

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 2 Part presentation of the Centennial Gala of the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Inc.

**What:** Centennial Gala of the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Inc.

**When:** Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Where:** Channel 25 & 22 (NYC Media) - Visit [www.CCPTV.org](http://www.CCPTV.org) for more show times

**Time:** 5:30pm – 6:00pm

Cultural Caravan TV will present a two part special featuring highlights of the *Centennial Gala of the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Inc. (FHM)*, one of only three orders of Black nuns in the United States. The Harlem-based order, best known for its work in educating children and feeding the poor, will celebrate its 100th anniversary. In 2014, the order was preparing to close



after economic hardships, a decline in interest in religious life by young Americans and an aging and infirm membership had dealt a near death blow to the group. A message from Pope Francis helped save from the brink the order, which was formed in Savannah, Georgia, in 1916 in response to proposed segregationist legislation that would prohibit White religious leaders from educating and providing pastoral care to Blacks in the state. The Rev. Ignatius Lissner joined forces with Miss Barbara Williams (later to become Mother Theodore Williams), a Black woman from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to found an order of Black women that could continue to address the needs of the Black community. In 1923, the group moved to Harlem at the request of Cardinal Patrick Hayes and launched one of the first preschool educational programs in New York.

This episode will feature *His Eminence Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan*, Archbishop of New York; Phyllis Yvonne Stickney, award-winning actress and comedian, the *Honorable Charles B. Rangel*, U.S. congressman, the *Rev. Al Sharpton*, National Action Network President & Founder, *Carmen Ruby Floyd*, Broadway actress and singer, and *David Ushery*, WNBC-TV anchor. This program is co-hosted by Rabin Nickens and Louise Dente. We invite you to tune in on [Sunday, April 10, from 5:30pm to 6pm on Channel 25/22](#).

Cultural Caravan TV can be seen on NYC-Life (Channel 25 or Channel 22) weeknights on-air, cable, and satellite as well as throughout the five boroughs, Long Island, Westchester. Viewers in New Jersey and Connecticut must check local listing for stations that carry NYC Life in their area. Cultural Caravan TV is one of the few programs that celebrate the local African and American experience on TV in the Tri-State area.

Please support our programming and tell your friends and family about us. Check out our website at [www.ccptv.org](http://www.ccptv.org) for further information.

Respectfully,

Louise Dente  
CEO and Founder,

Cultural Caravan Productions, Inc.  
Website: [www.ccptv.org](http://www.ccptv.org)