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Cover: St. Peter’s Square, Rome, Italy on the day of the canonization of Saint Katharina Kasper.
What gift do you give a congregation that is celebrating its 150th year presence in America? How about the canonization of its foundress?

2018 was already a special year for the Poor Handmaid American Province, its 150th year anniversary. The year started with an opening prayer service on December 31, 2017, and that was just the beginning of a momentous year.

Nineteen events were held this anniversary year presentations: on Saint Katharina Kasper’s charism, beatification, and canonization process. Other events included special speakers, a presentation on the Life, Spirituality and Beatification Process of Sister Aloysia Löwenfels, PHJC and an Interpretation of the Congregational Triptych. A long-anticipated reunion in Donaldson of the former Sisters and Ancilla Domini High School alumna was held in August along with the last of the PHJC Coming Home events.

However memorable these events were, they did not compare with the excitement that was felt when the Vatican announced in March 2018 that Blessed Catherine Kasper would be canonized.

After months of planning, a pilgrimage was put together, information was sent out, and reservations made. On October 11, 2018, nearly 100 Sisters, Associates, co-workers, and friends left Donaldson, Indiana with a hearty farewell from others with the destination of Rome, Italy.

The pilgrimage was composed of two parts, seven days in Rome and five days in Germany. Some pilgrims joined only the first portion of the
Of course, the highlight of the Rome trip was the canonization of Saint Katharina Kasper. The pilgrims were up early and standing in a crowd with 70,000 other people waiting to enter St. Peter’s Square. The atmosphere was more festive than reverent, with flags waving, singing, dancing, and cheering. Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC, shared, “Waiting in line to enter the plaza for the canonization and listening to the many chants of the crowds, especially our own Nigerian Sisters, was very moving.”

It was four hours from the time the pilgrims left their hotel until the start of the Mass so they had much time for visiting, picture taking, and meeting other pilgrims who had traveled from other parts of the world.

Once Mass began, the actual formula of canonization of the saints took just minutes. Pope Francis declared that “By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, and our own, after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother bishops, we declare and define Blessed Paul VI, Oscar Arnulfo Romero Galdamez, Francis Spinelli, Vincent Romano, Mary Catherine Kasper, Nazaria Ignacia, and Nunzio Sulprizio to be Saints and we enroll them among the Saints decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole Church.” Everyone cheered!

As amazing as the canonization was in St. Peter’s Square, one felt that Saint Katharina was not the focus of the event. However, the following day, on October 15, a Mass was held in the beautiful St. Ignatius Church in Rome with the PHJC Generalate and Bishop George Bätzing of the Limburg Diocese. This Mass was all about celebrating Saint Katharina Kasper. It was in this church that the tablecloth that the American Sisters wove was placed on the altar and the bishops, as they entered the sanctuary, kissed the cloth on the altar. This was one of Sister Nancy Raboin’s favorite parts of the trip. She was one of the main weavers of the tablecloth. After Mass, the Sisters and pilgrims from around the world gathered for lunch.

The pilgrims attended Mass or prayer in a different historical Roman church every day. The daily itinerary was full of new and exciting things to see and experience. The group visited the medieval town of Assisi and toured the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare. Back in Rome they toured St. Pricilla Catacombs, the Roman Forum and Coliseum, and several century-old churches. A special treat was a private tour of the Vatican museum after hours.

Before we knew, it was time to leave Italy. The next leg of the journey took a smaller group to Germany. That morning the pilgrims said their good-byes to each other as everyone left for the airport for different destinations around the world.

The 41 pilgrims who continued their trip to Germany began by visiting St. Hildegard’s Eibingen Abbey near Rudesheim, Germany. The Benedictine nuns at Eibingen have a special
connection with the Poor Handmaids who housed the nuns when the Nazis evicted them and took over their abbey during World War II.

There were so many special moments during this nearly two-week pilgrimage. But for many the highlight once we reached Germany was the procession from the Motherhouse chapel to St. Boniface Church in Wirges, where in 1851 Saint Katharina Kasper and four companions took their first vows and the Poor Handmaid congregation began. On this day, the pilgrims arrived at the Motherhouse in Dernbach for a prayer service in the convent chapel. This preceded the procession from Dernbach to Wirges. A wooden sarcophagus with the remains of Saint Katharina was carried from her resting place under the altar in the chapel in the Motherhouse to the church in Wirges, approximately 1.3 miles away.

The people in the procession actually walked in the footsteps of Saint Katharina! They walked through a field and crossed city streets aided by roadblocks by the local fire department. They were in awe of how many people walked the distance and the number of people that came out to watch the procession go by. Sister Margaret Anne Henss, PHJC said, “I think my favorite part of the trip was the procession to Wirges...walking with “Katharina” on the path she walked. I really felt her presence.”

Mass with Bishop Georg Bätzing was standing room only with the overflow outside. The church was energized with music and singing. The song written for the canonization was sung several times throughout the procession, Mass, and the day.

After Mass, a reception was held in the Wirges community center with a simple meal of delicious hot soup and bread. Then back to Dernbach to continue the celebration.

There were multiple activities available for the old and young alike, with an exhibit on Saint Katharina, a food garden, puppet show, videos, reflections or prayers every half hour in the chapel, tours of the Heilborn Chapel, miniature train rides, a walking tour of Dernbach, and evening prayer with the bishop.

A light supper was served to finish the day of festivities.

One of the best things about the day was that the international congregation was able to celebrate together in the place where Saint Katharina started it all.

As in Rome, the pilgrims had some time to be tourists in Germany. They toured the cities of Montebaur, Dusseldorf and Cologne and had Mass in the Cathedral at Limburg along with Poor Handmaid Sisters from India and England.

This pilgrimage and attending the canonization of Saint Katharina Kasper was an opportunity of a lifetime for many, including the author of this article. The Poor Handmaid congregation always knew that Katharina Kasper, a poor peasant girl from Dernbach, Germany, lived her life as an example, but now the entire Church knows what a special person she was.

To see more pictures on the pilgrimage and canonization, visit the Poor Handmaid’s Facebook page and be sure to like our page.
Celebrations in Donaldson
By Sarah Perschbacher, Communications Specialist

The time difference of six hours and the distance of 4,700 plus miles did not affect the canonization celebration plans for those who remained in Donaldson, Indiana on October 14, 2018. With the help of technology, Sisters, residents, and co-workers watched the recorded Mass at St. Peter’s Square several hours after the event took place in Rome.

The day began with Mass in the Catherine Kasper Home Chapel followed by food and festivities. Even Pope Francis and Saint Katharina stopped by for pictures with Sisters, residents, and friends.

A few weeks later on November 4, Bishop Rhoades from the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese and Bishop Doherty from the Lafayette Diocese concelebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving for the entire community in the Ancilla Domini Chapel. It was the perfect conclusion to the official canonization celebrations.

Top left: PHJC Sisters Kathy Haas, Virginia Kampwerth, and Deborah Davis pose with the “flat” Saint Katharina and Pope Francis. Bottom left: Attendees watched the canonization Mass on the big screen. Right top: Mass in the CKH Chapel. Right bottom: Eileen Sullivan, PHJC is all smiles with the guest of honor and the Holy Father. Page 11: November 4 Mass, top left: Sister Roberta Christianson, PHJC with a relic of Saint Katharina. Top right: Bishops celebrate the Mass of Thanksgiving. Bottom: Bishop Doherty (left) and Bishop Rhoades (right) received a gift of pears from little Katharina (Allie VanNevel) and Olivia VanNevel.

By Allie VanNevel, Mishawaka Catholic Fourth Grade Student

I chose Saint Katharina Kasper because I am thankful that she founded the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. The Poor Handmaids founded my school, Mishawaka Catholic. The Poor Handmaids also founded Saint Joseph Hospital. Saint Katharina was helpful to kids, the sick, and the poor. As a small child, she would gather the pears from her father’s tree to give to neighbors and friends. She was and is a good example of how other people should live.
Pope Francis’ strategy that emphasizes the working together for social and environmental change is referred to as Integral Ecology.

Integral Ecology
Healing with Love for an Empowered Future

What made our past blessed and our present vibrant is what will make our future empowered. Quite simply, it is love. Love is not tracked in the same way as returns on investment or field yields or even the number of trees planted. Love is not a number. It is not a quantity, but a quality. Quality can be difficult to measure.

