

# PHJC Volunteers

*Make a difference with heart!*

[www.phjcvolprogram.org](http://www.phjcvolprogram.org)

June 2017

## Pentecost and Service

*This article was written by Sister Cathy Schwemer for the Plymouth Pilot News and published June 10, 2017.*



Last Sunday, Christians throughout the world celebrated the great feast of Pentecost. There are so many layers of meaning to this Feast-day; however, what I reflect upon the most during this time is service. How do I offer service to our world in the name of God?

During Pentecost we all are challenged to



reflect upon the power of the Holy Spirit within the life of the Church as we remember the beginnings of the Church. But most importantly, we as Christians are called to reflect upon how we can continue to

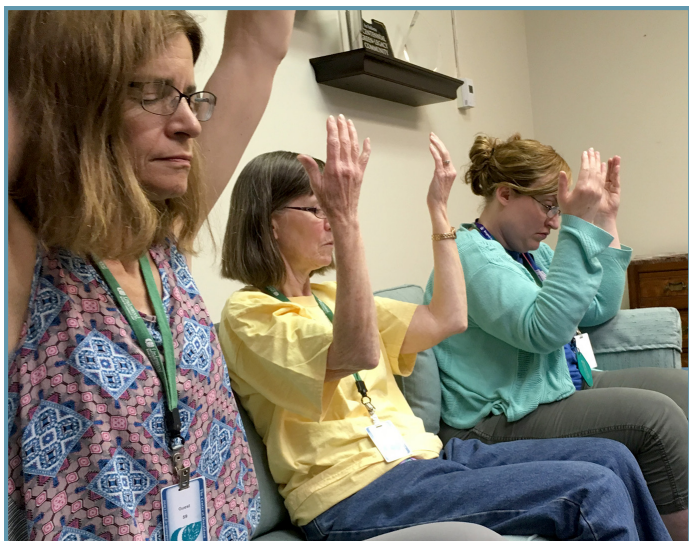
be of service to our brothers and sisters.

Just as Christmas and Easter are the two sides of Christ's presence in the world, so too does Baptism and Pentecost reflect the action of the Holy Spirit in and through us. From the beginning of Luke's Gospel, it is evident that God's saving action intends the formation of a people, not merely the salvation of individuals. The formation of this new community becomes most visible after Pentecost as the early Church learned more deeply what it was to give service in the name of the Risen One.

Thus, our celebration of Pentecost is not simply about an outpouring of the Spirit. It is also about what it confers upon us as an "us." It is about how well we translate the inspiration of the Spirit into a concern for the most vulnerable among us. It is about whether we locate our true life in our individual journey or in the







flourishing of our community.

Service to others, to the most vulnerable among us, is a Gospel imperative. If we dare to call ourselves “Christians” we must at our very heart be of service. Service is always done within the context of community and this week we at The Center at Donaldson have seen wonderful examples of this call to serve as we welcome three women for a week-long immersion experience with various PHJC ministries. These individuals are working, praying and living along side of the Sisters, PHJC Associates and others who mirror Christian service



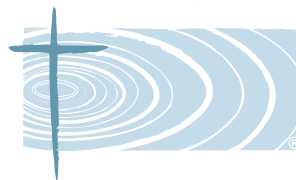
within their lives and work. PHJC volunteers share the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Mission, Vision and Core Values as they live and partner



alongside Sisters and co-workers in domestic and international ministries that care for the most vulnerable among us; the poor, disenfranchised and the Earth. Volunteers can commit to service for a time period of up to twelve months. Sharing a spirit of mutuality and shared leadership, volunteers grow in their discernment toward service. For more information on this volunteer program go to [phjcvolprogram.org](http://phjcvolprogram.org)

Whether it is volunteering in a formal volunteer program or other such opportunities in your faith-community or civil organization, being of service is the call of the Holy Spirit to bring the Gospel to a world so in need of its message of God’s love. ***Do you have the courage to accept this invitation of the Holy Spirit?***

*Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ*



*Partners in the work of the Spirit*

For information about the PHJC Volunteer Program please email Sr. Connie Bach at [cbach@poorhandmaids.org](mailto:cbach@poorhandmaids.org) or Sr. Marybeth Martin at [mmartin@poorhandmaids.org](mailto:mmartin@poorhandmaids.org)

