



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province

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LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

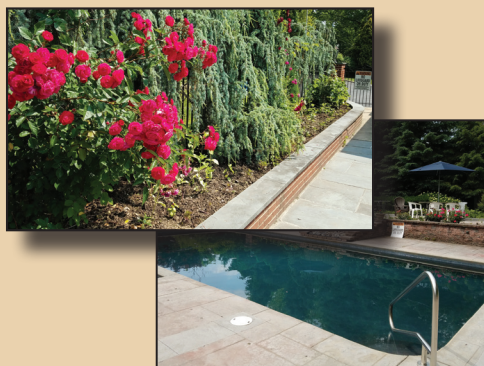


Finally, Spring has arrived! One real indication of this is that our garden at the House of Hope is bursting with beautiful plantings, thanks to the efforts of our sisters and Father Dan Joyce. The pool has been uncovered, and is ready for offering relaxation and refreshment. Along with this new birth, Spring brought a canonical visit to the US from the Superior General of the Handmaids, Rosario Fernández-Villarán, and two of her assistants, María Vaz Pinto and Inés Oleaga.

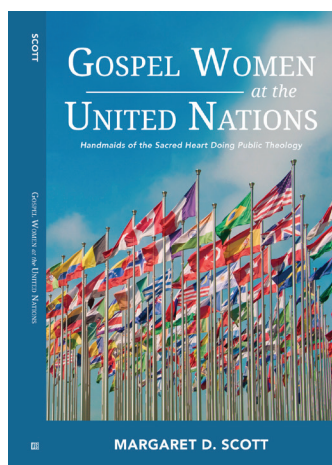
During their three week stay, along with me, they visited each of our five communities and were met with warmth, admiration, and generosity of spirit. (Please see photos on Page 3.) One of the purposes of such a visit (which occurs once during the term of each Superior General) is to evaluate our ministries in their adherence to the mission set forth by St. Raphaela Mary. We are grateful for the insights offered and for the support they voiced towards our ongoing efforts. As we strive to move forward in each of our ministries, we ask for your prayers and continuing support.

With hope and gratitude,

Bolem Escamagosa
as



Sr. Margaret Scott's Book Hits the Shelf



The final product of Sister Margaret Scott's doctoral dissertation has been published and is now available in both hard cover and paperback.

As advertised on Amazon, "This book offers a reflection on the development of the commitment of a group of Catholic Sisters to the poor and to social justice, from teaching poor children in a convent basement to being involved in public theology at the United Nations. After a brief discussion of the emergence and definitions of public theology and an analysis of the social teaching of the Catholic Church, it offers insights into the history and *modus operandi* of the United Nations and the network of NGOs, including faith-based RNGOs, that work closely with it on behalf of human rights and development.

The interaction between these three protagonists forms the background for the story of a coalition of Catholic Sisters with NGO status at the United Nations whose determination is to be Gospel women, engaging in public theology in the public square. Finally, it offers some thoughts concerning future challenges and uncertainties facing the United Nations that will impact the Sisters and their commitment to the poor and the planet."

The Journey of Hope Supports Handmaids

The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and its Province Advisory Board hosted their annual fundraiser on May 1, 2019 and featured Don DiJulia as its keynote speaker. A well-known and



well-loved member of the St. Joseph University community, and its former athletic director, Don spoke eloquently to the group of over a hundred attendees about his career, the influence of his faith, and the ways in which he looks to the future, accepting whatever God offers.

His presentation capped off an evening that offered a sumptuous array of great food and wine, and a fabulous silent auction, with gifts ranging from vintage items to exquisite jewelry and travel experiences. Most importantly, the event provided an opportunity for the Handmaids to reacquaint with friends and supporters.



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Sr. Jessica's Experience in the Philippines



After professing final vows in November, Sister Jessica Kerber was missioned to the Philippines to be among the Handmaid communities there. The Handmaids recently celebrated fifty years of presence in the Philippines, and currently have five communities in three different regions of the diverse country.

While being welcomed

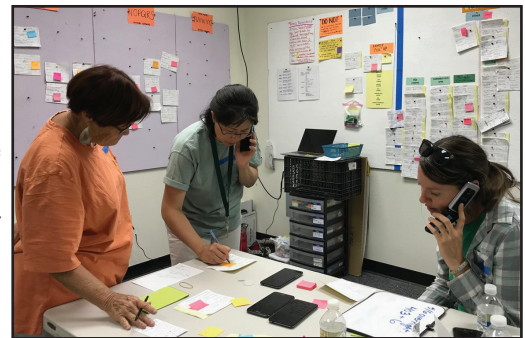
with characteristic Filipino hospitality by the sisters, the ACI Family, and the laity with whom the sisters serve, Sister Jessica was quickly able to share in the ministries of the retreat house, school, student residence, organic farm and women's coop initiative, teen and young adult groups, and vocational discernment. The greatest gift, she says,

was in coming to know, to love, and to walk with the Sisters, and thereby to accompany the questions of mission in a different cultural context. These relationships "enlarge the heart," as St. Raphaela noted, and in doing so, we begin to dream bigger, and more and more according to the desires of God's heart.