How did love bring us to this moment in time? We could count the number of people whose lives were touched by the Poor Handmaids. We could count the number of ministries they started, or the years since they’ve been in America. And those numbers are all impressive on their own and yet, we all know that is not even half of the story.

Love is not bound by numbers, it is not bound by time. One act of love is enough to change the entire reality of existence, as Christ taught us.

The labor of love that is the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and all of their ministries has been a humble yet revolutionary force. Caring for the poor and underserved will always be radical as long as people continue to face hunger and poverty, as long as people continue to meet refugees with guns and walls.

Love frees us from the illusion that our lives are separate from others. Love reveals the underlying reality that we are all one in a shared life, in community life. In the words of nondual Christian scholar and teacher Beatrice Bruteau:

“[Community] is the way things actually are, this is reality. In this sense, healing is getting back to the norm. Life-sharing, love-sharing, being-sharing is what everything, at root, does. And doing is a better word than just ‘being’, if being is felt as static, as a ‘substance’ which can then either act or not act. We are, at bottom, in our pure authenticity, pure existence, pure activity. We are distinct by our existential acts of love toward one another, pouring ourselves out to unite all our friends, our kindred.”

This is an appropriate way to sum up integral ecology when we understand this life-sharing and doing-sharing as applying not just to our relationships with one another, but also to our relationships with all of Creation, with all living beings. There is no single perspective that is most accurate, no discipline with all the right answers, no practice that leads to absolute perfection. Only in being and doing, performing acts of love and giving ourselves to one another and to our natural home are we able to heal ourselves and our world for a truly empowered future.

Integral ecology is nothing if not the incorporation of authentic love into how we treat one another and our planet. It is easy to get distracted by scientific studies, cost-benefit analyses, and even ethical dilemmas. The simplest way to understand integral ecology, especially in terms of its place in our vision for the future, is understanding that it is all about love, in order that we may heal ourselves, our planet, and one another.
Earn to Learn Scholars: Empowering the Future

By Matthew Celmer, MoonTree Studios Coordinator

You walk into the shop at MoonTree Studios on one early sunny November day. Sister Mary Baird, PHJC is working with Olivia Smith, Sister Consilia Scholar from Ancilla College. They are building a collapsible wooden stool. Sister Angelene Scholar, Riley Price, is on the other side of the shop table. He’s constructing a pigeon house. Sister Josephine Scholar, Jared Richey, is coming in to put some finishing touches on his birdhouse. Outside, Trace Risner, Sister Vivian Scholar is working with Ecological Relationships Director Adam Thada, collecting seeds.

These students all come from diverse backgrounds and have different ideas of where they want to be in the future. They are all being exposed to tools, skills, and ideas they have not yet encountered before. Thanks to Ancilla College’s Earn to Learn program, they are learning things about this community through a unique perspective that is giving them the chance to walk in Saint Katharina’s shoes by working with the ministries of the Poor Handmaids. They are also learning a great deal about themselves.

What they are learning and earning through this program is only a part of the story. What they are giving and sharing with our community is beyond measure. As they learn through their experiences, their mentors, co-workers, and fellow scholars learn through their shared interactions with one another. The model is one where the amount you give will have exponential returns in what you receive.

As a mentor to three of these scholars, I know firsthand the truth of that reality. The time that I have given to teaching and working with them is an extremely small price to pay for the genuine interactions and sharing of themselves that has been my humbling reward.

As an apprentice here myself, I am fortunate to have my own mentor in Sister Mary to help provide so many more learning opportunities than I could alone. And in this intergenerational working, learning, and sharing, we all grow with one another every day and become more authentically ourselves. Through this process, we can build a community of healing, where we understand once more that healing is about sharing our authentic selves with one another in a way that reveals the unity of all life.

In her article, “Apprenticing to Jesus the Healer,” religious philosopher Beatrice Bruteau talks about the idea of apprenticing to Jesus and the importance of authenticity in that relationship as well as in living a healthy life.

“Jesus prefers apprentices to worshippers, wants to train us to be health healers like himself. The apprentice must develop authenticity, the ability to act from oneself: this is learned through life-sharing with the master. We thus come to be interauthentic…”

To be ‘healthy,’ then is to be one’s true self, which includes being one who acknowledges the true selves of others. If you are enacting, embodying, your truth, your reality, your meaning, then you are ‘healthy,’ even if you are handicapped or seriously ill or dying. And because of the communitarian nature of our lives, this health has also to be seen as a systemic social process of mutual meaning-giving, mutual value-giving. Both life-sharing and authenticity enter into it.”

