



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA Province

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A PUBLICATION OF THE USA HANDMAID PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

This edition of our Handmaid newsletter offers news of great sadness, as well as great joy. As you know, the Handmaids returned to God Sister Dorothy Beck. A woman of great compassion and faith, and my predecessor as Provincial Superior of the USA Handmaids, Sr. Dorothy embodied the Handmaid charism and was totally dedicated to our mission and ministries. We will miss her physical presence, yet we rejoice in her having lived a life full of joy, love, and total commitment to her vows.

On a happier note, the Handmaid community is excited to announce the opening of the *House of Hope*, an extension of the Saint Raphaela Center in Haverford. (You can read about our celebration on page 3.) This new property, which is adjacent to our current location, will provide us with first and second floor bedrooms and ample space for more retreats. The property has many features that will enhance our offerings including a fully functioning kitchen, an in-ground pool, and a spacious patio. We are currently in the process of renovating the interior space to include a small chapel for adoration and a conference room.

Retreats for this location are already being booked, with our first guests set to arrive in late June. Please pray that our efforts will be rewarded and that we will be able to continue to expand our retreat ministry in ways that people of all faiths may be embraced and cherished by our loving God through prayers, retreats, and spiritual programs.

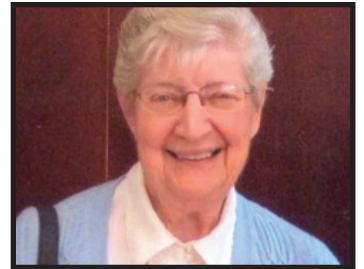
With gratitude and hope,

Sister Belén Escauriaza, acj



A Fond Farewell for Sr. Dorothy Beck

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Dorothy Beck on Friday, May 11, 2018 at Saint Raphaela Center in Haverford, PA. Principal celebrant was Reverend Dan Joyce, SJ. Concelebrants included Rev. Bernard Farley, Reverend Thomas Higgins, Reverend John Jagodzinski, Reverend James McBurney, OSA, and Reverend James Sherlock. Heartfelt tributes were offered by Sister Sagrario Núñez and her brother, Ernie Beck.



Sr. Dorothy, a Handmaid of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for sixty-three years, entered her eternal reward on Sunday, May 6, at Holy Redeemer Hospital. During her hospital stay, Sr. Dorothy was visited daily by the Handmaids, her family members, and close friends. Though she was in much discomfort, she managed to engage in conversation, asking questions about the Sixers and Phillies and wanting to make sure she had her glasses so that she could watch the games on TV.

Sr. Dorothy entered the Handmaids on December 8, 1954. She began her teaching career at a school in Baltimore, followed by the Handmaid High School, Ancilla Domini Academy (ADA). In 1966, after only a year at ADA, Sr. Dorothy was reassigned to be the eighth grade religion teacher and principal at Assumpta Academy in Wyncote. Known to many as Mother Dorothy, she remained there until 1969.

For nearly five decades after, Sr. Dorothy served in numerous capacities. In Miami, she served as the Community Superior, as well as the Director of Religious Education in Broward County, Florida, where she oversaw 42 parishes and 3 missions. In later years in Wyncote, Sr. Dorothy served as the Community Superior, and was also the Coordinator of Mission Effectiveness and the initiator and facilitator of the ACJ Associates, a group dedicated to learning more about the Handmaid charism. In Haverford, (her most recent active ministry), Sr. Dorothy was the Community Superior, and Director of the Saint Raphaela Center. There, she also facilitated the ACJ Associates.

At the Center, a ministry she had served in several times, Sr. Dorothy consistently brought her Handmaid hospitality and joy to more than 5,000 retreatants each year. She took great delight in coordinating and planning programs, retreats, and services that would enable participants to feel the healing and reparative power of Christ. She loved to witness the spiritual development of those who sought guidance or enlightenment at the Center. One retreatant summed up her influence, "*Sister Dorothy always made the retreat so special with her kindness and willing spirit to listen and guide.*" Another remarked,

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Sr. Dorothy - Continued

"Our friendship deepened as we shared together each of our life joys and challenges in our journey with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our great companion."

