



2021-2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
UNITED STATES PROVINCE

*There is a symphony being played throughout all of history-coming from a beating heart*



# Transition and Growth

LYAN TRI, ACI

Dear Friends,

We embrace a new year of transition and growth. With gratitude to God who has encouraged and supported all of us in the US Province, our faith is strengthened in the knowledge that God always guides us.

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of our benefactors, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support in word and deed. We hope this report gives you a sense of the inspiration you are to our ministries.

This past year we lost two of our sisters who profoundly impacted our lives as well as the lives of many other people who encountered their charisma and love. God has been gracious to us in managing this transition with the addition of new sisters to the province: Srs. Michelle Cimaroli and Oanh Vo professed their final vows. Our joy is great that there are new entrants beginning the Formation process, in St. Louis, and we have embraced the challenges of providing the necessary framework to enable these women to also be ready to profess final vows. The Florida and Georgia ministries continue to assist in providing food, advocacy, social services, spiritual direction, and medicine for thousands of people in need.

Once again, the Journey of Hope continues to be our foundational fundraising campaign for supporting our ministries. We were able to hold this event both virtually and with live attendance. We have transitioned leadership in the Province and added new members to our Advisory Board.

We recently celebrated the 65th anniversary of St. Raphaela Center, joined by many of you, and combined that with the opportunity to dedicate and bless the Last Supper Sculpture Garden. What a welcoming and reflective space that provides for all of us to be with God, immersed in the beauty of nature!

We reflect on the message from the Handmaids' recent worldwide meeting that, **"There is a symphony being played throughout all of history, coming from a beating heart - the pierced Heart of the Risen Christ that reflects the yearnings and desires for fullness of life for the world."** We have been echoing that symphony as we strive to continue to provide an environment for prayerful listening, caring, and prayer through our ministries. Perhaps each of us can participate in that symphony, sharing our gifts in rhythm with the heartbeat of our Lord.

We ask you to consider the work of the Sisters and those we serve, and should you find it possible to make a gift toward that work, please know we are greatly appreciative.

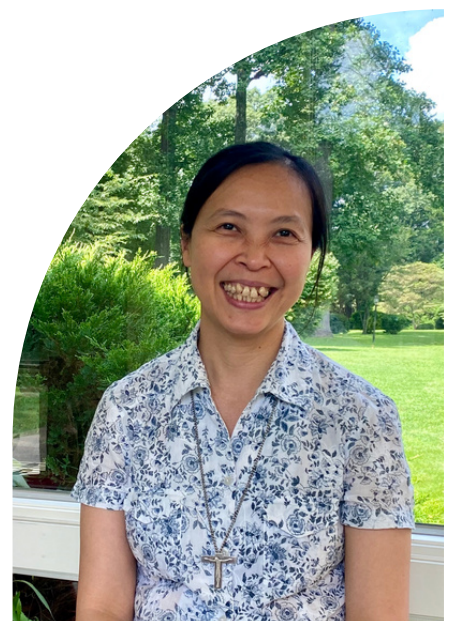
I continue to hold you in my heart and in my prayers, that God will pour out blessings upon you and accompany you on your journey.

With a grateful heart,  
Lyan Tri, aci  
Provincial Superior  
USA Province

Contributors:  
Mary Breslin, Lynette Kyle, Nhan Nguyen, aci, Lyan Tri, aci, Michelle Cimaroli, aci, Jackie News, Kathleen Regele, Marie Lawler, Jessica Kerber, aci, Montse Chias, aci

## HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS United States Province

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Cam Banh, aci  
Carmen Cabrejos, aci  
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Nhan Nguyen, aci  
Oanh Vo, aci  
Phuong Uyen Vu, aci  
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# Celebration of Life

## Sagrario

Sister Sagrario Núñez  
January 8, 1941 - March 23, 2022

Sr. Sagrario was just one of those transformative people. Sagrario wore many hats. At different times she served as formator for young sisters, superior of various communities and Provincial for the United States. She was an excellent spiritual guide. One friend, Rev. Ed Bacon, an Episcopal priest whose ministry has spanned several decades, shared that while staying with some Jesuit friends he was seeking a spiritual Director and was told "I know who the best spiritual director in the cosmos is: Sr. Sagrario Núñez." She spoke of our need to address our "spiritual trauma." When they spoke of the common image of God as the "old white man above", Sagrario noted "Isn't that a sad distortion of Who God really is." Some thoughts Sr. Sagrario shared with many:

- The Grace of reparation is knowing a God without an end of compassion, love, and acceptance.
- Saints are not better or holier, but are simply aware that God is active in their lives.
- She chided that "we must follow grace instead of getting ahead of grace."