Through this idea of apprenticing, not just to ministry leaders, but to Christ as well, the Earn to Learn program at Ancilla College is building an empowered future here at The Center at Donaldson where students, co-workers, residents, and all others are encouraged to bring their true authentic selves into the process of creating a life-sharing community.

Students
Work for Their Education

By J. Chad Kebrdle Institutional Advancement Associate, Ancilla College

Grace Harris loves goats. It is no surprise, then, to see her at the goat barn feeding the herd, cleaning the stalls or just giving them attention. Though she would be happy to do this anyway – she has had a herd of goats herself and is working toward an animal science degree from the Agriculture program at Ancilla College – she is actually earning money to go toward her tuition.

Working 10-12 hours a week, students will receive $1,000 per semester toward their tuition. Though the Earn to Learn program was developed by Ancilla College to do more than just pay for school, “We want to give students work experience in their field,” said Jim Cawthon, Director of Career Services at the college, “as well as develop the skills employers are asking for.”

continued on page 16
Two Sisters, an Associate Director, and a Lutheran Walk Into a Bar. . .

By Pat Brackley, PHJC Volunteer Program Volunteer

Meaningful travel was a goal I set when I walked out of my office, after a career in education, six years ago. I knew how lucky I was . . . healthy, financially secure, and with no loved ones who needed me. Since that time, I’ve had some remarkable experiences volunteering around the world. My hat is off to my friends who stay in my beautiful community of Sheridan, Wyoming and serve on boards, tutor and deliver meals. It’s that long-term commitment that means so much to our world, and one day I’ll join them. During my sixties, however, I’m out and about seeking volunteer adventures.

After returning from one of those recent adventures, a few delightful months with Maryknoll Bangkok, and after reconnecting with family and friends while making some repairs on my home, I decided I was ready to find a new experience. I’m a Lutheran but have found helpful information by using the Catholic Volunteer Network (CVN) database. I’ve located several Catholic communities who’ve allowed me to join them, so I didn’t hesitate to include an email to Sister Connie Bach, PHJC when I began my search. I’d heard good things about both the Poor Handmaids and Sister Connie from a co-volunteer in Bangkok, so imagine my delight when I saw them listed on the CVN site. Usually, it takes about three months to finally connect with someone and discuss the possibilities offered, so I was quite surprised to hear from Sister Connie within 24 hours. Her energy, loving spirit and speedy response made me decide to begin the application process. That process was a pleasure with Sister Connie’s consideration and sense of humor. Before long, I was heading to Indiana.

My next surprise was the beauty of this remarkable state. Reared in Missouri, it reminded me of home, and I continue to marvel at the landscape around Donaldson. But an even greater surprise has been living with Sister Mary Baird. Oh my goodness!!! Every day is an adventure with my new friend, and I appreciate her hospitality, her willingness to share her spiritual journey, her patience with my lack of knowledge and abundance of questions, as well as her love and zeal for saving the environment and serving God. I feel that I may have earned a graduate credit in spirituality and environmental concerns just via osmosis. What our world could learn from the passion I’ve witnessed at MoonTree!

In addition, the Poor Handmaid Sisters here are so gracious, friendly and fun. I’ve had numerous enjoyable meals, experiences, and conversations with these incredible women who have dedicated their lives to service. What a welcoming environment this is, and a Sisterhood full of joy, mission, and love. Along with those Sisters are the other folks onsite . . . the friendly residents and helpful co-workers at the Motherhouse, Ancilla College and MoonTree. Goodness, in the form of God. I feel that I may have earned a graduate credit via osmosis. What our world could learn from the remarkable combination of meaningful work, beautiful landscapes, spiritual growth, personal development, and amazing friendships.

And thanks to Sister Michele Dvorak, I have many enjoyable and purposeful tasks combining two of my favorite things – people and computers. The projects I’ve been given have been meaningful and a great way to spend my time.

