



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2015-2016**



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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

In the past few annual reports, I spoke to you concerning our potential relocation from the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity, Mendham, NJ, to the campus of Morris Catholic High School, Denville, NJ.

Well, it has happened! We have been enjoying a favorable relationship with the administration and staff of Morris Catholic as well as with their amazing high school students. As you can well imagine, this is a big step in the history of Assumption College for Sisters. Pope Francis has said, “Those who do not walk for fear of making a mistake make the most serious mistake”. Well, we walked, we loaded moving vans, and we moved in!

It has been a year of challenges (accompanied by miracles!) for administration, faculty, and students, but all were committed to the task of ensuring the success of Assumption College for Sisters.

One of the highlights this year was the statement of reaccreditation of ACS by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. On these few pages, I am quoting extensively from the Middle States Visiting Team report which I believe gives a more objective picture of Assumption College for Sisters.

As you read, you will see just how successful we have been. And of course, we count on the support of you, our friends and benefactors, to continue believing in the mission of our little college — to “teach a Sister...touch the world.”

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC  
President

## ANNUAL REPORT

Assumption College for Sisters (ACS), sponsored by the Sisters of Christian Charity and founded in 1953, first as an extension of Seton Hall College (now University) and then separately incorporated in 1961, is now an independent college, authorized to confer as AA degree on religious women and those in formation for a religious congregation.

Until now, ACS has been housed within the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity in Mendham, NJ. As of August 2015, it has now found a new home on the campus of Morris Catholic High School (MCHS), Denville, NJ. The administration, faculty and students of MCHS have welcomed the presence of religious women from the United States and developing nations on their campus. ACS students have enjoyed a first-hand glimpse of Catholic secondary education.

We can assure you that at our new site, the College is, and will still remain, the embodiment of the heritage received from Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt who founded the congregation in Paderborn, Germany in 1849. It witnesses to her conviction that the Sisters should be well-prepared, both spiritually and professionally, to spread the Kingdom of God through sound education, from which, in her words, “flows the temporal and eternal welfare of the individual and of society.”

Assumption College for Sisters is licensed by the Commission on Higher Education of the State of New Jersey and accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The College earned its initial accreditation in 1965 and reaffirmation of accreditation in 1975, 1985, 1995, and 2016.

MSCHE is also recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to accredit degree-granting institutions which offer one or more post-secondary educational programs of at least one academic year in length in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania,

Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and other geographic areas in which the Commission conducts accrediting activities.

The Commission is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association that defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations, and resources. It examines each institution as a whole, rather than specific programs within institutions.

The College is a member of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, (267)284-5000 and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. It is an approved member of the Student and Exchange Visitor System (SEVIS) of the United States Department of Homeland Security.

### **Mission and Goals**

*Assumption College for Sisters exists primarily to educate women called to a life of service in the Roman Catholic Church. (Mission Statement)*

Rooted in its 63 year history, the education of women called by God to the consecrated life remains the heart of the mission of Assumption College for Sisters. Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt, foundress of the Sisters of Christian Charity, always intended that her Sisters be as well prepared professionally as their lay counterparts.

Since its actual founding in 1953, Assumption College for Sisters has provided a religious environment in which a young religious' spirit would be nurtured while she is in the process of attaining an academic degree.

In the recent Middle States visit, under the heading of Mission and Goals, it was stated "the team commends ACS for its commitment and adherence to its unique mission, which integrated religious formation with a rigorous academic education in an environment that embraces significant global diversity."

They further cited that “The Mission and Goals support scholarly and creative activity at a higher education level within a solid liberal arts curriculum, prioritizing theology and philosophy and a core curriculum. Each division reflects teaching from a global perspective. The Mission and Goals relate to external and internal contexts and constituencies. These are demonstrated by cultural enrichment opportunities: field trips, international students cultural events, service at College and community-sponsored events, sharing culture with a local school, leadership through peer to peer tutoring and peer learning, community by incorporating student language and customs in liturgy and cultural songs/dances, music in celebrations, and application of coursework with social justice issues to the culture and ministries of ACS students.”