Sr. Uyen Chi's Experience in El Paso, Texas

"Today was another 'record breaking' day! Our young site coordinator received the call from ICE informing us that they will release 330 immigrants to us. I saw her just put her face in her hands in despair." - Sr. Uyen Chi Dang

Sister Uyen Chi Dang spent two weeks as a volunteer at Annunciation House, a shelter for refugees from Latin America located in El Paso, Texas. She shared her experiences day by day with the Sisters of the Province, recounting some of the stories of the thousands of individuals who are seeking refuge in the United States. Her reflections underscore the hardship facing the immigrants and the systematic difficulties and frustrations endured by those who try to offer assistance. To read about her experiences, go to the website: congregacion-aci.org.



Sr. Margaret Scott Elected Chair of Unanuma International



Sister Margaret Scott (pictured second from right with the executive committee) was recently elected to lead UNANIMA International. Founded in 2002, UNANIMA International brings the feminine spirit to the United Nations. Its name merges three

concepts: **ANIMA**, a feminine life principle of healing, caring, and nurturing; **UN**, as the work is done at the United Nations; and **UNANIMOUS**, people working together with one mind, heart, and spirit.

AOA Alumna Gives Back to Handmaid School

The only Handmaid sponsored school in the US, Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, in Wyncote, has received a \$1 million gift from Nance K. Dicciani, PhD, retired president and chief executive officer of the specialty materials division at

Honeywell International Inc. Dr. Dicciani is a 1965 graduate of Ancilla Domini Academy, the former girls' high school sponsored by the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The gift will launch the capital campaign undertaken by the school to promote science and technology. In making the gift, Dr. Dicciani noted

the influence of the Handmaids - especially Sisters Pilar Ymaz and Jane Anderson - during her time in high school, crediting them with urging her to push beyond the norm. At the time, pursuing a career in chemistry was not a popular choice for young women. But, Dr. Dicciani did follow her passion and it most certainly proved to be the right choice!





The House of Hope Gets a New Look



Hand painted murals reflecting the landscape of Spain create a serene and beautiful surrounding in the conference room.



With the bucolic setting in the background, the altar in the chapel invites prayer and adoration.



A bronze sculpture of a chalice-holding Christ is a focal point in one of the group gathering rooms.

IN THE HANDMAIDS' PRAYERS

Please pray for the souls of our dearly departed including:

Barbara Allen, Eric Antico, Jim Bamber, Gloria Barnaby, Bill Bartlett, Barbara Beaton, Dr. Albert Beatty, Sr. Dorothy Beck, Marie Bowman, Bob Box, Sr. Kathleen Brabson, Michael Bray, Marie Brown, Vincent Byrne, Jr., Margaret Coffey, Rosemarie Conley, Ann Crowley, James Currie, Carol Datto, Blaise Davis, Michael Doherty, Mr. Doman, Lois Dotger, Maryann Falasco, Jack Farris, Judy Flanagan, John Fleck, Margaret Fischer, Neil Fitzpatrick, Maggie Furphy, Diane Gable, Most Reverend Joseph Galante, Mary Gardner, John Garrett, III, Edward Geneva, Doris Giovinnazzo, Jenny Gramlich, Bruce Grant, Haines, Patricia Hawley, Michael Hersch, Mary Patricia Jones, Sally Kaiser, Maureen Kehoe, Kathleen Kelly, Mrs. Koeper, Helene Lafferty, Jerry Lafferty, Jeanne Lambert, Florence Lamsback, Frances Lease, Joseph Lutz, Ralph Maerz, William Marsh, Maggi McCann, James McCombes, Kathleen McCoy, Kevin McGovern, Brian McGuinness, Brigid McParland, Julie Michaels, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mitchell, Sarah Monaghan, Thomas Murtagh, Phyllis Neil, Patricia Núñez, Jean Pahira, Greg Plunkett, Bill Press, Santa Prochelo, Anna Rakszawski, Elizabeth Rauch, Duane Richards, Beverly Rochon, Ted Roger, Gene Roma, Susie Roma, Alice Rosar, Bernice Rose, Betty Rowans, Angeles Sagasetta, Donna Samuels, Patty Sauter Speakman, Ralph Scheuermann, Jonathan Silko, Patricia Smith, Genevieve Sweeney, Matthew Tausz, Carl Teti, William Till, Mary Oatricia Tirney, Eugene Troxell, Mary Vesey, Anthony Vigani, Ronald Warren, Richard Weiss, Carol White, Jack Wilkinson, Kelly Wisely, Rosemary Wynne, and Mrs. Young.

Please pray for the requests offered on behalf of:

Joan Barr, Rev. Matthew Biedrzycki, Rev. Anthony Costa, Christine DeFrehn, The DeMarzio Family, Betty Demko, Linda Dorton, Eleanor Flagiello, George Groleau, Mary Jane Haber, Kathy Hack, Cathy Hamilton, Joanne Harkins, David Hollinger, Kate Joyce, Philip Longo, Arlene Lyons, Ann Marchino and Family, Jean McDonald, Mary Kate McWilliams, Rev. Joseph Meehan, Joe Mitchell, The Mitchell Family, Mary Mullarkey, The Paullo Family, Barbara Platt, Richard Reich, Fr. Anthony Russo, CSSR, Carol Saioni, Barbara Sariano, Derek Solomon, Rev. Raymond Tribuiani, and Marion Yorkaus.