Oh . . . the title of this article – “Two Sisters, an Associate Director, and a Lutheran Walk Into a Bar.” Well, that’s the final surprise. I’ve been placed in community with two Sisters (Sisters Mary Baird and Nancy Raboin) and an Associate Director (Libby Riggs). These women have welcomed me as if I’m family. They’ve planned meals and experiences that go way beyond my expectations, because frankly, I didn’t ever dream this type of attention and thoughtfulness would be included. Honestly, we haven’t gone to a bar, but I’ve been at their tables, we’ve worshipped together, had so many lively discussions, and they’re showing me the sights! It’s been over the top!

So if anyone, anywhere, asks you if they should volunteer with the PHJCs, tell them to do it . . . without reservation. It’s been a remarkable combination of meaningful work, beautiful landscapes, spiritual growth, personal development, and amazing friendships. And just so you know, two Sisters, an Associate Director and a Lutheran can form a lasting friendship that I hope will include a trip to Wyoming in the future. That invitation goes out to my other friends here, too. Just make certain I’m not on another adventure before you arrive.
35 Years of Growth by the Spirit

By Libby Riggs, Associate Director

Over the past several decades as the Poor Handmaid community forged into the future beginning new endeavors and ministries, no one could foresee or plan that so many significant anniversaries would fall in the same year. 2018 was jam-packed with a plethora of commemorations beginning with the opening prayer service of the 150th anniversary of the Poor Handmaid presence in America followed by the 15th anniversary of the Fiat Spiritus Community. About midway on the continuum, you find the anniversary of the PHJC Associate Community.

Thirty-five years later, the first director, Sister Deborah Davis, PHJC recalls her thoughts about leading the first group. She reflected that people were probably saying that she really didn’t know what she was doing…to which she responded, “They were probably right. However, where we fall or fall short, our God fills in the gaps.” And that indeed is the work of the Spirit who has accompanied us throughout our 35-year history.

What began as “helpers of the Sisters,” mostly focusing on helping with the much-remembered annual bazaars, has evolved into a true spiritual community. What was initially known as the Associate Program was developed and directed by Sisters for the first years, gradually transitioning into the Associate Partnership, a closer bond with the PHJC community. With the addition of the third expression of the Spiritual Family of Saint Katharina, the Fiat Spiritus Community, we evolved from the Associate Partnership into the Associate Community. Not only was it a title change, but it reflected the authentic movement of committed Associates who now claimed their own leadership and accountability to one another as a Christian community.

Along with structural changes, a true spiritual shaping was also taking place. Regions of Associate communities began to develop and take on their own personalities. We planned and implemented our own goals, spiritual endeavors, support of local needs and solidarity around social justice issues. The beauty of the Associate Community lies in the fact that we are drawn together by the common thread of following in the footsteps of Saint Katharina Kasper. We are Christians impelled by Katharina’s charism to commit to one another with a desire to grow together in our interior faith life while serving the needs of those around us.

When I, along with three other women, were approached by Sister Josephine Iffert, PHJC to consider joining the Associate Community, we were honored and yet humbled. We asked ourselves, “What great things do we do that would qualify us to be considered worthy of being an Associate?” I remember Sister Josephine telling us the story of a retired nurse who still helped on the family farm by taking meals out to her grown sons in the fields, “That is enough.” The spirit in which these mundane and everyday tasks are done makes each task sacred, in tune with the spirituality of our foundress, Saint Katharina.

Associates go about our daily lives continuing to plumb deeper into the meaning and living out of the four Poor Handmaids core values of simplicity, openness to the Spirit, community, and dignity and respect for all. Along with these values, we embrace the charism and spirit of Saint Katharina when we take care of our family; when we serve in our parish; when we work in our community; when we take our demanding and not so kind neighbor to medical appointments or grocery shopping; when we live together with a friend or former co-worker and offer care and community to one another; when we speak up for or help the homeless, the abused, the forgotten; when we share our faith with those we come into contact with. Once you encounter the spirit of Saint Katharina through an Associate, Sister or one of the ministries, it calls you to something deeper, something waiting for attention deep within your soul.

One Associate described it with this analogy, “Once a mother, no matter how old your child is, you will always be a mother – just so with being an Associate; it cannot be separated from who I am.” Being an Associate is a commitment to carrying that charism within your heart and into your daily life like a legacy you wish to pass to others.

The growth-filled years of trust in following the Spirit is not only the reason for celebration and gratitude but also for risking further openness to new interpretations and visions of what it means to be part of the adventure of an ever-evolving Poor Handmaid Associate Community.

