



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

USA Province

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FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR



Dear Friends,

In writing this final letter to you as Provincial Superior of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, my heart is overflowing with gratitude and love. The past six years have been a combination of joys and sorrows, with two of our Handmaids, Sr. Assumption Escauriaza and Sr. Philomena Monte reaching their eternal reward and six vibrant young women, Uyen Chi Dang, Theresa Vu, Jessica Kerber, Oanh Vo, Michelle Cimaroli, and Catherine Kirwan-Avila coming into our lives as new members of our Congregation. As we experience this "circle of life" it is clear that God indeed has a plan for each of us.

My goal has always been to try to follow God's plan and to encourage those around me to find Jesus as a constant source of guidance, strength, and hope. There truly is not much more that can be asked of us.

During my tenure, there have been many blessings bestowed on our Congregation. We saw the worldwide recognition of our revered foundress as we witnessed the installation of her statue placed in St. Peter's Basilica. We welcomed our international sisters to our home for the first time ever. We saw the reestablishment of a Handmaid ministry in Cuba. All this and more help us to reaffirm our desire to continue building God's kingdom with love and joy.

As the Handmaids move forward under the skillful leadership of Sister Belen Escauriaza, I am confident that our mission will carry on with tremendous promise. The charism we share and the abundant gifts that each of us bring to the ministries we serve are constant signs of God's unconditional love and bountiful goodness.

If there is one message I am able to share as my days as Provincial Superior come to a close, it is this: Entrust your heart to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Let the merciful kindness of His Sacred Heart open your heart wide with anticipation and wonder. Allow yourself to experience the boundless love He offers. You will not be disappointed.

With Gratitude, Love, and Hope,

Sister Dorothy Beck acj

Sister Dorothy Beck, acj
Provincial Superior

Newly Selected USA Provincial Superior Named

Sister Inmaculada Fukisawa, Superior General of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, recently announced the appointment of Sister Belen Escauriaza as the new Provincial Superior of the United States Province. She will replace Sister Dorothy Beck, who has served in this capacity since 2009.

Sister Belen, a native of Spain, arrived in the United States five years ago, after having served in ministry in Africa. Prior to that time, Sister Belen spent eighteen years as an educator in France, and also served in Spain and Rome.

Sister Belen is expected to begin her new role on June 12, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She, along with a team of consultors, will be responsible for the thirty-seven sisters who live and work in the United States. We wish Sr. Belen much love and support as she continues to fulfill God's will for her vocation.



Planning Process Concludes

The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus recently completed a two-year discernment and planning process during which time they studied the current status of their ministries and the ways in which they might better address the needs of the people they serve. The process was facilitated by Sisters Janet Baker, RSM and Christine McCann, RSM, who directed the sisters to reflect on their gifts and talents, energies and passions for ministry, and their desires for the future and previous experiences on which the Province might build. At the conclusion of the process, the Handmaids agreed to address the following with initiatives already underway.

- Continue to deepen the Handmaids Eucharistic and Reparative charism.
- At ANCILLAE-ASSUMPTA ACADEMY, separately incorporate, determine and implement the appropriate governance structure.
- At ST. RAPHAELA CENTER, develop a strategic and financial plan and examine potential expansion and succession planning.
- With young adults, initiate a more intentional commitment, including a designated part-time assignment and the use of social media.
- With senior care, evaluate current practices and examine current and new opportunities for long-term care.

Future considerations for the sisters include:

- An openness to potential Province re-configuration.
- A recommendation for the canonical erection of the San Salvador House of the United States Province with the collaboration of Handmaids from other Provinces.
- A further evaluation of the communities and ministries of Philadelphia, Athens, and Miami.

