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Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Announce New U.S. Province Leadership Team for 2025–2029

Donaldson, Indiana — September 22, 2025 — With deep gratitude and great hope, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC) announce the newly elected U.S. Province Leadership Team who will serve from **2025 to 2029**. The **installation ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2025, at 2:00pm ET** in Ancilla Domini Chapel, Donaldson, IN.

This announcement comes as the U.S. Province stands at a threshold moment—honoring its roots while crossing into new, grace-filled possibilities revealed during the 23rd U.S. Province Chapter. That sacred gathering invited sisters to think differently, more deeply, and more contemplatively, embracing a vision of transformation through justice, integral living, intercultural communion, and mission rooted in compassion.

U.S. Province Leadership 2025–2029

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- **Province Leader:** Sister Shirley Bell, PHJC (*reelected for a second term*)
- **Councilor:** Sister Deborah Davis, PHJC (*reelected*)
- **Councilor:** Sister Marybeth Martin, PHJC (*reelected*)
- **Councilor:** Sister Connie Bach, PHJC (*newly elected*)
- **Councilor:** Sister Margaret Anne Henss, PHJC (*newly elected*)

This **newly expanded five-member council** reflects a Chapter decision to increase leadership capacity and widen the circle of communal discernment. Together, the team brings experience, insight, and a shared openness to the Spirit's movement.

A Time of Grace and Transition

The Chapter's theme—“*Standing at the Threshold of the Unimaginable*”—echoes through this leadership transition. In alignment with mandates from the 2025 General Chapter and U.S. Vision Process, the new team is called to steward the PHJC mission by:

- Nurturing **communities in communion** across generations, cultures, and ministries
- Addressing the needs of the **poor and powerless** with renewed listening and presence
- Acting as **catalysts for transformation**, both within and beyond the congregation
- Deepening commitment to **land justice, ecological integrity, and intercultural living and relationships within the Spiritual Family of Saint Katharina Kasper**
- Supporting **ministries** with courage and creativity amid evolving political, social, and financial landscapes



Looking Ahead

The leadership team will begin their official term following the November installation. As they prepare, the spirit of collaboration and sacred trust is already taking root.

“I am humbled to continue serving as Province Leader and to welcome new councilors to this journey,” said *Sister Shirley Bell, PHJC*. “We are called to walk together with open hearts, listening to where the Spirit is leading us. This call to lead is a sacred trust.”

About the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ is an international congregation of Catholic women religious rooted in the spirit of St. Katharina Kasper. In Donaldson and throughout the world, the Sisters live in community and service, responding to emerging needs with courage and compassion.