For more information on the Associate Community, contact Libby Riggs, Director, at PO. Box 31, Donaldson, Indiana 46513; lriggs@poorhandmaids.org, or by calling 574-956-9936 ext 733.
There's another secret that was hidden in the Weinert family, one which Steve and Jennifer, the 2014 Blessed Catherine Kasper Award recipient, recently discovered. His connection to the Poor Handmaids goes back two generations. Steve’s grandfather and great-uncle were raised by the Sisters at Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chicago. He made the discovery while going through family records not long ago. “Their parents passed away, and the Sisters raised them together,” Steve said.

Co-workers who nominated Steve found him to be “a gentle, peaceful, welcoming presence to everyone – guests, co-workers, residents, all of creation which he treats with reverence.” That’s evident in the colorful gardens Steve plants on the grounds, something important to the Sisters; and in his love of art, which he and Jennifer share through activities with the Sisters and Maria Center residents. Others cited Steve’s “willingness to help all residents with whatever they need.”

Another co-worker said he’s “a great guy who walks in the shoes of Catherine and embodies the Spirit of Poor Handmaids.” Perhaps the ultimate tribute to his sense of community came from a co-worker who noted, “He shares his tools!”

In reminiscing about the awards luncheon several days later, Steve said of the honor, “It’s all about family: the residents, Sisters, and co-workers. It’s all special to me, and they’re part of my family and my history. It’s also an honor to my grandfather. He’d have been so happy.”

Congratulations, Steve!

Above: Sister Judith Diltz, PHJC presents the Blessed Catherine Kasper Award to Steve Weinert.

Jennifer Weinert is great at keeping secrets. Her husband Steve, the 2018 Blessed Catherine Kasper award recipient, had no idea he was the winner, even though she knew a week before the announcement. “The only thing she did (that day) was make sure I was wearing a clean shirt and jeans,” Steve laughed.

Steve joined The Center at Donaldson fifteen years ago as a member of the facilities and ground services team. “Overwhelmed,” is how he described his reaction to hearing he was named the award recipient on September 21, 2018. “When I looked over at Ed, (Maria Center resident Ed Kirchoff) his face just lit up,” he said. “I’m very grateful for it. It’s especially an honor now that Blessed Catherine is going to be a Saint.”

Another co-worker said he’s “a great guy who walks in the shoes of Catherine and embodies the Spirit of Poor Handmaids.” Perhaps the ultimate tribute to his sense of community came from a co-worker who noted, “He shares his tools!”

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Above: Sister Judith Diltz, PHJC presents the Blessed Catherine Kasper Award to Steve Weinert.

Strategic Planning is Similar to Spiritual Life After All

By Christopher Thelen, Director of Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center

Like anything that has been created for a purpose, there comes a time to reflect upon how well it has corresponded to its nature, then make renewed commitments to better fulfill what it has been created to do. In the corporate world, this process is called strategic planning. In the spiritual life, it is called making a retreat. Both processes require the wisdom of an experienced guide.

Thanks to a Capacity Building Grant from the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center worked with Giving Focus, a consulting firm that helps religious organizations with their development needs, to help flesh out and establish a strategic plan for the next three years. After hours of personal interviews, focus groups, collecting data from surveys, and planning committee meetings, Giving Focus, presented the assembled planning committee with Lindenwood’s three-year guiding document. While describing all of its many points is well beyond the scope of this current article, I thought it appropriate to emphasize a particular area that is near to the hearts of the Poor Handmaid community, such as sponsored programs.

Sponsored programs, or retreats, are a way in which the legacy of Saint Katharina, through her Sisters and ministry aim to provide spiritual companions for such a journey.

Currently, in its sixth cycle session, the Spiritual Companionship Program, a sponsored program of Lindenwood, has helped equip dozens of men and women from numerous Christian denominations with special training to act as a companion for others who desire to grow closer to God. In August 2019, Lindenwood will begin its seventh training term to provide training for up to twelve individuals who feel called to walk with others on their journey with God.

Have others ever shared intimately with you about their spiritual life, or told you about aspects of their spiritual lives, either joys or sorrows? Did you feel a sense of purpose when this happened? If so, perhaps God is calling you to explore the possibility of becoming a spiritual companion. We are currently accepting applications for the seventh cycle session until July 31, 2019. Give it some serious discernment. If you know of anyone who the prior questions describe perfectly, then encourage them to consider applying for the next training program.

Have you ever benefited from the guidance of a spiritual companion? If so, perhaps God is inviting you to help us train more spiritual companions by making a financial gift and/or a spiritual gift of prayer.

For more information, please call Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center at 574-935-1780 or email us at lindenwood@poorhandmaids.org. We are so grateful for your partnership.
New Director of Mission Affirmation

As I began my work with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ ministries in September, I wanted to have an opportunity to introduce myself to all our co-workers, volunteers and members of our community. Before joining the PHJC ministries as the Director of Mission Affirmation, I worked as a bioethicist in San Antonio for a large public hospital. As much as I loved that work, I saw that one thing many people there needed but did not have, was a connection to the mission. They could not see what they were doing was different than other hospitals in the area. Thinking back to my time at Loyola University Chicago in the Mission Office, I realized there were other opportunities for me to help people find more meaning in their work. Joining the PHJC ministries has given me the wonderful opportunity to learn about the charism of Saint Katharina Kasper and learn about all the work the PHJC Sisters and co-workers do. It has been truly a privilege to join their team.

Many of you will know that previously the Mission department was called Mission Integration, as it is in many places. With the change in the name we wanted to change the tone and focus of the department. For many years people have focused on trying to get their employees to understand the mission and incorporate it into their daily work. Here with the PHJC ministries, the co-workers already know and live the mission every day in their work and in their lives. With our new name and our new focus, we want to help each of our co-workers see how they are already living the mission of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and Saint Katharina Kasper and help them to name that for themselves.

With our new name and our new focus, I am excited to get to work advancing the mission of the Poor Handmaids through employee formation. One of my first goals for the new year is to work with our ministry leaders and our Function Team leader to help them see how their work is built off the legacy of Saint Katharina Kasper’s. Our hope is that through education and formation all our co-workers will be mini mission leaders in their areas.

Sister Julia Huelskamp

She was born in Breese, Illinois on December 24, 1933 to Joseph and Eleanor (Foppe) Huelskamp who preceded her in death along with her brothers, Herman, Gerald, Dennis, Jerome, Erwin, Lawrence and her sister Geraldine Luebbers. She was the sixth child of 13 children. Sister Julia is survived by her brothers David and Thomas and sisters Rose Saufnauer, Eleanor Fiascone, Lorine Wikman, and Joseph Benoff.

As far back as she could remember, Sister Julia wanted to be a Sister. She entered the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Congregation as a novice in 1952 and professed her first vows in 1954. The PHJC charism of simplicity, hospitality and attentive listening to God made Sister Julia very comfortable. She said, “I can be my best self in our community. Our community values are much the same as the values I grew up with in my own family.”

Sister Julia graduated with a bachelor of science in Home Economics from Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and received a master degree in biology from St. Mary College in Winona, Minnesota. She was a teacher at St. Mark School, Gary, Indiana; St. Mary School, East Chicago, Indiana; St. John the Baptist School, Quincy, Illinois; and Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana. She served in child care and as a high school teacher at Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chicago. She also served as Coordinator of Group Homes at Young House in Burlington, Iowa and at Boys Hope in Evanston, Illinois. She was the food service director at St. Joseph’s Carondelet, Chicago. Sister Julia served as a member of the PHJC Provincial Leadership Team and also lovingly cared for many Poor Handmaid Sisters as the local Leader at Catherine Kasper Home from 1998-2006. She continued ministering at the PHJC Motherhouse, as a volunteer for Hospice, and enjoyed her favorite pastime of quilting and working on puzzles.

When reflecting back on her service, Sister Julia said, “I met many challenges with every position I had. I thank God for all my experiences and feel each experience prepared me for the next. I have trusted the Holy Spirit to guide and direct me.”

Visitation and Prayer Service were held in the Ancilla Domini Chapel on October 30. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on October 31 and burial followed in the Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Donaldson, Indiana. Memorial contributions may be made to the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, P.O. Box 1, Donaldson, Indiana 46513 or through www.poorhandmaids.org.
Prayer Service Closing the 150th Anniversary Year of Poor Handmaid Presence in America

2 p.m. EST, December 30, 2018
Ancilla Domini Chapel

Everyone is invited.