She was asked three times, for a total of eighteen years, to serve the Handmaid community as the Provincial Superior and willingly undertook this leadership position. Her most recent tenure concluded in July, 2016.

Sr. Dorothy was born to Ernest and Dorothy Beck, the eldest of five children. Raised in southwest Philadelphia, she attended Most Blessed Sacrament Grade School and West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Girls, graduating in 1948. She held degrees in secondary education from Villanova University and religious education from Fordham University.

According to her longtime friend, Sr. Kathleen Helbig, Sr. Dorothy was a tall and somewhat imposing figure, but her titles and stature in the community earned her respect. *"When people say they looked up to her, they really did. She might have seemed a bit scary, but when you talked to her for two minutes, you realized what a warm and loving person she was."*

Sr. Dorothy was a woman of profound and limitless faith. Her ACJ sisters report that on the day before her passing, her Handmaid cross faithfully worn around her neck, her rosary gently wrapped in her right hand, she uttered softly: *"Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in You. I trust in the mercy of God"*. We pray that as her earthly life came to an end that Sr. Dorothy was welcomed into the loving arms of Christ, whom she so deeply loved.

In addition to the Handmaids, Sr. Dorothy is survived by her brothers, Ernie (Betty) Beck, John (Phyllis) Beck, Jim (Beth) Beck, a sister, Miriam Zimmer, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Contributions in Sr. Dorothy's memory may be made to the Handmaids, USA Province - 616 Coopertown Road Haverford, PA 19041.

Saint Raphaela Mary is Celebrated



Handmaids across the globe celebrated the feast day of Saint Raphaela Mary on May 18th, when the gift of her life for the world and the commemoration of the Institute she founded were lovingly remembered. (Top photo) In Equatorial Guinea, where **Sister Michelle Cimaroli** is currently missioned, students honored and gave thanks to the saint. (Lower photo) A liturgy honoring St. Raphaela was offered at Colegio Esclavas-Chamberi in Madrid, Spain.



Handmaid Transitions



Sister Uyen-Chi Dang was recently named Director of the Saint Raphaela Center in Haverford, PA. A familiar face at the center, Sr. Uyen-Chi has previously served this ministry, and brings with her a love for and knowledge of retreat ministry, spiritual insight, and the joy of extending hospitality to all. Sr. Uyen-Chi leads a team of dedicated and experienced individuals whose goal

it is to continue offering a place and a time for God. As part of her ministry, Sr. Uyen-Chi will be responsible for managing the expansion of program offerings that will be held in the newly founded *House of Hope*, beginning in June, 2018. Some of those intended include space for additional private retreats, 30-day Ignatian retreats, and family centered retreats.



Sister Jessica Kerber (standing 5th from left) has entered the final phase of formation as a Handmaid of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She recently joined twelve other Handmaids from nine countries as she embarked on her tertianship in Spain and Italy, following the lives and ministries of the Handmaid foundress, St. Raphaela Mary and her sister, Pilar. Once her tertianship concludes, and with the blessing and approval of the Handmaids, Sr. Jessica will return to the United States to profess her final vows.

Sister Maureen Gillespie has been named the Community Superior in the Wyncote community.

Sister Mary Theresa Nugyen, a member of the Wyncote community, has assumed a new position and is working with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic Social Services.

Sister Margaret Scott has been reassigned to serve as Community Superior in a small community on the south coast of England, in Boscombe, Bournemouth.

Sister Asunta Thanh has been named the Community Superior in the Philadelphia community.

Sister Cecilia Tong was reassigned from the Haverford community to the Wyncote community, where among other assignments, she assists with the extended day program at Ancillae-Assumpta Academy.

Journey of Hope 2018



Pat and Laura Carlino receive a gift of gratitude from Sr. Belén Escauriaza.