SISTER DOROTHY BECK IS HONORED



Members of the USA Handmaid Province Development Advisory Board and Development Office Staff. From top left are: Amy Lintner, Sid Gosser, Lori Stefanowicz, Dan Murray, Ken Boyden, Mike Valucci, Chuck Minnich, Susan Singer, Jeanne Hisey, Deirdre Marino, Debbie Giordano, Toni Romano, and Maureen Howe. Seated are: Sagrario Núñez, acj, Maureen Gillespie, acj, Kathleen Helbig, acj, Dorothy Beck, acj, Belen Escarriaza, acj, Mary Ann Craig, acj, Anita Alvaré, and Martha Buccino.

The Handmaid USA Province Advisory Board recently hosted an event to pay tribute to Sister Dorothy Beck, Provincial Superior of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The celebration was held at Ancillae-Assumpta Academy in Wyncote, PA. Sr. Dorothy, who will be concluding her third term (and a total of eighteen years) as the Province's Superior, was praised for her sixty years of service as a Handmaid, which also encompasses several terms as Community Superior (in Haverford, PA, Miami, FL, and Wyncote, PA.) In addition, Sr. Dorothy served as a teacher at the former Ancilla Domini Academy and at Assumpta Academy, where she was also the principal of the all boys school. Sr. Dorothy served as the initiator and moderator of the ACJ Associates in Wyncote and as the director of the Saint Raphaela Center, a position she currently holds. Beyond the Philadelphia area, Sr. Dorothy served as the director of Religious Education in Broward County, Florida, where she oversaw forty-two parishes and three missions.

confidante, a person who, body and soul, mind and heart, espouses the Handmaid values and charism... A person who, like the Blessed Mother, willingly and without hesitation, said 'Yes' to God's call more than six decades ago. You may hear some things you never knew about Sr. Dorothy...and you may hear some things that ring familiar. The common thread that weaves the two will certainly be the immeasurable respect, admiration, and love everyone has for her." Ernie Beck, the eldest of Sr. Dorothy's brothers, was the first to address the audience. He was followed by Sr. Kathleen Helbig, Ancilla Domini Academy '60, Donald Amato, Assumpta Academy '65, Anita Alvaré, former Advisory Board chairperson, Dan Murray, Ancillae-Assumpta Academy '77, Reverend Thomas Higgins, and Sr. Jessica Kerber. Each speaker articulated with heartfelt sentiment their memories and reflections of Sr. Dorothy — the ways in which her influence was felt — how she made a difference — what she meant to them at some juncture of their lives. There were tears and laughter, as details

of poignant messages were interspersed with humorous recollections. Everyone, it seemed, had a story to share as hundreds of experiences and sentiments were recounted throughout the afternoon.

A beautifully planned reception catered by Beth Conroy and Conroy Catering, was preceded by a champagne toast offered by Chuck Minnich, Ancillae-Assumpta Academy '81. As each attendee raised a glass, Sr. Dorothy was celebrated "with love and for love" in gratitude for her life and for all that she has shared. We remain eternally grateful for her

Determination
Optimism
Reverence
Objectivity
Thoughtfulness
Hopefulness
and for her **Yes** — her **Fiat**.



Sr. Dorothy Beck (center) is joined by her brothers, Ernie and Jim Beck (standing); her sister-in-law, Betty Beck and her sister, Miriam Zimmer.

"She shares her warmth with an open heart and open arms. She brings the love of Christ in every single thought and action. At the very core of her being, Dorothy's greatest desire is to bring healing to people's hearts and peace to their relationships with God, with one another, and with creation."

- Kathleen Helbig, acj

The afternoon began with a welcome from Mike Valucci, chairperson of the Advisory Board, who set the tone for the remainder of the day, lauding Sr. Dorothy for the many accomplishments she had amassed. "We are here to celebrate all that Sr. Dorothy has done. More than that, we are here to celebrate all that she is...a sister, a friend, a colleague, a

May God bless you, our friend, our mentor, our colleague, our Handmaid treasure, Sr. Dorothy Beck.

Oasis Católico - Healing Hearts

The double wide trailer parked in the lot of Pinewood Estates North mobile home park isn't much, but it is home to three Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Oasis Católico Santa Rafaela, named for the foundress of their congregation, is also a place of refuge and support where people who live side-by-side with the sisters can come day or night.

