

Fact Sheet

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

www.poorhandmaids.org

Who are the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ?

The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, an international congregation of apostolic women religious within the Roman Catholic Church, ministers to and with people of all faiths. They minister with the poor, the sick and children in the United States, Mexico, Germany, England, the Netherlands, India, Brazil, Kenya and Nigeria. With prayer and community living as their foundation, they minister in rural, urban and inner city settings in the Midwest. Focused on partnering in the work of the Spirit, they invite others to join them in various facets of education, pastoral and social work, neighborhood-based health ministries, spiritual guidance, and care for the environment. They are recognized more by the love and simplicity with which they serve than by any particular ministry.

Founded

August 15, 1851 in Dernbach, Germany by Catherine Kasper

In 1868 the first eight Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Sisters from Germany came to Hessen Cassel, Indiana, in the Fort Wayne Diocese.

Catherine Kasper, Foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Born in Dernbach, Germany, May 28, 1820; Died February 2, 1898

Catherine Kasper was beatified in Rome on April 16, 1978 by Pope Paul VI.

Leadership Team of the American Province 2013-2017

Sister Judith Diltz, Provincial

Sister Michele Dvorak, Provincial Councilor/Vicar

Sister Carole Langhauser, Provincial Councilor

Sister Loretta Schleper, Provincial Councilor

Congregation Membership

586 Sisters in the international congregation

Approximately 84 Sisters in the American Province

For additional information on the
Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ visit
www.poorhandmaids.org or
[facebook.poorhandmaids.org](https://www.facebook.com/poorhandmaids.org)

Ministries

American Sisters now minister in Indiana, Illinois, Georgia, Ohio, Rhode Island, as well as in Mexico, Brazil, Kenya and Germany.

Poor Handmaids today continue to serve in the ministries of

- Prayer
- Education
- Health care
- Social work
- Therapy
- Counseling and spiritual direction
- Parish and pastoral care
- Vocation and spiritual formation
- Missionary service
- Congregation leadership

PHJC Mission Statement

Called in Baptism to proclaim by our lives and our works the presence of God in the world, we Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ accept the invitation to live a vowed life in community. We are inspired by Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and Blessed Catherine Kasper, our Foundress, to listen prayerfully, live simply, serve joyfully.

Empowered by the same Spirit, we women religious commit ourselves to

- respect and value each person we serve in our diverse ministries
- stand with the poor and powerless in the search for justice
- use our talents and resources in response to the emerging needs of Church and society
- share ministry and nurture leadership in our efforts to bring peace to the world.

Resisting our fears, we dare to accept the challenges of the future. We go forward in hope and joy supported by the bond of community and the strength of prayer.

Spiritual Family of Catherine Kasper

The Poor Handmaids are part of a larger religious family known as the Spiritual Family of Catherine. The other two expressions of this family are comprised of the Associate Community and a sister community known as the Fiat Spiritus Community. For more information, check the following websites: www.poorhandmaids.org/associates and www.fiatspiritus.org

American PHJC History

In 1868, Mary Catherine Kasper, foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, at the request of Bishop Luers, sent eight Sisters to the Fort Wayne Diocese from their foundation in Dernbach, Germany. They were to staff a school and care for the sick in Hessen Cassel, Indiana.

In October 1868, Bishop Feehan of Chicago asked for the Sisters' help. Some moved to Chicago and soon to southern Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and other areas in Indiana, establishing schools, homes for the aged, orphanages and hospitals as well as caring for the sick in their homes. By 1913 there were 41 missions in the U.S. caring mostly for German immigrants.

The Motherhouse, home to the American Province Sisters, was located in Fort Wayne, Indiana from 1868 to 1923 when it was moved to Donaldson, Indiana, 90 miles east of Chicago and 35 miles southwest of South Bend, Indiana.

Over the years, a variety of ministries have developed at and from the Motherhouse. In acknowledgment of this fact, the campus is now called **The Center at Donaldson**, located at P.O. Box 1, 9601 Union Road, Donaldson, Indiana 46513.

The Center at Donaldson is home for Ancilla Beef and Grain Farm, Ancilla College, Catherine Kasper Life Center, which includes Maria Center and Catherine Kasper Home, Earthworks, Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center, MoonTree Studios, PHJC Provincial offices and Sisters living in Catherine's Cottage and Convent Ancilla Domini. Services to these ministries are provided by Provincial Services and/or Ministry Center Services. **Visit www.TheCenterAtDonaldson.org.**

Ministries on The Center at Donaldson Campus

Ancilla Beef and Grain Farm operates in a manner that values and respects the soil and animals. It grows hay, corn and soybeans that feed the cattle. Ancilla's prime beef is raised all-natural to supply The Center at Donaldson and is offered to the local public.
www.ancillabeef.com