When in El Salvador, Sagrario emphasized not only going to churches and cathedrals, but also to St. Oscar Romero's site of assassination and the sites of the martyrs, to be in the presence of them and be with them. Her ministry as a Handmaid took her around the world- from her native Spain to Japan and eventually to the United States and El Salvador.



## Kay Joy

Sister Kathleen Joy Cooper  
January 7, 1941 - June 18, 2022

Sr. Kay Joy lived a life of faithful service to God's people, and was called home to God this year. Many know her from St. Raphaela Center where she served as both Director of the Center and Spiritual Director. Her life is nothing short of a series of large miracles and an inspiration of God's merciful heart. She graduated from Ancillae Domini Academy where she was first introduced to the charism of St. Raphaela Mary and the gift of Ignatian spirituality. Whether leading a day of reflection, offering good counsel or accompanying someone on retreat, Sr. KayJoy's spirit blessed us all. In the last twenty years or so, Sr. KayJoy was a special inspiration to many as she dealt with more health challenges than any one soul could seem to bear. She never let them hold back her ministry and constant advocacy of justice for those marginalized or underrepresented. She is an inspiration to all on how to live life to the fullest even in the midst of great personal vulnerability.





# Leadership



Sr. Belen Escauriaza bid farewell to the United States Province of Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and her role as Provincial for the past seven years, to embrace a new assignment as an Advisor to the ACI Congregation Superior in Rome. She expressed that, with gratitude and joy, she passed the responsibilities and creativity of the role of USA Provincial to Sr. Lyan Tri. She noted that Sr. Lyan Tri has served as Director of St. Raphaela Center for the last four years, and that they have collaborated on many of the projects and ministries of the US Handmaids.

Sr. Lyan Tri assumes the new mission as Provincial of the Handmaids' USA Province. Sr. Lyan said: "[As Director of St. Raphaela Center for the last four years,] I have been inspired by the dreams, hopes, and desires of the people with whom I have worked daily, as well as how they offer themselves in service as a response to God's call for them in the given moment. I am deeply grateful for the friendships and the community we have been graced to build; for the generous support and loving care of so many; for the smiles, laughter and tears that have been shared here; for the sacred space that people have allowed me to enter as I have accompanied their journeys. I am especially grateful to God, who has accompanied, encouraged, and supported me and now trusts me to take on a new mission as Provincial of the Handmaids' U.S. Province. While I will no longer be the Director of the Center, I will still be collaborating in the ministry with spiritual direction and other work of the Center."



## Provincial's Team



Kathleen Helbig, aci



Jessica Kerber, aci



Uyen-Chi Dang, aci

## HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS USA PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

The purpose of the Development Advisory Board is to assist the USA Province of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in its efforts to gain the public interest and the voluntary financial support necessary for continuing its Eucharistic/Reparative mission and ministries among the people of God.



### Development Advisory Board 2021-22

Jeffrey W. Barker, Chair

Timothy Denny, Belén Escauriaza, aci, Kimberly Finnerty, Kathy Garrett, Jacques Gordon, Marie Gordon, Kathleen Helbig, aci, Marie Lawler, Steven Molinari, Jaclyn News, Sagrario Núñez, aci, Kathleen Regele, Thomas Reusche, Lyan Tri, aci



My term on the Development Advisory Board has come to an end, after six years, the last three as Chairperson. It has been a pleasure and privilege to have served in these capacities and I am grateful for the opportunity to have collaborated with the sisters and the committed group of lay members. I came to know the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus through a volunteer trip to El Salvador over 15 years ago and have valued the opportunity to expand my support for the work done by the Handmaids for the past 6 years. I look forward to continued involvement with the Handmaids through Project FIAT El Salvador, as well as the work of their overall ministries. I thank you for the many contributions and support you have offered to the Handmaids in 2021-2022 and ask you to continue to extend your kindness and generosity toward their mission and ministries.