According to Sister Margarita Martin, she and Sisters Marietta Jansen and Angela Cordero arrived in 2002 and quickly became teachers, advocates, and friends to the immigrant population who also call the place "home". "We didn't come with a job description. We just came to be because of the families

in need." It is estimated that about 74 percent of families with children under 5 years old who live in the park are below the poverty level, compared to 22 percent in Georgia. Nearly all are from Latin America, especially Mexico. "The residents here are the people of God whose hearts are really broken," Sister Margarita shares, "and the Handmaid mission is healing hearts."

Their daily work is supported largely through the University of Georgia, who co-sponsor an after school tutoring program for the children. Their work has grown to include additional service projects and is offered to University students



Sisters Angela, Marietta, and Margarita have spent a dozen years ministering at their "Oasis."

from other states. In recent years, the sisters have been joined by undergraduate and graduate students from Villanova University in Pennsylvania who take part in a spring service project. From tutoring third graders to doing home repairs, the volunteers pitch in by painting the trailers, clearing outdoor debris, sometimes just being with the residents. What they glean from their venture cannot be taught in a classroom situation. "It was an eye-opening experience," one volunteer commented.

When asked about any challenges that may have occurred, another volunteer offered, "I was working with a girl who came into the classroom and put her head down and started crying. She was scared for her parents who were being taken by immigration authorities." Another commented, "The biggest challenge for me has been controlling my emotions. My heart hurts so much for these people."

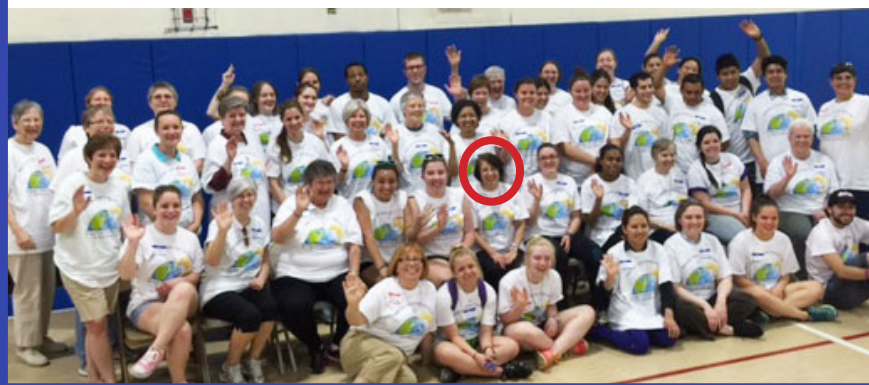
In reflecting on the experiences they had through being tutors, one student remarked, "I learned the power of patience and looking past the surface. These kids are going through so much — more than I ever have — and I needed to constantly remind myself of that." Finally, one student summed it up like this, "Tutoring the children reminded me that they are the future, the hope for their families, and because of that we need to provide them with the best education and resources possible so that they have a chance of overcoming the barriers of being children of immigrants."

Surely, the Handmaids would agree.



Jesus said, "The poor will be with you always." In parts of Philadelphia, this has been confirmed time and time again. And so it was on Sunday, May 3, 2015.

In celebration of the "Year of Consecrated Life", young adults were invited to join sisters of various congregations in serving the needs of the people in the Kensington area of Philadelphia. Sister Carmen Cabrejos, acj, was one of the volunteers who spent the afternoon sharing her loving hands and heart with the Kensington community. After a blessing at the Community Center at Visitation, groups of volunteers were dispersed to various sites. They returned to the Center for prayer and sharing at the conclusion of their afternoon's work.



**Villanova
University
students
share their
sentiments
after
volunteering
with the
Handmaids.**

REWARD YOURSELF BY GIVING TO OTHERS

The concept of giving to others and the rewards it offers is not revolutionary. In Chapter 6, Verse 38 of scripture, Luke tells us: *"Give and it will be given to you."* Proverbs 22:9 reiterates the same message, *"He who is generous will be blessed."* Charity, whether it is in the form of doing for others or giving to others continues to be a God-given responsibility and a God-driven act.

