



# ACS

## Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters † September 2009

# C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

## TO OUR SCC ALUMNAE



*Sister Marie Jose De la Rosa ('09) and Sister Maria Angeline ('09) were received as novices of the Sisters of Christian Charity on August 20.*



*Sister Maria Clare Nagle ('07) and Sister Karen Marie Benfer ('07) made their profession of First Vows on August 16. These Sisters currently reside at St. Elizabeth Convent, Bernardsville, NJ while pursuing their BA in Education and Theology at the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, NJ.*



*Sister Ann Marie Paul (theology professor at ACS, 2000-2008) and Sister Maria Goretti Nguyen ('04) made their perpetual profession on August 15. Sister Ann Marie is currently pursuing an internship at Susquehanna Health, Williamsport, PA after having received her MHA in Health Care Administration from Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ. Sister Maria Goretti resides at Our Lady of Lourdes Convent, Denville, NJ while pursuing a BA in Education at Felician College, Lodi, NJ.*

## ACS Alumnae Spotlight

Sister Joan DiRienzo, MPF, a member of Assumption College for Sisters Class of 1974, has received the 2009 National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Distinguished Principal Award for New York State. Sister Joan was one of twelve awardees throughout the country. To be eligible for this award, a principal must be nominated by the diocesan

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# Summer Experiences

This summer, two ACS alumnae, Sister Carol Schuyler ('70) and Sister Joseph Spring ('67) participated in the Bearing Witness program, a professional development opportunity for Catholic school educators.

Sister Carol participated in the first part of the program, which provides training and resources to

teach students about the historical relationship between Jewish and Catholic communities and the impact of that relationship on Catholic teaching, catechesis, and liturgy.

Sister Joseph participated in Bearing Witness Advanced, and traveled to Israel with 18 Catholic school educators from around the country. This program provided

educators with an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of Israel against the backdrop of Jewish history, the Holocaust and Catholic-Jewish relations.

Since its inception, Bearing Witness has trained more than 1000 Catholic school educators. It is sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and endorsed by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Alumnae Spotlight *Continued from Page 1*

superintendent of schools, present clear examples of leadership activities, and have the support of teachers on the staff, as well as parents and another principal. A panel of peers selects the awardees of each region.

Currently missioned at St. Bernadette School in Brooklyn, NY, Sister Joan has been the principal there for the past ten

years. In 2008, St. Bernadette School was named an NCLB National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, the only non-public school so awarded in New York State. Sister Joan is passionate about Catholic education. In her view, it is the surest way of ensuring the future leadership of our Church and country.

Sister Joan owes her success, in part, to the educational foundation she received at Assumption College for Sisters, where she earned an A.A. degree.

After graduating from ACS, Sister Joan received her B.A. in Education from Felician College in Lodi, NJ, an M.A. in Religious Studies from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, PA, and an M.S. in Education from Fordham University in New York. She is grateful to her religious community, the Religious Teachers Filippini, for all of these educational opportunities and ultimately to Almighty God for the gifts she has received throughout her life.

## From the President...

Sir Isaac Newton wrote, "If we seem to see farther than others, it is because we stand on the shoulders of giants." As the new leader of ACS, I can't say I see farther than others, but I can say with great certitude, that I stand on the shoulders of giants.

As I reflect on the past history of ACS, I have experienced first hand (I guess that dates me!), the visionary leadership of Sister Augustilde, the passion for imparting "the good, the true, and the beautiful" of Sister Cecile, the gentle guidance of Sister Mary Gerard, the tenacity to reaching goals of Sister Julitta, and the courage to expand the horizons of ACS of Sister Mary Joseph. As we begin the new academic year with the theme, "Together, we can make a difference," it is my hope and prayer that I can join my gifts of mind and heart with those of the ACS community, so that the faith and learning imbibed within the walls of ACS do not remain confined here, but reverberate throughout our immediate locale, our nation, and our global village.