Jeff Barker, Chairperson 2020-22

It is an honor to begin in the role of Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Handmaids. I have been personally touched by their open hearts since I first met them six years ago. I then came to understand the strength and power of their vision and I feel deeply inspired to support this vision through the work of the Advisory Board. I first became involved with their ministries by participating in the Centering Prayer group and then volunteering in support of their retreat ministry. Spending time each week at St. Raphaela Center opened a door for me to contemplative prayer and to the Handmaids spirit of welcome that impacts so many people. My faith and volunteer work have grown and been enriched through the Sisters. I am very thankful for the work they do in the world. Along with all the Board members, I look forward to supporting Sister Lyan in her new role leading the Advisory Board and to growing new possibilities for the Board's future.

Kathy Garrett, Chairperson 2022+





# 65 Years & Counting



MARGARET SCOTT, ACI

*The Story of Saint Raphaela Center*

Raphaela's Center was born on a Wednesday. On Wednesday June 18th, 1957 to be exact. The Handmaid Provincial at the time, Sr. Angelica Nan, aci, described it's birth as an act of daring: "All the Handmaids, the world over, she wrote are looking at us with admiration and wonder because never in the annals of the history of the Institute has a small Vice Province, with only 51 members (including the young Sisters in formation) dared to undertake the opening of a new house without asking for help from other provinces... We are the pioneers of our Institute in the United States".

But why would the Sisters want to open a retreat center, and why then? They had various reasons: The Diocese of Philadelphia urgently needed a retreat center for lay women; it was the only important ministry of the Handmaids not yet established in USA; it would also offer an opportunity for the Sisters to live out their passion and develop their gifts. Sr. Angelica said that the Sisters were pioneers. What do pioneers do? They blaze new trails. They do new things. And that is what happened when "Blessed Raphaela Retreat Center" as it was named then, was opened.

Firstly, the property where the Retreat Center was born had its own story before we arrived. Listed as a "gentleman's estate" it had changed hands several times and housed various scenarios, two of which paved the way for the Handmaids: HOUSING GERMAN REFUGEES AND FEEDING THE HUNGRY – a forerunner of the Handmaids commitment to social justice – and, later, it housed PARTIES – celebrations hosted by the Angeloni and Leone families, who eventually sold the mansion to the Sisters. The Handmaids are definitely Sisters who celebrate!! We celebrate as Eucharistic women in love with Jesus Christ and his special friends: the poor and disadvantaged. And we love parties.

The Angeloni and Leone families celebrated with us and joined in the 65th anniversary celebration. If it were not for them, none of us would be celebrating this anniversary. Another groundbreaking - ahead of our time – happening at St. Raphaela's Center was that the first Director of the Center was not a Handmaid but a lay woman called Wilma Brome. That was really significant because it happened way before Vatican II, which encouraged the participation of lay men and women in the ministry of the church and in positions of responsibility; lay men and women are in partnership with us. But it also made perfect sense. Wilma had experience in running a retreat center. She had been the director of a center in California. Whereas, the Handmaids at the time did not. They didn't need to be in charge. They just wanted the right woman for the job. Many different Handmaids followed Wilma as Directors of the Center. I myself had that enormous delight and privilege for 6 years and left my heart, or at least part of it, in Haverford. But then who wouldn't?

Over the past 65 years St. Raphaela Center has grown and developed. Originally meant for ladies only, The Philadelphia Evening and Sunday Bulletin announced on October 5th, 1957: "Catholics Open Retreat House: Women's Facilities Ready in Haverford". But we soon started offering retreats for men and young people. Later, non-catholics and members of other faiths also began to frequent the Center. All God's children were welcome. In addition, the Center was the vanguard of what would later become normal inter-religious collaboration: the Center has been served for many years not only by Handmaids but by staff including Sisters from different orders, priests and of course, the Jesuits.



There are key moments to recognize in the life of St. Raphaela Center. The renaming of the Center in 1977 when Blessed Raphaela Mary, the Foundress of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart, was declared a Saint by Pope Paul VI. From then on the Blessed Raphaela Center became St. Raphaela Center and a small but devout shrine was dedicated to her. The addition of a beautiful new chapel in 1992 was another key moment. Until then the chapel was located in the family library. The new chapel was designed by the architect Agnes Kan. Agnes and the Kan family have been friends of the Sisters for many years. The very lovely chapel of today was built with the vision, architectural expertise, and faith of Agnes. The Sisters recount, as it was being built, Agnes would sit on one of the window sills and pray that the chapel would bring people to God. It certainly does with its central altar and circular design; its windows looking out onto the fantastic panorama of the garden and grounds: the trees, shrubs, flowers, birds and wild life. It is the Temple of the Eucharist Christ who is at the same time, the Lord of all creation.

