek, Betsy Barbera, Ramon Boza, James Brennan, Stephen and Margie Bruno, Mrs. Callahan, Don Campbell, Bette Caruso, Rose Caruso, William Cassidy, Stephanie Ceccarelli, Dorothy T. Chiardino, Suzette C. Civetta, Carolyn Clark, Peter Clarke, Linda Clothier, Pat Cornely, Pat Cosgrove, Michael Coyne, Joseph Cutugno, Patricia D'Ambrosio, Teresa Ramirez de Burga, Louis DePaul, Susan DeVlieger, Catherine Donovan, Marie Drew, Arthur Dugan, John A. "Jack" Fenningham, Mary J. Festa, Jim Flynn, Delores Fisher, Joe Garvey, Jane Elizabeth Gibson, Nancy Gothie, Harry Green, Jr., Dennis Guenieri, Mary Gutekunst, Mary Margaret Haley, Teresa Heenan, Henry, Thomas Higgins, Bernice Horcher, Grant Reed-Hudson, Peggy Iavecchia, Corrinne L. Janton, John Jardine, III, Sr. Angela Joseph, Colin D. Kelly, Sena L. Kelly, Lena Korey, Greg Landis, Richard Lee, Ralph Hugo Lee, Jr., John Long, IHM, Joseph Messa, Sr., John McDermott, Joseph McPhillips, Etta D. McShaffery, Joan Meehan, Carol Metropole, Augustus Monastero, Mary Moore, Dolores Morrone, David Mracek, Vincent Murray, Anne Janiczek-Nees, Charles O'Reilly, Sabina Palazzo, Anthony Peluso, Nick Porreca, Fritz Raquet, Robert J. Reilly, Bill Robinson, Antonio Roma, Mary Sabol, Angeline Scalzo, William Scully, Paul Sigmund, Felice Silvestri, Robert Slota, Kenneth Spanan, Thomas P. Stone, Ed Stromberg, Thomas Tarcy, Albert Trautwein, Vickie Travaline, Natalia Tytla, David Viglione, Joe Walsh, John Ward, John Weiland, and Anne Weisenhutter.