

ACS

Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ February 2017

Pauline at 200

As President of Assumption College for Sisters, Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, always says that ACS was a dream born from the heart of the foundress of the Sisters of Christian Charity, Blessed Pauline. She was convinced of the surpassing value of the ministry of education, requiring her young Sisters to become as qualified professionally as their contemporary lay counterparts. Simultaneously intent on their religious formation, she provided for an integrated program of spiritual, intellectual, and cultural development. And who was this woman? Pauline von Mallinckrodt was born on June 3, 1817 in Minden, Westphalia (Germany). Her family's wealth and prestige did not close her mind to the hardships of others. As a young woman, she was particularly involved with the poverty-stricken



Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt

families on the outskirts of Paderborn. She nursed their sick and brought them food. To aid them still further, she opened her own day-care center for the children of working mothers—an undertaking which brought to her attention the needs of the blind children and led to her founding of a school for the blind.

When Pauline's work of charity became too vast for her to manage alone, the Bishop of Paderborn advised her to found a religious community where she would be known as Mother Pauline. The Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity, founded by Pauline in 1849, spread rapidly to North and South America and to several European countries where education became the primary apostolate. Mother Pauline died on April 30, 1881 and was raised to the honor of Blessed on April 15, 1985.

Continued on Page 2

A Merciful Heart: Blessed Pauline and the Year of Mercy

A lecture entitled, "A Merciful Heart: Blessed Pauline and the Year of Mercy", followed by the Evening Prayer of the Church was presented on October 23 at Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, by Sister Ann Marie Paul, SCC, Director of Passaic Neighborhood Center for Women.

In attendance were the international Sister students who attend the college, members of the faculty and administration, Companions of Pauline, as well as several guests.

So, as we commemorate the 200th birthday of Blessed Pauline, we once again entrust Assumption College for Sisters to her protection, the fulfillment of her dream. As an interesting sidebar, Sister Sarah Nakyesa, LSOE, the Regional Superior of the Jinja Region, Uganda, visited Assumption College for Sisters in December, 2016. In speaking about Mother Pauline, she commented: "What seemed to be a dream is now a reality. What Mother Pauline, Foundress of the Sisters of Christian Charity wished for, has been accomplished: to have a college like ACS that will empower Sisters from all over the world from every race, nationality, tribe and congregation by giving them quality education. Certainly, Mother Pauline is in Heaven looking at each Sister saying: 'Thank you, my daughters, for carrying on the work we started; thank you for not letting me down. I am praying for each one of you. Never grow tired of serving the Lord in His people. The crown of good and faithful servants awaits each one of you.' "

Welcome New Faculty

Ms. Katherine Clyne:

Instructor, Fine Arts Appreciation Music

Mr. Craig Davis:

*Instructor, Historical Introduction to Philosophy,
Concurrent Enrollment Program*

Mr. Roger Richard:

Instructor, World Civilization II

Ms. Leslie Monchar:

Librarian

Mr. Chris Zegar:

Instructor, World Civilization I



Sister Anna Thoi Nguyen, LHC, (ACS '12) has been inducted into Alpha Sigma Nu of Loyola University, Chicago where she is pursuing a Master's degree. This is the honor society of Jesuit institutions of higher education. This is one of the highest honors awarded on a Jesuit campus. Inductees must be in the top 15% in their classes and only 4% of the eligible students.

Vocation Story

Each month students of Morris Catholic High School engage in a "Town Hall" Meeting during their Commons period with over four hundred students in attendance. On November 14, after Principal Robert Loia opened the session with prayer and made some exciting announcements including regional sports victories, ACS students Sister Eusebia Urassa, CPS, from Tanzania, and Sister Monica Nakawala, LSOSE, from Uganda were invited to share their vocation stories. The Sister-students also related to the high school students some of the ministries of their congregations and the challenges faced in their native lands. The communities of both ACS and MCHS continue to be enriched through learning opportunities.