The most recent key moment was in 2018 when we acquired the House of Hope in order to expand our ministry. The Carlino family moved into our lives when Mrs. - Mama - Carlino insisted that the family purchase the house next door to the Sisters, so she could pray in our chapel. From then on they were very much part of our lives, providing us regularly with pizza from their catering company and celebrating family events in our chapel and dining room. Then, when the children grew up and moved away, Mr. and Mrs. Carlino decided to vacate the house and move to an apartment. It just seemed so natural that the Handmaids would purchase the property. And so the House of Hope was born. As well as providing more space for guests seeking a quiet time alone with God, it has a breath-taking kitchen and gorgeous swimming pool that are firm favorites with our retreatants.

We celebrate 65 years and are writing the first lines in the next chapter in the narrative of St. Raphaela Center. So many people have been part of the story, in all sorts of different ways. Some are still very involved, and some have moved away. Most especially, we acknowledge the team of Agnes Kan, Raymond Rola and Joseph Hughes who made it all happen. Other special people are watching us from heaven: among them Srs. Philomena and Ruth and Dorothy, the unforgettable Jean who held sway in the Dining Room and Cathy who cared for the garden and the woods, a service that Philip Carlino now offers. We hold all these and many more in our hearts and remember them here at St Raphaela Center: *a time and a place for God.*

# Last Supper Garden

LYAN TRI, ACI

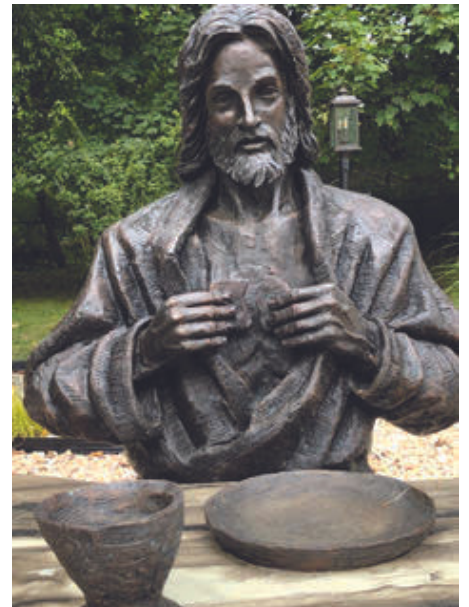
*Remarks from the 65th Celebration of St. Raphaela Center  
on October 23, 2022*

I am standing here overwhelmed by your presence...the living witnesses of that story, the story of God's active presence and action, the story of our co-laboring with God for the Kingdom these 65 years. Isn't it fitting that we give thanks and celebrate this 65-year journey with the dedication of this Last Supper Garden- a result of that team work: God's nudging encouragement and the generous collaboration of many: Handmaids, artists, craftsmen, friends, families, and donors.

The story of our Last Supper Garden started in 2017, when I visited a Jesuit friend in Toronto after my summer internship for a spiritual direction program in Guelph. As I walked to see my friend at the Regis College, I was surprised to see someone sleeping on a bench right by the entrance to the school. Is it possible? Not until I came close enough to recognize his pierced feet that I realized it was a life-size sculpture of Jesus- a homeless Jesus. God's presence overwhelmed me. I sat down on the empty space of the bench at the feet of the statue and let God take over.

Will this be something we can offer at St. Raphaela Center?

When I shared my experience with the sisters and with Sr. Jessica, who was the director of the Center at that time, we were all for it. What statue of Jesus should the Center have? The homeless Jesus? The beggar Jesus? ... Of course, Jesus at the Last Supper. The Eucharistic Christ expresses the best who God is for us, Handmaids, who we are, what we believe in and what we would like to offer to others. Everyone has a place at God's table. At that Table, Jesus breaks open his heart desiring our friendship and intimacy. He washes our feet; he offers his own body to nourish anyone and everyone who sits down at the table. All are included. All are welcome. At the Table, we are called to do the same- to take care of one another with that inclusive and unconditional love.







