

Given by Sr. Kathy Haas and Sr. Michele Dvorak

Sung response

***Katharina Kasper, be with us, rejoice with us,
sing praise with us and pray with us now.***

St. Katharina was first and foremost a servant of the God she loved with her whole being. Her love for God kept her attuned to God's will and to the Spirit's guidance for the Poor Handmaid congregation. In the midst of all that clamors for our attention, we pray that we may nurture that same intensity of focus and be receptive to the workings of the Spirit in our lives.

St. Katharina faced difficult situations with wisdom and reliance on the Spirit - as she sought ecclesial permission to begin a congregation, as she sought guidance in shaping her fledgling community, as she faced governmental restrictions and as she struggled to meet the many needs and the increasing requests for sisters. We pray for wisdom and strength as we face the complexities and issues of our present day.

St. Katharina brought a sensitivity and compassion into her presence with others. She embraced those rejected and despised and left no one outside her circle of service and care. We pray for the courage to stand humbly and boldly in welcoming those who seek refuge and inclusion in our church and society.

St. Katharina invited those attracted to her charism to join her to form community for prayer, companionship and support of ministry. Today we pray in gratitude for the many past generations of Poor Handmaids who embodied the charism through their lives of dedicated service.

St. Katharina invited others to join with her as they responded to their baptismal call and the appeal of her charism. We pray with all our partners in the work of the Spirit - PHJC Sisters, Associates, Fiat Spiritus Community members, co-workers, colleagues, family, benefactors, friends and many others – may we live the Gospel in the spirit of St. Katharina.

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