With the commitment of the ACS administration, staff, faculty, and students along with the aid and support of you, the friends of ACS, we can make it happen – "Together, we can make a difference!"

*With prayerful gratitude,*  
Sister Joseph Spring, SCC



"Together, we can make a difference!"



### Assumption College for Sisters

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Sister Joseph Spring, SCC *President*

Sister Gerardine Tantsits, SCC *Academic Dean / Registrar*

Sister Theresa Bower, SCC *Librarian*

Sister Ida Heinzmann, SCC *Dean of Students*

## What is Experience Worth?

If a picture is worth a thousand words, what is an experience worth? Sister Mary Veronica and the students in her summer course, "The Church: It's Nature and History", found out when they attended Liturgy at St. Nicholas Catholic Orthodox Church in Great Meadows, NJ at the invitation of Mr. Gerard Muench, a student in the course and member of the congregation.

The Byzantine liturgy, celebrated by Rev. Petro Zybaryek, was in English with notable differences from the Roman Rite. In particular, participants received the Body of Christ, being in the shape of a cube that the priest dipped into the chalice. Then, carefully placing it into the communicant's mouth, the priest says: Sister N., Servant of God, receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Parishioners and students said it was a day they would long remember. Elena Parres, a student, said: "Studying at ACS had already 'opened my mind' and showed me the richness of the Catholic Church, but visiting and participating in the Byzantine Liturgy opened my eyes and mind even more. God is so beyond what we can imagine!"

What is experience worth? Words in a classroom could never tell!

Further enrichment was provided by Sister Josita Marks, SCC, ('69) who lectured on Celtic spirituality and imparted to the class a new understanding of the depth and breadth of "Church."



## ACS Welcomes New Students



▲ ACS welcomes new students from Africa and Vietnam, shown from left to right: Sister M. Joyce Mwanisenga, OSB; Sister Anna Duong, LHC; Sister Anna Thoi Nguyen, LHC; Sister M. Nazarena Figawo, OSB; Sister Mary Sabina Ndungge, CPS; Sister Mary Francis Vu, FMSR; Sister Maria Pham, FMV; Sister Idda Uisso, ALCS; Sister Mary Do, FMSR.

◀ ACS welcomes SCC's into their formation program: Elizabeth Tartaglia, SCC; Sister Maria Erin SaldiviaVidal, SCC.

▼ ACS welcomes neighboring religious communities, shown from left to right: Maria Cerisola, SDV; Guerline Joseph, FMA; Janet Keller, FMA; Brittany Harrison, FMA; Alina Suarez, FMA; Juliett Perez, FMA.



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# Save the Date!

## THE NINTH ANNUAL CARING BASKET GALA

Thursday, March 25, 2010 at the Hanover Marriott, Whippany, NJ



### Click and Shop to Support ACS!

Shopping or searching online with **iGive** means a donation for ACS; a penny or more per search, a **\$5 bonus** for your first purchase and up to 26% of your purchases at over 730 stores like Amazon, eBay, Travelocity, Home Depot, and many, many more. Plus, you **SAVE** money with exclusive coupons/free shipping deals. **iGive.com** is a trusted site that has been earning donations to ACS for some time.

From the **iGive.com** website, navigate to your favorite retailer,

shop and purchase as usual and ACS automatically receives a donation. Why not make your regular purchases for your business or home through **iGive.com**?

It only takes a minute to register; **be sure to name Assumption College for Sisters as your charity of choice.**

If you have questions or need "tech support" contact [lscarpa99@hotmail.com](mailto:lscarpa99@hotmail.com)

### Autumn Raffle

Tickets have been mailed for our annual 50/50 raffle!

The drawing will be **November 29, 2009.**

**Three cash prizes will be awarded.**

All proceeds directly benefit the students of Assumption College for Sisters.

For tickets please contact ACS at **973-543-6528 x 225**