Sr. Jessica then contacted sculptor Timothy P. Schmalz. I worked with the Riverview landscaper on the cost and the design of the garden. The dream of the Last supper Garden became a project. The adventure comprised two chapters that were written simultaneously: firstly - acquiring the statue and placing it in the grounds and, secondly - financing the project. Both were long and time-consuming ventures that were interrupted by COVID 19. So, it took us a few years to complete.

The sculpture of Jesus had arrived. The garden, the fountain, and the lighting were all done thanks to Darryl, DJ and Hugh from Riverview Landscaping who wholeheartedly invested in this project and worked with me so patiently. The most difficult part was the Table and the stools.

We thought of using the wood from our 200 years old oak tree to make the Table and the stools. And we did. It was meaningful but the quality of the wood was not suitable for outdoors. Lots of alternatives were investigated but none of them were right. Desperate, I texted Ward Fitzgerald to ask for help. Ward knew many people; he might know somebody who knows somebody who can do it. Unhesitant Ward sent Ken Iriana who came the next day to check on the project.

Ken discovered a craftsman, Keith Walker, who worked with granite and agreed to fashion a table for the Last Supper. Keith had been saving a large slab of granite for 10 years waiting for the right subject for his granite. When he heard about The Last Supper, he knew that that moment had come. He carved the stone with reverence knowing that he was doing something for God. He said this was the most important, and best piece of craftsmanship of his whole life.

The stools were eventually made of a very hard wood – each one different, each one unique. Just as all of us who are invited to the Lord's Supper are all different and unique.

Even before this Last Supper Garden project was completed, it had already become the place of sacred encounters. I've heard stories of retreatants, visitors, friends... who come here and experience being wrapped in that overwhelming presence of our loving God; they came and poured out their hearts, wept and were consoled; found rest and peace.

The Last Super Garden stands as a statement that St. Raphaela Center would like to make: God is for us; all are welcome here for God's Kingdom is in our midst- the kingdom of God's inclusive and unconditional love. And that with God, together we can make it happen for one another, here and now.

On the 65th anniversary, we gathered to thank one another and to celebrate with one another this blessing and privilege of being part of this beautiful project of God's Kingdom. We thank our benefactors, friends, volunteers, retreatants, directors, facilitators, Handmaids, staff, past and present and all those who have gone before us.

**May God's dream for us come true: that all may be one.**



# Profession of Final Vows

OANH VO, ACI & MICHELLE CIMAROLI, ACI



There is a lot right now that can leave us feeling hopeless, but it's precisely in these places—in what appears to us to be a total mess—it's precisely here where God remains and lives into fully. It is here where we can meet this God who decides to become implicated with us and what appears to be our messy existence. God has done this in me, teaching me to embrace the whole of my reality so I can embrace it outside of myself. For me, this is what it means to remain in Love. Somehow it's seeking to live into this God, who lives so fully into us, that we're transformed and everything becomes different to us. I have witnessed for some time how God works to transform all that seems to be insurmountable obstacles into places of possibility—and the incredible freedom that can come from this. God's love knows no limit or boundary, and I feel that I can only inadequately express my gratitude by responding to this love that I've come to know with this offering of my existence in service of God and God's dream for creation. - Michelle Cimaroli, aci



The final profession is my definitive response to God's call to greater intimacy, and as a Handmaid, this intimacy is realized in the Heart of Jesus. During my month of spiritual exercises in Rome, Jesus placed me in his heart and let me hear his heartbeat, the rhythmic lup-dup sound. He revealed to me that the lup-dup is made of the heartbeats of God and humanity, of Jesus and me...beating together side by side. In God's heart there is always a space for the YOU, for each of us, for all of God's creation. It wasn't a mere coincidence that we professed our final vows in the Christmas Season, during which we contemplate in a special way the mystery of the Incarnation. Through Jesus, the Trinity says YES forever to humanity, YES to be intimately one with each of us, YES to embrace our vulnerability, sufferings, and wounds to the extreme. Through these final vows, I join my YES with God's YES to embrace what God embraces, to remain where God remains, to desire what God desires. - Oahn Vo, aci

# Formation

MONTSE CHÍAS, ACI



When I first came to the U.S. a couple of months ago, a policeman at the airport asked me "Why are you coming to the United States of America?" At that moment, I answered that I was here to improve my English and to know the mission of the Handmaids in this country. After that time, I have answered that question many times with the same answer, even though, it is not the only reason. My name is Sister Montse Chías; I'm 39 years old and I'm from Spain. I'm a primary school teacher and I love education, but above of all, I am a Handmaid.

Our Foundresses began a long journey of searching for the best way to form those who, in their time, wanted to be Handmaids. Nowadays, when we enter the Institute, we spend around three years before our First Vows, followed by a time of solid professional and theological formation for the mission in the Juniorate. After that, we are inserted and participated fully in the apostolic life of a community. This model of formation is born of the Eucharistic- Reparative charism, received as a gift of the Spirit.

Before Final Profession, all the sisters gather in Rome for Tertianship. It is an important part of our Ignatian heritage; it is a "time of formation" in our identity and "deep spiritual renewal which precedes definitive incorporation into the Institute". It is a time to open oneself out to "the magis" -doing more- in the following of Jesus Christ. I'm going to start my Third Tertianship in January 2023, in Rome, with a group of eleven sisters from seven different countries. We will spend six months as a community of faith and life, going deeply in our Handmaid vocation in a process of human, spiritual, intellectual, and apostolic integration. It is an experience of reviewing our life as a Handmaid and of discernment before our Final Vows.

Saint Raphaela Mary said: "Seeing the world increases one's passion", she wanted a congregation "universal like the church". So, as a Handmaid, I'm here to open my heart and to "see the world". This is an opportunity and a gift to get to know our school in Wyncote, to learn and to share about our educational style - "with love and for love". It is a time to live the universality of that province and to experience that we are a whole body when we gather around Jesus, the Bread of Life. Finally, this is a chance to find out how God's love is all over the world no matter where.







# St. Louis Community

JESSICA KERBER, ACI

If you were to walk into any Handmaid community, we dearly hope that you would feel our joy to have you present with us, sharing in prayer or over an extended meal, or maybe even a bonfire in the backyard. With a desire to share more with you about what is developing in the house of formation in St. Louis, we invite you into a conversation in our community room with our three sisters in formation: Nhan, Nhu, and Uyen.

Nhan, Nhu, and Uyen are in what we call the Juniorate, the period of formation directly following an intense 2-year novitiate and their first vows. Their main ministry during this time is that of studies, preparing them in various ways to further serve God's people. Nhan is a sister from the US province who spent the 2 years of her novitiate in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Uyen and Nhu are from the Region of Vietnam and have been studying academic English since they arrived as well as entering into philosophy and theology this year. Besides being in their rooms or in the library studying, you might find any of them cooking in the kitchen, collecting vegetables from the community garden, playing the guitar, or teasing their formator.

Formation is not about intellectual formation alone, but about allowing the experience of God, knowing oneself more authentically, and encounters with the world around us in all its reality to form us as Handmaids with a desire to be women who are ready, capable, and desiring of being in this world "as in a great temple" (St. Raphaela Mary), desiring to make a full offering of a full self. Please continue to pray for our sisters in this intense journey of formation, and ask God to call more young women who are attracted by the joy and the desire to give of themselves fully within this vocation.

## **What did you think about the fact that you were coming to the US for the Juniorate?**

Uyen: I was so surprised! I had not thought about going so far. I thought it would be difficult to study here because of the high level. I was nervous and excited.

Nhu: I had never thought about the chance that we would go to the US. I had heard that we would have the chance to go to another country to study, but I never, never thought about the United States. The culture here is open, and I didn't think I could be in that environment. We are here, however, in the foundation of a new house, so there are many new things. Somehow this helped me, because although I am in a new culture, everything about the community is new too, so we are all somehow beginning something new together.



**What did you think about having international sisters?**

Nhan: I first thought I would be sent to Spain, but really, I hoped to go to Peru. It was a surprise to have a juniorate in the United States! First of all, I thought: "If I am by myself, I will not go back [to the US from Bolivia]!" Then Sr. Belen said that they would find me companions, and there was an idea of having an international juniorate. I knew that two more sisters would be with me for the international community.

Coming to know you [Nhu and Uyen] through Zoom was good and we got to know each other little by little. Even though we're Vietnamese, we come from different backgrounds. I do have a sense of an international community, even though I did think to myself "They are Vietnamese! What's the point! I will not learn that much; I eat what they eat." [Yes, imagine the laughter. As if it were only about the food!] But living here and coming to know more about what it means to live in an international community, I see that I have to learn from each of you. I am being formed here in this international community, though I hope to experience the richness of having more international sisters coming from different cultures. I have great hope to have this formation community grow because that speaks about who we are as a congregation.

