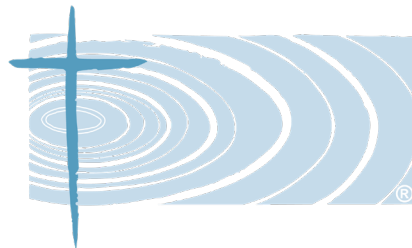




Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

Foundational Documents

November 2024

Table of Contents

3	Preface
4	PHJC Charism Statement
5	PHJC Spirituality Statement
6	Mission Statement
7	Vision Statement
8	Core Values, Belief, and Call Statements
11	The Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Preface

Inspired by the Gospel, the Charism of Saint Katharina Kasper, and Catholic Social Teaching, we, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Sisters, live out our mission and vision in response to the call of Christ to put our faith into local/global action for justice.

Our call to promote common good stirred us to share this collection of foundational documents that emerged through discernment, faith sharing and critical thinking that shaped our lives and the future of the ministries. In these documents that reflect universal values you will find:

- Inspiration
- Just relationships
- Courage
- Call to action

Reflection on the documents provides opportunities for current application based on the signs of the times in the same way Saint Katharina sought courage and listened to the Spirit of God beckoning her to respond with hope.

PHJC Charism Statement

Mary's openness to the Spirit and her ready faith response to what God asked of her motivated Saint Katharina Kasper to respond with attentive, courageous fidelity to the whisperings of the Spirit within her. Through simple, loving service and living faith these first handmaids revealed the experience of God's love in the world.

Today, we, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, strive to listen attentively to the promptings of that same Spirit.

We respond with courage to the daily challenge to be women of faith and vision. We live gospel values through our presence and ministry to and with others.



PHJC Spirituality Statement

Open to the Spirit and faithful to God's love, we, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, prayerfully discern the needs of our day in collaboration with the Church and society. We strive to respond in simplicity, trust, and joy.

We are inspired by Mary, the first handmaid, and Saint Katharina Kasper, our Foundress, to reach out in compassion to all of God's creation, especially the poor and powerless.

As a contemporary ecclesial community of women religious, we are nourished by the Eucharist, the Word, the Liturgy of Hours, personal prayer and reflection. Our daily renewal of the vows commits us to life in community and effective service in the Church.

With all the baptized, we are further energized and healed in our united efforts to live Gospel values.

We, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, are enriched as we share life with each other and with all those who touch our lives. We strive to welcome all persons as gift and celebrate their unique manifestation of God.



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 Saint Katharina 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 and stand with the poor and powerless in the search of justice
- use our talents and resources in response to the emerging needs of the 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.

Adopted November 1983, Reaffirmed June 1988

Vision Statement

Called by our commitment to fostering Gospel values and communities in communion, the American Province of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ will be a catalyst for a just transformation in the communities where we serve, particularly addressing the needs and circumstances of those who are poor and marginalized, by sharing our resources to advance the mission, charism and spirit of Saint Katharina Kasper.

Adopted April 12, 2021

Sharing the Vision

The Sisters of the American Province affirmed this Vision for our ministries:

- advance the mission, charism and spirit of Saint Katharina
- be a catalyst for just transformation in communities where our ministries serve
- particularly address the needs of the poor and marginalized

Affirmed September 11, 2023



Core Values, Belief, and Call Statements

Preface to the PHJC Core Values

We continually reinterpret the four PHJC core values infusing them with the lifeblood of current reality. This reinterpretation, expansion and deepening of their meaning is a result of our heightened awareness of the interconnection and unity of all life. Our whole paradigm of life is shifting in light of integral ecology.

It is with great hope for the future that we seek to develop and evolve just relationships for the well-being of the planet, society, economy and culture; in a word, the mutually evolving relationships of people and nature that create integral ecology.

This requires us to continue being open to the Spirit in relating to the whole community of life, respecting the dignity of all creation and living the simplicity that promises *enoughness* for all. How well we live out our values now in the spirit of Saint Katharina Kasper will be the gift and potential we pass on to future generations.