Pictured from L to R: Sister Monica Nakawala, LSOSE, Principal Rob Loia, Sister Eusebia Urassa, CPS

A New Look for ACS

Thanks to the leadership of Mrs. Kristine Donovan, chair of the Facilities Committee on the ACS Board of Trustees, ACS has been getting a “face lift”. Beginning in early fall and continuing for the next several weeks, volunteers Tony Sturla and Tim Shea have been tireless in their efforts to beautify the exterior of the college building. Several of their friends have been engaged in providing both manpower and expertise. Through the generosity of John Harrington and Mike Roske from Harrington Paving, old shrubs and small trees were removed and a large tree taken down. Assistance was given, too, from the wrestling team of Morris Catholic High School. Sal Cortese did some very necessary masonry work. In addition, front steps were repaired and hand railings were installed.

In the computer lab, through the generosity of the Donovan family, new computer tables were installed and computer chairs were purchased. Nick D’Amato and Vince Suhocki mounted the projection equipment and Jim Matthews, the father of the computer instructor Jean Wiedemeier, fashioned book holders.

Adjunct instructor Stephanie Melick assisted Coordinator of Residential Student Services Sister Marie Cecilia Landis in painting the kitchen after new cabinets were donated and installed by Peter Mills and Tim Shea.

The Annual Fund: Teach a Sister Touch the World!

The Annual Fund seeks to enhance the educational and spiritual formation programs offered at the college. All contributions to the Annual Fund assist the college and its students in achieving measurable success as they prepare for a life of service.

Thank you to the many who have responded with a gift. If you have not had the opportunity to pledge, there is still time. Donations may be made by check, payable to Assumption College for Sisters; credit card by calling the college at 973-957-0188 x 101; or online giving at acs350.org.

From the Field

In our last newsletter, we featured Sister Jacinta, CPS, who is ministering in a dangerous area of Sudan. Subsequently, her provincial superior, Sister Caroline Mjomba wrote: “Our Sisters and our people here are doing well. They are very happy to see us. Greetings especially from Sr. Cinta. The traumatized people here are full of appreciation for what the Sisters are to them. We had a humbling and touching experience when a group of them visited us this morning just to show their appreciation. As poor as they are they gave us gifts that reminded me of the Gospel widow’s mite. Imagine soap and salt are a luxury here!”



Field Trip to New York City

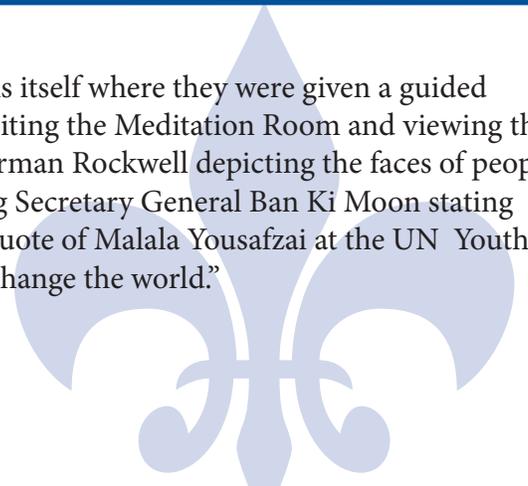
On October 20, forty students and several faculty of Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, visited St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Holy See Mission to the United Nations and had a guided tour through the United Nations.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, participants on the trip had the opportunity to enter through the Holy Door, thus obtaining the blessings associated with the Year of Mercy. They also observed the bronze doors in which Carved into their facades are the figures of holy men and women. They include: St. Joseph, St. Isaac Jogues, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Patrick, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. One of the guides admitted the group to the crypt in which the bodies of Archbishop Hughes, the visionary behind the construction of the Cathedral, all of the archbishops who have served the Archdiocese of New York as well as Servant of God Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, and Venerable Pierre Toussaint.

The group then traveled to the Holy See Mission to the United Nations where Msgr. Tomasz Grysa, member of the staff of the Most Reverend Bernardito C. Auza, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN, described the role and work of the Mission. He shared with faculty and students that the Holy See, by its very nature and tradition, can offer information and guidance that should animate the member nations and their relationships. The Holy See, by its own choice, has the status of Permanent Observer rather than a Member State so that it can remain neutral in specific political problems. The Archbishop and his staff participate on committees within the United Nations.