Coming from an international novitiate community in Latin America, I was excited to come to an international juniorate. I was a little sad because we couldn't have more sisters here from other countries because of the finances and economic situations. Other sisters expressed that they wanted to come but couldn't because of financial constraint, so I felt disappointed. There are good opportunities and resources here for formation and education. I have hope that this opportunity will open for many sisters from different countries. There is a need to learn English and Spanish, and that would be a very good exchange, first of all in language and second of all in culture. It is a rich gift to get to know the sisters in formation, living together in one community.

**What is one main lesson that you are learning about what it means to be a Handmaid from your experience in the juniorate?**

Nhan: I definitely did not make my vows in order to be able to study more! But what motivates me in this time of studies is that I desire to prepare myself well. The novitiate is a time for personal and spiritual development, and the juniorate is a time of greater openness to the Church and society, the people that I will come to touch in ministry. I'm being prepared to be able to serve people well. We talk about serving for God's greater glory. This preparation is not for me. Keeping in mind that this is for others gets me through the difficult work of studies.

Community also speaks to me in this juniorate time as we are forming a new foundation here, a sense of being sent out for a new mission, but as community. We are doing it together as community; we are searching for the purpose and mission here. I see that we are being formed as a community while we develop the understanding of our mission here. It is a new experience as a Handmaid.

Nhu: I have a greater sense of belonging to our Congregation as I stay here for formation. I feel that I have more freedom that goes along with more responsibility. I have had to learn more about discernment. Do I need to ask for permission, or do I need to discern a decision? I feel more comfortable and more responsible; I can learn how to live as a Handmaid in a new culture and through my studies. I need to go through that journey. Other sisters help me, but I need to experience it and go through the journey myself to be able to become more mature.

Uyen: I love the experience of going abroad, to reach out to a new culture. It is overwhelming for me, but also very interesting. I can see the diversity of the people and culture here. Particularly in the Church. The way they worship here is not like it is in Vietnam. I can see how I react within myself.

I also learn a lot more about myself in a new situation. I am grateful to be a member of this community. I want to know why God put me here, or what God is preparing me for in the future. I recognize how valuable it is for a sister to be able to live in an international community. We will be more open if we do. I have seen this in other priests as well, particularly the Jesuits. The chance to live within another culture opens our minds. We'll see another way of being Church and greater possibility of helping others because we can put our feet into another's shoes to understand them more.

**We've talked about being formed for ministry, being able to have an informed word to share as a woman Religious in the Church, and living out what you have learned in the novitiate in the context of new relationships, ecclesial and cultural realities, and social questions. How is this experience affecting how you see yourself in the mission in the Church?**

Nhan: Looking toward the future, we see it is a mission of collaboration. We need to first experience the goodness of this collaboration. If we can see this in formation, then we'll want to make that a reality in the future mission. It is a call not only in the congregation but in the Church as well. Greater collaboration between congregations as well as between cultures/locations. We are experiencing that collaboration here in St. Louis as we develop relationships with many congregations here!

Nhu: Intercultural communication is beautiful: different values, etc. If I go back to Vietnam, I need to respect my culture, while keeping motivation that I can change some things. It is about discernment.



# Thank you to our donors!

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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, 2021 and August 31, 2022. We do not list donors by amount of gift, rather we want to reflect the position of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with regard to amount of contribution. Each contribution contributes to the ministries, and aligns with the core values of Humility, Simplicity, Hospitality, Compassion, and Joy. 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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The following contributions were made to the Handmaids USA Province in memory of our beloved Handmaids: Sr. Sagrario Núñez and Sr. KathleenJoy Cooper.

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## Grants and Charitable Fund Support

During the 2021-2022 year, the following organizations provided \$165,681 in support to the Handmaids USA Province. We are deeply grateful for the generosity offered to our mission and ministries.

The **Butwel Family Foundation** provided a \$1,000 grant in support of the Handmaids USA ministries.

Through the generosity of the Jen Family Charitable Fund, the **California Community Foundation** provided a grant of \$5,000 for Project FIAT.

Through the **California Community Foundation**, the Jen Family also provided a grant of \$5,000 for the Province Fund.

**Ms. Margaret Forrestel, through Fidelity Charitable**, provided a grant of \$500 for St. Raphaela Center.

In support of the Handmaids USA ministries, **the Joseph & Jean Elbe Charitable Fund** granted \$1,000 to the Province.