OPENNESS TO THE SPIRIT

We believe the will of the Spirit is the flourishing of all life.

Therefore, we are called to listen to the voices of the whole community of life, both the needs and the wisdom of the human and the nonhuman aspects of creation.

We believe the Spirit's wisdom is revealed in the context of our relationships and experiences.

Therefore, we are called to be keenly attentive to our interactions and care for one another and the rest of creation.

We believe the Spirit leads through our collective wisdom.

Therefore, we are called to offer our gifts and receive others' gifts in a wonderful mix of perception, creativity, and vision.

We believe the Spirit beckons us to the ongoing evolution of our planet and the entire universe.

Therefore, we are called to explore the dynamic possibilities of co-creating with God a future of justice and unity.

Core Values, Belief, and Call Statements

COMMUNITY

We believe in the vision of communities in communion with one another.

Therefore, our relationship with others is expressed by transparency, communication, respect for and trust of questioning and mutual accountability.

We believe in the interdependence of the whole community of creation.

Therefore, we are called to promote by our attitude and action the ideal that all must have equal access to essential resources both for their good and the advancement of the common good.

We believe in the interdependence of the local and the global.

Therefore, our contributions and use of resources are chosen to build capacity for effecting both our neighborhood and our planet.

We believe in seeking the common good.

Therefore, we both relate to and serve the whole with a sense of responsibility for engaging in teamwork, collaboration and partnering.

SIMPLICITY

We believe living with “*enoughness*” allows abundance for all.

Therefore, when making decisions we are mindful of our ecological footprint, equity in the workplace, and protection of those most vulnerable in our society.

We believe simple sustainable actions ripple out to affect our social, economic, environmental and cultural ecologies.

Therefore, we interact with moral and ethical integrity in all our relationships.

We believe we work best from realizing our potential to evolve our thinking.

Therefore, we go beyond problem-solving to stimulate emerging systemic change.

We believe simple presence and prayer contribute to healing our world.

Therefore, we embrace contemplation, compassion, active listening and the joyful celebration of life.

Core Values, Belief, and Call Statements

DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR ALL

We believe all life has an inherent right to thrive.

Therefore, we support the rights of all aspects of creation and commit to standing with those whose rights are denied.

We believe in the dignity of differences.

Therefore, we respect and make space for difference and diversity that co-exists in a pluralistic, multicultural world.

We believe in minimizing dualism and maximizing integration.

Therefore, we honor distinction, complementarity and unity rather than division and rupture in our relationships with nature and one another.

We believe that every -ism denies others the respect, dignity and rights due to them.

Therefore, we call ourselves and others to accountability in contributing to stereotypes, prejudice and bigotry of any kind.