Ancilla College is a Catholic, two-year, liberal arts college for both men and women focused on preparing students for academic success and rewarding careers in 18 academic programs. Ancilla College offers academic, athletic and student activities which provide students with a well-rounded college experience.
www.ancilla.edu

Catherine Kasper Life Center (CKLC) is a faith-based Continuing Care Retirement Community comprised of **Maria Center**, senior independent living with some supportive services available; and the **Catherine Kasper Home**, a licensed skilled nursing facility with all private rooms providing short-term rehabilitation, long-term nursing care and a memory care unit. The lakeside country setting, with ample amenities and intergenerational activities provide comfort, dignity and well-being as residents continue on their journey of life.
www.cklc.poorhandmaids.org

Earthworks is an environmental education center that helps adults and children learn how to think and act responsibly in a completely interconnected universe. Earthworks offers programs for all ages. Visit the Earthworks Market at 900 W. Jefferson Street, Plymouth, Indiana.
www.earthworksonline.org

Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center offers quiet and peaceful surroundings making it an ideal setting for the variety of programs and retreats offered. Lindenwood also provides meeting rooms and overnight accommodations suitable for non-profit organizations, church groups, businesses, or individuals to address issues of personal growth and development.
www.lindenwood.org

MoonTree Studios encourages the creative spirit in each individual in a holistic attempt to help Earth heal herself. The ministry of MoonTree Studios is one of beauty – moving fearlessly with the spirit to enhance the land, provide art experiences and inspiration to nourish each person's spirituality and demonstrate sustainable living.
www.moontreestudios.org

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

Off-Campus Ministries

Ancilla Systems' mission is to enhance the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ ministries to the poor and underserved. Ancilla Systems provides services and support to Ancilla Domini Sisters, Inc. and to the PHJC ministries through collaboration and compassionate sharing of its talents and resources. ASI is located in Hobart, Indiana.
www.ancilla.org

BACHworks uses music and its related elements to address physical, emotional, cognitive, spiritual, and social needs of individuals of all ages and strives to improve the quality of life for persons who are well or who have disabilities. BACHworks is located in South Bend, Indiana.
<http://www.bachworkstherapy.com>

Bethany Retreat House provides a quiet place in the midst of demanding lives where people can find both the space and the resources for prayer and reflection. It is dedicated to helping individuals nurture their inner life and respond to the God who dwells within by offering ongoing spiritual direction, daytime silent retreats, monthly dream groups and reflection groups. Located in a comfortable neighborhood home setting in East Chicago, Indiana, Bethany Retreat House welcomes adult members of the laity, clergy and religious of all faiths.
www.bethanyretreathouse.org

HealthVisions Midwest works within local communities served by Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ or where called to with other partners. HealthVisions strives to build healthy communities by reducing health disparities among the poor and underserved and empowering people to improve their own health. Based in Hammond, Indiana, HealthVisions has offices in East Chicago, Gary and Fort Wayne, Indiana and in East St. Louis, Illinois. HealthVisions partners with local organizations to strengthen the resource base for advocacy efforts and systemic changes.
www.hvusa.org

Linden Houses, located in Chicago, Gary, Hobart and Mishawaka, and administered by Ancilla Systems, offer affordable housing for seniors and individuals with special needs. The Linden House is dedicated to enriching the quality of life for its residents by respecting the dignity of each person and by providing a sense of community through proper management.
www.thelindenhouses.org

Nazareth Home, a licensed foster home located in East Chicago, Indiana, provides individualized care twenty-four hours per day for medically compromised children who are referred by the Indiana Department of Child Services, Lake County. The mission of Nazareth Home is to care for poor and powerless infants and children, those unable to speak for themselves, by providing them with a loving, caring and stable beginning.
www.nazarethhome.com

Sojourner Truth House is a day center for homeless and at-risk women and their children located in Gary, Indiana. The staff works with families to find solutions to poverty in the short term with food and clothing programs and in the long term by breaking the cycle of poverty with education and family strengthening programs. Every program, every action is an encounter towards empowerment, education, employment and living life in wholeness. Ethnically and racially diverse, the women come from all faiths and educational backgrounds.
www.sojournertruthhouse.org

The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation helps the most vulnerable, low-income populations access quality healthcare and wellness in Allen County, Indiana. In addition to providing grants to improve the health of the poor, the Foundation also operates programming to address gaps in services. This includes publishing a directory of low-cost, quality healthcare providers; operating a HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) initiative in low income, food desert communities; and supporting the Catherine Kasper Place ministry focused on refugees and immigrants in the area.
www.sjchf.org

The PHJC Foundation, Inc. provides all Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ ministries with the opportunity to receive gifts designated for the financial sustainability of the ministry. The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Foundation invites donors to partner with PHJC ministries through contributions and endowed gifts.

The corporate legal name of the American Province of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ is Ancilla Domini Sisters.