This year's *Journey of Hope* held many memorable moments for the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and their friends, as the sisters formally opened the *House of Hope*, a sixteen-room extension of the Saint Raphaela Center in Haverford. The Handmaids acquired the residence, formerly owned by the Carlino family, in April, 2018.

The event was celebrated with an outstanding array of sumptuous fare (generously offered by the Carlino family) along with a silent auction. In addition to the Handmaids, their friends and supporters, many members of the Carlino family and their friends were in attendance. Above all, what made the evening so unique was celebrating the memory and friendship of Sister Philomena Monte, the retreat center's first directress, and Angela Carlino, the family matriarch and founder of Carlino's Market. A tribute, narrated by Sister Jessica Kerber, told of their special bond and underscored what can best be described as one blessed by divine providence. Besides sharing a common Italian heritage, the two women also shared a devotion to the St. Raphaela Center, and more importantly, a passionate devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The (hi)story

After Angela Carlino attended an Italian Day of Prayer at the retreat center, where she first met Sr. Philomena, she decided that she wanted to live closer to the center. It became her dream and fervent desire. In 1993, when the property next to the center went on the market, without hesitation, the Carlinos purchased it. Needing more living space, the family made alterations to the home, adding several bedrooms. From that point forward, each day Angela would make the journey across the path through the back gate to join Sr. Philomena in prayer and adoration. For years, this ritual continued, as did their growing friendship.

Angela and all the Carlinos loved their home. It was always a place of warmth and hospitality - a place where aromas filled the kitchen and drew people to the table. This was especially important for Angela, whose time in the kitchen was well spent; whose old style recipes became the foundation for establishing the family's business, and who often experimented with new dishes "trying them out" on her family and friends.

As the Carlino's successful business grew, and at the urging of Angela, a second market was opened in West Chester in 2007. Sadly, a few days later, Angela passed away suddenly.

As time went on, in 2017, the Carlinos decided to sell their beautiful home. It was not an easy decision for them as their home held so many memories, especially of their beloved Angela.

Learning of the pending sale, the Haverford community of sisters, who had long been looking for ways to expand their retreat programs and services, made a phone call to Laura Carlino (Angela's daughter-in-law). *Would the Carlinos be interested in selling the property to the Handmaids?* was the question posed by Sister Lyan Tri. Nearly in disbelief, Laura's response was immediate and affirmative. And as they say, "the rest is history."

The epilogue

Each year, the *Journey of Hope* aims to bring to light a relevant aspect of the Handmaids' "journey", always focusing on the hope that continues to guide their way. This year's celebration was particularly poignant in reflecting the serendipitous events that took place over the years. In a very tangible way, life has appeared to come full circle, giving evidence and realization that one event can be a source of hope for so many people in different, but interconnected, ways.

For the Carlino family, there is hope that their home will continue to be lived and prayed in with great love, that the loving home they created will remain a place that brings people together, feeding them richly (*though not with the same gravy*) - a place that celebrates life, and in this way, celebrates the memories of two faithful and faith-filled women, Angela Carlino and Sr. Philomena Monte.

As the *House of Hope* becomes part of the St. Raphaela Center, it is the hope and prayer of the Handmaids that many others will also come to experience the goodness and faithfulness of God and to look on their story as well as a journey marked by God's grace.



Sr. Belén Escauriaza hangs the plaque naming the House of Hope.



Pat and Laura Carlino watch the tribute to Angela Carlino and Sr. Philomena Monte.



Jacques Gordon & Kim Finnerty, Handmaid Advisory Board members.



Carlino family members and friends join in the celebration.

DID YOU KNOW???

- Sister Kathy Gazie continues to lead the Prayer Shawl ministry and even teaches simple knitting steps. This group makes items that can be used for occasions of joy (new babies, expectant mothers) and sorrow (those dealing with a death, hospitalization, or diagnosis). For group meeting times, please contact Sr. Kathy at 610-642-5715.
- Mary Trautwein Breslin recently joined the staff at Saint Raphaela Center where she coordinates registrations and assists with many of the administrative tasks associated with the programs and services offered.