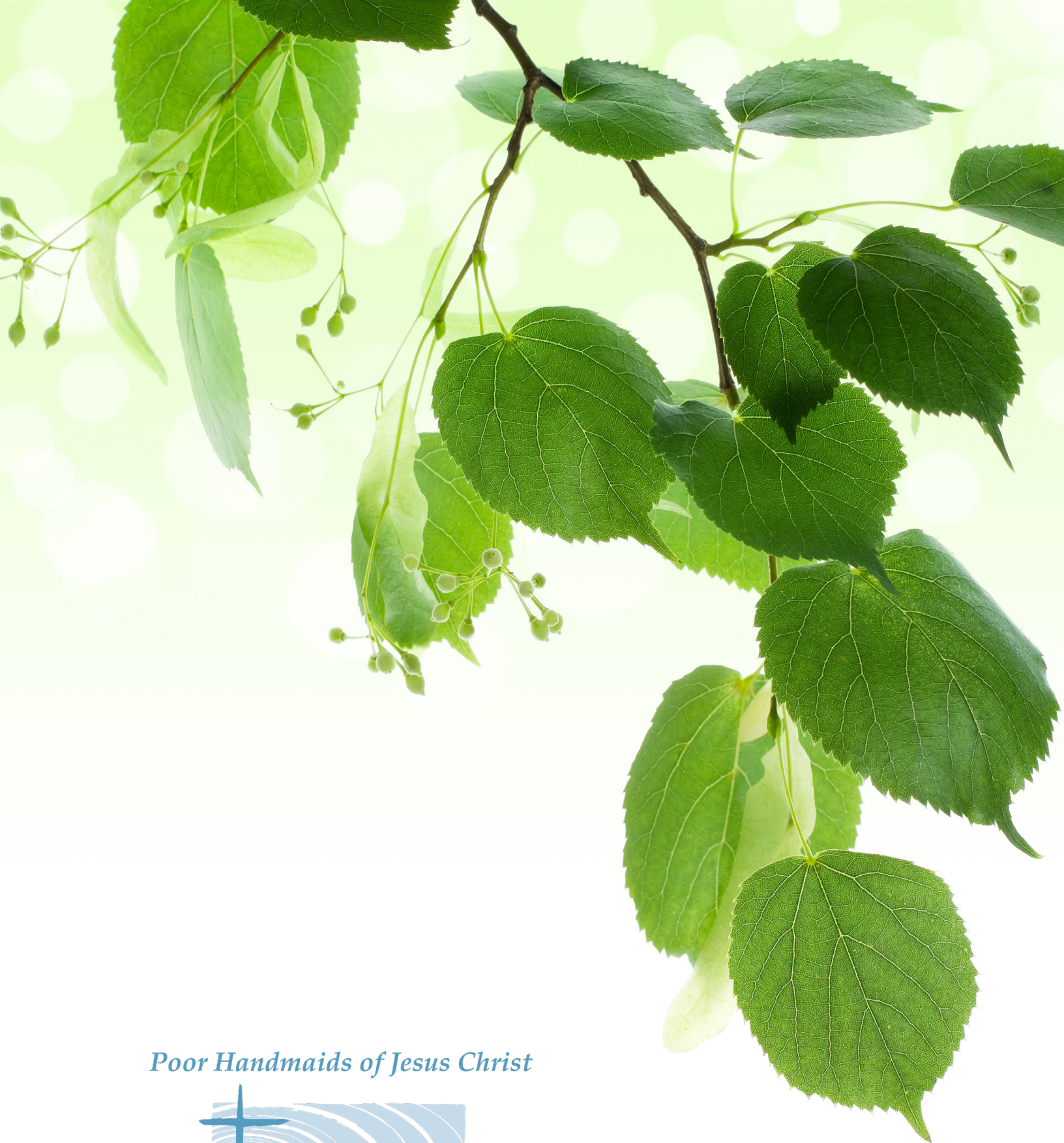
Adopted March 6, 2021



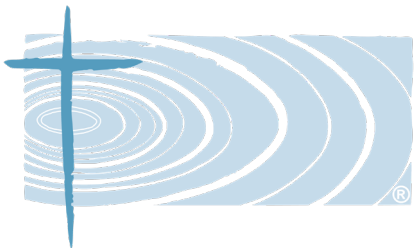
The Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person** – All people are sacred, made in the image and likeness of God. People do not lose dignity because of disability, poverty, age, lack of success, or race. This emphasizes people over things, being over having.
- **Call to Family, Community, and Participation** – The human person is both sacred and social. We realize our dignity and rights in relationships with others, in community. “We are one body; when one suffers, we all suffer.” We are called to respect all of God’s gifts of creation, to be good stewards of the earth and each other.
- **Rights and Responsibilities** – People have a fundamental right to life, food, shelter, health care, education, and employment. All people have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to respect the rights of others in the wider society and to work for the common good.
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable** – The moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. The poor have the most urgent moral claim on the conscience of the nation. We are called to look at public policy decisions in terms of how they affect the poor.
- **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers** – People have a right to decent and productive work, fair wages, private property, and economic initiative. The economy exists to serve people, not the other way around.
- **Solidarity** – We are one human family. Our responsibilities to each other cross national, racial, economic, and ideological differences. We are called to work globally for justice.
- **Care for God’s Creation** – The goods of the earth are gifts from God. We have a responsibility to care for these goods as stewards and trustees, not as mere consumers, and users.

Adopted November 1983. USCCB



Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit