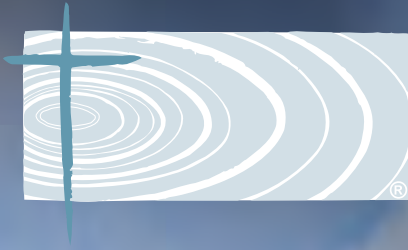


*Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ*



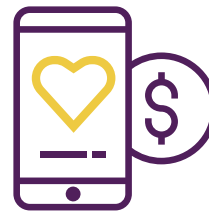
*Partners in the work of the Spirit*



*Gratitude*  
REPORT 2018



In 2018  
you



gifts  
2,265



raised  
\$475,902

gave  
Hope



changed  
Lives



donors  
1,170

created  
Impact



average  
gift \$210





# Our Partners in the Work of the Spirit



Gratitude is the theme of this report – and gratitude marks our memories of 2018. It was an exceptional year that you made possible in significant ways.

In 2018, we Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ marked 150 years of ministry in the America. The anniversary year was packed with special prayers, international visitors, history presentations, reflections on our past – all making us aware of the many blessings our God has given us over these years. You are numbered among these blessings. Your presence helped us celebrate key events during the year. And especially you have been instrumental in supporting our ministries and making their good works possible. Sojourner Truth House, Nazareth Home, Ancilla College, Catherine Kasper Life Center, MoonTree Studios, Saint Joseph Community Health Foundation – among

other of our ministries – touch the lives of thousands of people annually. You help us help with these caring works. Feel our gratitude.

The best surprise of the year 2018 came with the announcement from the Vatican of the canonization of our foundress, Katharina Kasper. Poor Handmaid Sisters from around the world attended the special events in Rome and you made their attendance possible. Your support of our “Send a Sister to Rome” request overwhelmed us. The tears of gratitude and joy in the eyes of our young Sisters from Brazil, Kenya, Mexico, and Nigeria whom you sent communicated more thanks than words can capture. Our hearts overflow with gratitude that Katharina Kasper is now a model of holiness for the world. Our gratitude extends to you who have shared this joy with us.

In 2018 we challenged our Sisters, co-workers and residents at The Center at Donaldson with the charge from Pope Francis in his second encyclical, *Laudato Si – On Care for Our Common Home*. We have invited all to explore “integral ecology” – the essential interconnection of people and nature and all of creation. This Gratitude Report itself seeks to mark our stewardship of resources; now for its second year it directs you to our website rather than consuming a lot of paper and finances in the report. You’ll hear more about this integral ecology focus next year as our ministries embrace further sensitivity to more sustainable uses of resources. In this way we express our respect and our gratitude for the gifts of creation.

2018 was quite the year. Gratitude marks our response to it and to you. Feel our

prayers of appreciation as we say with Saint Katharina, “A thousand thanks to God, and again a thousand more.”

Sincerely,

Sister Judith Diltz, PHJC  
Provincial

Sister Michele Dvorak, PHJC  
Councilor

Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC  
Councilor

Sister Margaret Anne Henss, PHJC  
Councilor



# 150 years

## IN REVIEW

*By Alicia Hammonds, Donor Relations Officer*

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Poor Handmaid presence in America kicked-off a year of reconnection, celebration, prayer, song, and reflection.

For many, what stands out in a year bursting to the seams with memories, was the Coming Home to Celebrate in August. Friends, family, Ancilla Domini High School alumnae, former Sisters, and many others gathered to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the wonderful news that Blessed Catherine Kasper, PHJC foundress would be soon canonized. Coming Home events included tours, prayer services, an ice cream social, and so much more.

As tour groups gathered and guests mingled on Saturday, August 18, the second day of the Coming Home to Celebrate event, Margie Bissonnette of Saint John, Indiana sat alone in Ancilla Domini Chapel. A few minutes later, she emerged from her silent prayer and was

greeted by Sister Shirley Bell, PHJC. "I had to spend some time in chapel and be thankful for all of this," she said. "It's pure joy reconnecting with everyone." Margie was one of hundreds to come home to celebrate.

Sister Joyce Diltz captured the essence of the weekend stating, "What grace, energy, and love were just everywhere, and I like to think about how that is rippling out to all the places we and our guests have returned to!"

For those that were unable to make it to Donaldson during our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, please know you are always in our prayers. We hope you are able to enjoy these photos and memories from a very special year.

To our family, friends, and so many of our partners in the work of the Spirit who have served along with the Sisters for 150 years, thank you.





# CANONIZATION

# Reflection

*By Sister Margaret Anne Henss, PHJC Councilor*

Forty years ago, in April 1978, I had the privilege of being at the beatification of Catherine Kasper, foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. As we arrived at Saint Peter's Square, I was amazed at all the bustling that was going on in order to get a good seat inside Saint Peter's Basilica. I remember hanging back and finally being escorted to a side entrance where I ended up being in the second row on the left side of the altar.