The **Klehr Harrison Charitable Fund** provided grants of \$2,000, as part of their "52 Weeks of Giving" matching gift charitable campaign, in conjunction with Dominic E. Pacitti, in support of the Handmaids USA ministries.

**Pierce and Katie Keating of the K Ten Kids Foundation Inc.** provided a grant of \$10,000 for St. Raphaela Center.

**Morgan Stanley** (by an anonymous donor) provided a grant of \$5,000 for St. Raphaela Center.

The **National Religious Retirement Office** provided a grant of \$82,039.11 for retired sisters.

**National Philanthropic Trust by the request of Nicholas and Alison Gibson** provided a grant of \$5,000 for St. Raphaela Center.

The **PHA Interdiocesan Fund for Religious** provided a grant of \$4,242 for retired sisters.

On behalf of **Michael Valucci, the Raynier Institute and Foundation**, provided unrestricted grants in the amount of \$15,000 for the Handmaid Province.

The **Sullivan Family Charitable Fund** provided a grant of \$3,000 for the Athens community to use at their discretion and a \$1,000 grant for unrestricted use by the USA Province.

# Contributions & Gift Designations

Fund Designation	Grants	Annual Fund	Other	Total
<b>Aged and Infirm</b>	\$87,181		\$6,241	\$93,422
<b>Athens</b>	\$8,000		\$2,454	\$10,454
<b>Formation</b>	\$15,000		\$4,623	\$19,623
<b>Project Fiat</b>	\$5,000	\$6,308	\$114,155	\$125,463
<b>Province General</b>				
<b>Operating</b>	\$30,500	\$57,700	\$76,184	** \$170,169
<b>Memorials (Srs. Sagrario/KayJoy)</b>			\$5,785	
<b>Saint Raphaela Center</b>	\$20,000	\$1,500	\$22,785	\$44,285
<b>2021-2022 TOTALS</b>	<b>\$165,681</b>	<b>\$65,508</b>	<b>\$232,227</b>	<b>\$463,416</b>

\*\* JOH Total here does not include \$11,889 designated to specific appeals (e.g., Formation, Aged, FIAT, etc)

## In the Handmaids' Prayers

PRAYERS FOR THE SOULS OF OUR DEARLY DEPARTED:

### In Memory Of

Alexander Cruz  
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 Vincent Petitti  
 Vito Vespone  
 Rosemarie Rosolia  
 John Spano  
 Walter Strous



# In the Handmaids' Prayers

## PRAYERS FOR THE SOULS OF OUR DEARLY DEPARTED:

S. Gallagher	Ignacia	All sisters	
C. O'Leary	Josefina	Mom and Dad Cherry	
R. Petrick	Bro. Charles	Gino Greatti	Hileman
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### In Honor of:

Ms. Maureen McCafferty  
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### On Behalf of:

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 On Behalf of Michael Valucci  
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 Eleanor and Romolo J. Forcino

Prayers for Chuck Nebel  
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 Special Occasion – Maryann Alton

### Please Get Well

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*We are called to be experts in detecting this Divine heartbeat in our deepest being, in each person we encounter, especially our brothers and sisters who are marginalized in our Church and in our world, and in all of creation. In this "beating with you" God whispers tenderly to each of us, "I love you. I am always with you. Nothing can separate you from my love. Don't be afraid...let us walk together, let us beat together for my Body until the end." So let us beat with God, let us beat with each other as a body of Christ, let us beat together with Christ for his Body until our last beat.*

- Oahn Vo, aci



Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
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Nonprofit Organization  
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Address Service Requested

## Help Us Stay Connected!

We care deeply about staying in touch and we need to collect and update email addresses for our friends and supporters! Please add yourself to our e-list to receive communications electronically by emailing us at:

**[handmaidsusaprovdevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:handmaidsusaprovdevelopment@gmail.com)**

We are so grateful to hear from you!  
Marie Lawler & Kathleen Regele, Province Development Office

Facebook: Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus US Province  
Instagram: @handmaidsprovinceusa



Donate online at  
**[www.acjusa.org](http://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 or 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 the Handmaids.

### 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,

### 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.

### MATCHING GIFTS

You can double or triple your support by designating the Handmaids as the recipient of matching funds when your employer has a Matching Gift Program.