Following this meeting, the group traveled to the United Nations itself where they were given a guided tour. Some of the highlights of the very interesting tour were visiting the Meditation Room and viewing the Chagall windows surrounding it; seeing the mosaic done by Norman Rockwell depicting the faces of people of the world representing the "Golden Rule"; the display quoting Secretary General Ban Ki Moon stating "the world is over-armed and peace is under-funded," and the quote of Malala Yousafzai at the UN Youth Assembly, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."



Psychology Field Trip – All Around Town

This fall, the General Psychology class had been experiencing the biopsychosocial aspects of psychology, the perspective that who we are is a composite of our biology, psychology and culture. While all are born with many God-given abilities, our beliefs and surroundings enable and nurture us to reach our full potential.

Students also engaged in a naturalistic observational field experience by taking a tour of their college town of Denville. But the highlight of the naturalistic observational study was the extensive tour of the Denville Police Department.

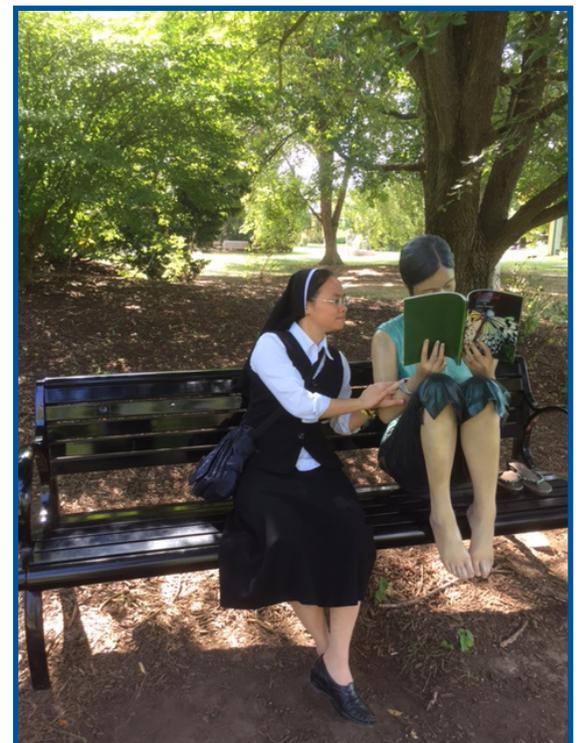
Many students compared the openness and welcoming atmosphere at the police station with the police from their own countries. One student commented

that she observed a plaque on one of the police officer's desk that read "Working for God." This amazed her as Christians would not be allowed to work for the police in her country. One student observed that the police in Denville were kind, lovely and socialized, much different than the police from her country.



Grounds for Sculpture Field Trip

At the beginning of the fall semester, on a warm summer day in the mid-eighties, the third-year students visited Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton Township, New Jersey. Accompanied by Coordinator of Residential International Student Services, Sr. Marie Cecilia Landis and their art history instructor, Dr. Katherine Rangoon Doyle, the students enjoyed an interactive experience with an impressive array of sculpture. Some of the works were monumental and were sited within the gorgeous natural landscape of hills and lakes. Others were smaller or life-sized, allowing the Sisters to walk around them or even sit next to them. Many of the sculptures were based on figures from iconic works of painting, such as those by the French Impressionists. This was the college's first trip to Grounds for Sculpture and a very different kind of experience than visiting a traditional art museum. At the sculpture park, the students were invited to touch and explore, encouraging active involvement and reinforcing exposure to the myriad types of visual expression that fall into the history of art.



Sister Mary Kieu Nguyen, FMSR

Authors Among Us: Assumption College for Sisters

A few years ago, we had highlighted Dr. Jo Anne Sylva who authored *How Italy and Her People Shaped Cardinal Newman*.

Last year, we had shared that ACS Board Chair, Andrew Anselmi, authored *Autumn Crush*, an epic tale of immigration to America with a twist of mystery and intrigue.