A recent study conducted by Harvard Business School faculty and graduate students titled, "Feeling Good About Giving" explored the ways in which charitable behavior can lead to benefits for the giver. Besides the tax deduction, the results determined that the motivation and benefits can include the psychological, spiritual, and emotional well-being of the donor.

One longtime friend of the Handmaids said this about making an annual contribution to the sisters, "The Handmaids have ALWAYS been a source of strength and support to my family and me. If giving to them helps make a difference in what they can do for others, it is the least I can do."

THE 2014-2015 ANNUAL FUND NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Please consider the many good works sponsored by the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the ways in which your support will assist their ministries.

**PLEASE MAKE A
CONTRIBUTION TODAY**

5 REASONS TO DONATE

1

Donations are tax deductible.

2

Giving to charity may improve your sense of well-being.

3

Supporting a cause can help keep you informed about issues of social justice.

4

Giving to a charity out of spiritual conviction can strengthen your spiritual life.

5

Volunteering with a charity may result in physical and social benefits.



IN THE HANDMAIDS' PRAYERS

Please pray for the requests on behalf of:

Peter Albertini, Sarita Almeida, Rose Avino, Bachick Family, Kathy and Jay Bellwoar, Joan Bellwoar, Carbin Family, Sr. Marie Carolyn, RSM, Ed, Daniel and Terri Chango, Jennifer Chinn, Janice DiMarino, DiOrio Family, Galontino Family, Elaine Gartland, Helen Hoban, Kennedy Family, Fr. Matthew Kornacki, Kathy Lavin, Jack McDonald, Eileen McGoldrick, Andrew Niesh, Celestina Palladino, Marie Pizzo, Ada Rivera, Kay Roche, Joe Ryan, Charles and Terry Saunders, Dorothy Crossan Scalco, Joseph Sgrignuoli, Fr. Joseph Stec, Maureen Sullivan, Betty Walsh, Katie Zimmer, George, Zwen and Andrew Yacykewych, Ashleen, Bill, Denzil, Jessie, Laura, Lawrie, Mukesh, Reyna, Robert, Sujith, Tara, Vanessa, Vincy and William.

Please pray for the souls of our dearly departed including:

Carmeno Albertini, Jay Anderson, Mr. Augustine, Pat Avino, Alma Bennett, Eleanor Bowers, Bill Braneninger, Elizabeth Brennan, Elizabeth Brisgone, Gloria Brookshire, Karen Brukhart, Paul Buckley, Juan Antonio Corso Candido, Robin Chase, Niajah Deeds, Fr. Russell DeSimone, OSH, Barb DiOrio, Connie Dodge, Robert Donley, Daniel V. Donohue, Lucille Dowell, Diane Durso, John A. Egan, Walter Freas, Mary Gillespie, Joan Giordano, Sue Gitzen, Steven Hahn, Louise Doto Howarth, Eva Huber, Martha Huynh, William R. Johnson, Jordan E. Keenan, Mike Kelly, Michael Kennedy, Philomena Klein, James Koller, Mickey Kril, William Lawrence, William Lynch, Sean Lynn, Dolores McCauley, James McCusker, Adeline McNeil, Russell McKnight, Joseph Messa, Sr., Brendan Moyer, Russell Murray, Georgia Nevin, Aida Nuñez, Jane O'Malley Narakal, Kathleen O'Connor, Ellen O'Donnell, Dr. Paul Palmerio, Agnes Paskewich, Dominic Peloro, Joseph Petrone, Daniel Pierra, Mary Pirolli, Mary Pironti, Florence Reinhart, Judie Richards, Dorothy Riley, Dolores Rodgers, Larry Ryan, Gertrude Seifring, Zach Seigel, William Serianni, Joan Sindano, Henry J. Sterthous, Peter Talarico, Helen Valvordi, Patricia Wicker, Robert Wilby, and Ajay.