ARE YOU DOWNSIZING OR REDECORATING?

As they work to ready the newly acquired *House of Hope*, the Handmaids are currently seeking furniture and other furnishings that will create a warm and welcoming space for retreatants.

Comfortable chairs, twin beds, small bedside tables, lamps, desks, and bedroom furnishings are among those items most needed.

Please contact Sisters Lyan Tri or Uyen-Chi Dang (610-642-5715) if you have items you might consider donating.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO...

- Volunteer at one of the Handmaid ministries.
- Become a part of the ACJ Associates. Simply contact Sr. Sagrario Núñez at 215-576-6250 for information and meeting times.
- Make a contribution to the Handmaids USA Province by sending your check to the Development Office at 616 Coopertown Road, Haverford, PA 19041 or contributing on-line via *Network for Good*.

IN THE HANDMAIDS' PRAYERS

Please pray for the souls of our dearly departed including:

Bernadette Anderson, Marion Antoniello, Sebastiano Augello, Rose Bassoline, Sr. Dorothy Beck, Charlie Tony Beaudet, Charles Beyer, Mildred Bianco, Sara Blackburn, Robert Bloss, Charles Bonfig, Donna Boyko, John Brady, Elwood Bromley, Jan Burke, Sr., Maryanne Cahill, Rose Capista, Luke Chesney, James Concannon, Patrick Conover, Gerald Cooney, Jacqueline Cosgrove, James Coughlin, Kimberly M. (Kimmie) Craig, Anna Crone, Kathy Dabagian, Mary Anne Dietzler, Raymond Ehly, Sr. Mary Dee Ellis, IHM, Mary Anne Falasco, Joseph Ferrandino, Bill Foster, Marie W. Gaitley, Stephen M. Galdi, Patricia Marie Gallagher, Lillian Gearhart, Richard Geruson, John Gianvittorio, Philip Giglia, Nanci Grindle, Emily Hanycz, Dan Henon, Florence Herman, Eleanor Howe, Mary Howe, William Humphries, Gerald Jansen, Donald Kern, Rose Elizabeth Lagocki, Joe Little, Marie Lombardo, Sr., Katherine Magadona, Edward Manley, Esther Derstein Martin, Doris McCafferty, B. Kevin McGillian, Tim McGowan, Vincent McNamara, Greg Michel, James Mullarkey, Bernard Murphy, Marianne Nicastro, Patricia Núñez, Michael Nunnari, Mary O'Hara, Vincent Paley, Angela Palma, Mary Pannepacker, Anna Pilla, Jane Pompei, Cindy Purcell, Raymond Quaglia, James John Quinn, David K. Robinson, Jeaninne Romano, William Sebald, Joseph Seka, Edmond Speitel, Clara Stein, Ciro Taccone, Joseph Topper, Harry Undercoffler, Duncan VanDeusen, Sr., Karen Ward, and William Zsembik, Sr.

Please pray for the requests offered on behalf of:

George Bevins, Brian Boston, Tom Breslin, Sarah Chamberlain, Eileen Currall, Sr. Clare D'Auria, SSF, Andrea Dougherty, Monica Dougherty, Phillip Duca, Bridget Gallagher, Pat Gibbons, Eileen Kennedy, Mitzi Lichenstein, Maria Magdalena and Family, Eileen McCauley, Sr. Bridget McCullough, IHM, Eric McDonald, Kristen McGonigal, Michel Family, Judybeth Miller, Christine Moretti, Barbara Parillo, Alice Pascale, Robert Piergiovanni, Sue Pluck, Claude Price, Rosemary Poppert, Dave Ricci, Clayton Riley, Beverly Rochon, Pam Samuels, Helen Sevryn, Patricia Smith, Betty Spross, Sandy Tursi, Nancy Valucci, MaryAnn Villari, Albert Woelbe, and Miriam Woodland.