I recall looking around and being amazed at the beauty of the cathedral. Little did I know that I wasn't seeing the full beauty until the lights came on in the Basilica. The gold gild just shown.

The Mass for the beatification was magnificent and prayerful. Catherine was the only person being beatified that day. At the moment she was pronounced Blessed, I looked up and a flutter of material caught my eye. There, high above the altar, was a picture of Blessed Catherine Kasper. I don't know what made me look up, but I can still see the material falling away and revealing Catherine.

I felt there were two blessings that day. Pope Paul VI had just returned home from the hospital and the PHJC community was blessed to have him at the ceremony. I was blessed also. My name was picked to receive communion from the Holy Father. How special I felt.

In contrast to the beatification, Blessed Catherine Kasper's canonization on October 14, 2018, took place outside the basilica in Saint Peter's Square. There were seven people to be canonized along with Catherine Kasper including, Oscar Romero and Pope Paul VI. I believe Catherine was glad that she was not in the limelight.

By early morning, throngs of people were waiting in the darkness to go through the security lines and find a seat in the square. There were singing and flags waving honoring the candidates. There was no avoiding the energized bustling from the crowd this time. We were pressed together like sardines.

It was light by the time I got through security. I was impressed by the hugeness

of the square which I was not aware of forty years ago. Once again, I was overwhelmed by the banner of our foundress, hanging on the facade and in the company of Oscar Romero and Pope Paul VI.

Being outside and not bound by inside spaces, made it possible for us to freely walk around and meet other pilgrims, especially our Sisters from the other countries. We were able to share the excitement with one another.

In the open air, and not inside the Basilica didn't matter to me, the music from an orchestra and choir still filled the air prior to the beginning of the ceremony. The immenseness of the crowd solidified the specialness of the canonization and made it more real for me.

The Liturgy, even though it was in Italian, was easy to follow since we had booklets that had everything translated into two other languages, including English. When the prayer for the canonization came, the crowd was asked not to cheer when each candidate was announced. However,

when Catherine was pronounced Saint Katharina Kasper, we all waved our flags.

The biggest blessing I received from the canonization is that I felt part of an international congregation. At the beatification, I met many Poor Handmaids from Germany, England, and the Netherlands. At the canonization, there were also Poor Handmaids from Kenya, Nigeria, Brazil, and Mexico. The best part of the blessing was that I knew so many of them from international meetings that I attended in the last forty years.

Finally, I must say thank you to those of you who gave so generously to send us to Rome and allow us to experience the canonization of our foundress. Without that support, so many Sisters would not have been able to be present at the canonization, especially from the other countries. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

*Saint Katharina Kasper, pray for us!*





# fearlessly

## CREATING THE

*By Matthew Celmer, Director of MoonTree Studios*

# future

MoonTree Studios had one of its best years in 2018. We could not have accomplished so many milestones without the support of members, donors, and program participants. 145 experiences brought 1,118 participants to MoonTree last year.

Our focus for 2018 included augmenting our partnership to our community and the environment. With the installation of a solar array in June, MoonTree boosted its energy production capacity. The solar array generated 5,063 kilowatt hours (kWh) in its first six months. That is in addition to the 6,504 kWh produced by the Bergey turbine for the whole year, combining for

a total of 11,567 kWh. That offset about half of the total energy consumed by the MoonTree Gallery throughout 2018.

In our commitment as a community partner, MoonTree continues to collaborate with the PHJC Associate Community to host the Empty Bowls Soup Supper to serve our surrounding neighbors. Together we have raised close to \$14,000 for the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

With an emphasis on integral ecology, the historical mission of MoonTree Studios to “challenge people to experience mindfulness as they fearlessly explore the interconnectedness of art, nature, and the Spirit within,” now has a new and reinvigorated purpose.

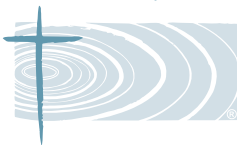
A critical element of integral ecology is understanding the interconnectivity of all life on this planet. In order to see the reality that we are all part of the same living system, we must actively inquire into the consequences of our actions and decisions and observe our impact on one another as well as on our environment.

This year MoonTree is positioning itself to be reborn into a driving force for transformation rooted in its historical vision of “a more mindful, compassionate, and sustainable Earth community.” MoonTree has always been a catalyst for change and container for personal creativity.

By nurturing independence, authenticity, bottom-up growth, and fearless exploration, we want to help people feel that something they personally chose to do radically changed the future. Together, we can fearlessly create a brighter and more abundant future for all.



*Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ*



*Partners in the work of the Spirit*

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# Thank You

Your generosity has made a lasting and powerful impact, and we appreciate your continued support. For the entire 2018 Gratitude Report with the Donor Honor Roll, please visit [www.poorhandmaids.org/gratitude](http://www.poorhandmaids.org/gratitude).

Cover: The Rees Theater, located in downtown Plymouth, Indiana graciously donated the marquee message during the weekend of Coming Home to Donaldson in August 2018. Thank you for your support.