Stuart Murphy, mathematics instructor at the College has authored *Carbon Conspiracy*, a mystery about environmental experts exploring the real story of global warming.

Leslie Monchar, ACS librarian has co-authored with Marlene Schiffman and Joyce Levine, *Creating a Collection: A Basic Book List for Judaic Libraries*, a helpful volume for those working in Jewish institutions.

And finally, Dr. Wayne Merkling, ACS student, is the author of *The Crucifix, the Flag, and a Blackboard*, a work which studies the development of our Catholic educational heritage, reexamines the legacy we have been given, and reminds all of the privilege of the work that we carry out.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNAE: Sister Alfreda Ngonyani, OSB



Sister Alfreda Ngonyani, OSB

Sister Alfreda Ngonyani, a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady Help of Christians congregation, graduated from ACS in 2013 before continuing her

On reflecting at her time at ACS, Sister Alfreda shared, "With a heart full of gratitude I write to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity afforded me to study at Assumption College for Sisters. For three years you took care of me by paying my tuition and board. You prepared me very well. I am sure it was a big expense given from your generosity and compassion for me and our Congregation in Tanzania."

education at the College of St. Mary in Omaha, Nebraska where she earned her Bachelor's degree in education. Sister Alfreda currently teaches third and fourth grade at Rahaleo Primary school in Mtwara, Tanzania with 100 and 88 students respectively. Besides teaching, Sister Alfreda also assists her community by working in their small church.



Students of Assumption College for Sisters Celebrate the International Day of Peace

On September 21, international resident students and several faculty of Assumption College for Sisters in Denville, gathered in the convent chapel to pray a special Evening Prayer commemorating the International Day of Peace. At the beginning of the prayer, ACS faculty member, Jean Wedemeier, explained and distributed mission rosaries that she herself made, reminding the students and those assembled, that only through prayer will world peace be achieved. Flags of the various countries represented by the students were depicted surrounding a globe placed in front of the altar.



The International Day of Peace was created in 1981 when the United Nations resolved to observe September 21 each year for the purpose of fostering peace throughout the world through focusing on common goals, alleviating tensions and recognizing causes of conflict. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has used the International Day of Peace to call for a nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. UN member states have also been urged to commemorate the International Day of Peace with a global ceasefire in any sort of warfare that they are engaged in. By creating the International Day of Peace, the UN devoted itself to worldwide peace and encouraged all of humankind to work in cooperation for this goal.

To inaugurate the day, the “Peace Bell” is rung at UN Headquarters. The bell is cast from coins donated by children from all continents. It was given as a gift by the Diet of Japan, and is referred to as “a reminder of the human cost of war.” The inscription on its side reads: “Long live absolute world peace.”

Pictured is the Peace Bell located at the United Nations in New York.

ACS Board Chair Receives Paterson Diocese first Advocati Christi Award

On October 2, at the Inaugural Red Mass in the Diocese of Paterson, Andrew E. Anselmi was honored with the Advocati Christi Award. Cited in the program for the award:

Andrew is a founding director at McCusker, Anselmi & Caraveilli, PC and former associate at Lowenstein Sandler, PC, is well known in the legal community for his unique combination of professional skill and passionate advocacy, flavored with uncommon compassion and grace. He practices law in the same manner that he practices life—consistent with the faith and traditions of the Catholic Church.”

We are proud to have Andrew as the first lay person to chair our Assumption College for Sisters Board of Trustees.



Andrew E. Anselmi, Esq.

SAVE THE DATE! *The Sixteenth Annual Caring Basket Gala*

Servant Leader Award:



Fr. Brian G. Plate



Family Life Award:



Eileen and Les Quick

Spirit of the Heart Award:

In support of
Assumption College
for Sisters

March 23, 2017
at 6:30 pm
The Hanover Marriott,
Whippany, NJ

*Teach a Sister...
Touch the World!*



Prudence and Terry Pigott

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

200 A MORRIS AVENUE
DENVER, NJ 07834

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