The goals of Assumption College for Sisters clearly support its mission. This is demonstrated by the involvement of the religious women who are students at the college, whether they are members of the sponsoring congregation, those of neighboring religious congregations, or international Sisters here on scholarship. Some examples of events during the academic year, illustrate this involvement.

- **Integrated Religious Formation**

“Throughout its history, Assumption College for Sisters has consistently maintained its focus and distinctive mission of educating women religious. By providing sound theology and philosophy courses in an atmosphere of integrity and shared vision, the administration and faculty strive to enhance the religious formation of the students within the context of their own distinctive community charisms.” (*Bulletin* 2013-2016)

- Participation in the annual Mass and social for young religious sponsored by the Diocese of Paterson
- Attendance at the “*Transitus*” service at the Motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth
- Pilgrimage to the shrine of Blessed Miriam Teresa
- Tour of parish ministries at Corpus Christi Parish, Chatham
- Tour of Sacred Heart Basilica, Newark

- **Leadership**

“ACS strives to form women who will be a light for the world and a leaven in society. Whatever form their service may take, Assumption’s students need to be prepared to assume the responsibility of Christian leadership and the commitment to bring, through countercultural witness, the Gospel message to God’s people. The College aims to instill qualities of leadership in its students...” (*Bulletin* 2013-2016).

- Engaging in classroom visits to local elementary school
- Giving vocation talks during Catholic Schools Week
- Organizing entertainment for the Caring Basket Gala and various programs

- **Community**

“Community, founded on service and respect for each person’s dignity, ranks among Assumption’s most cherished values. Intrinsic to its heritage, the College strives to further the vision of Blessed Pauline and the spirit of Christian Charity she imparted to her Sisters” (*Bulletin* 2013-2016).

- Providing welcome and hospitality to various groups visiting the college
- Cooperative planning of multi-cultural entertainment and liturgical worship
- Being present at sporting and cultural functions at MCHS

- **Service**

“Service, central to Christian discipleship, is an essential aspect of ACS. Students are expected to avail themselves of opportunities to prepare for a life of service in the Church” (*Bulletin* 2013-2016).

- Actively assisting with the move of furniture and equipment from the Mendham site to the Denville site.
- Providing care and maintenance of the ACS facility
- Assisting with the mailing and sale of 50/50 raffle tickets for the annual Gala

- Becoming CPR certified in order to be of assistance in an emergency

- **Social Justice**

“Growing out of a firm belief in the dignity of each person, faculty and students at ACS strive to see the face of Jesus in all. They seek ways to embrace the poor and eliminate systems of oppression worldwide” (*Bulletin* 2013-2016).

- Participating in the prayer service for International Day of World Peace (September 21)
- Praying the rosary to protest Planned Parenthood
- Visiting the Morris Plains 9/11 Memorial
- Praying each day for a special country in which Christians are begin persecuted

### **Curriculum**

“The liberal arts curriculum provides the principal vehicle of academic instruction at Assumption College for Sisters. Approved by the Commission on Higher Education of the State of New Jersey, the curriculum gives priority to Catholic theology and philosophy.

The curriculum at Assumption College for Sisters is designed to reflect a global perspective that incorporates an awareness of and respect for the viewpoints, cultures, and customs of all peoples. Through the teaching and study of the contributions of the world community to humankind, ACS strives to broaden student horizons by realizing the connectedness of all individuals whose common needs call each person to strive for the peace and justice of Gospel teaching” (*Bulletin* 2013-2016).

In the recent report from the Middle States visiting team it was stated that: “Based on a review of the self-study, other institutional documents, and interviews with faculty, staff, students, and others, the team developed the following conclusions relative to the standard:



“The institution’s educational offerings display appropriate academic content, rigor, and coherence as well as real world application for learning. The institution also identifies student learning goals and objectives, including knowledge and skills, for each of its educational offerings. In fact, in the spirit of the Middle States Characteristics, Educational courses, programs, and experiences at ACS are characterized as part of a dynamic four-step cycle:

- Developing clearly articulated written statements of expected learning outcomes;
  - Designing learning experiences that provide explicit opportunities for students to achieve those learning outcomes;
  - Implementing appropriate measures of student achievement of key learning outcomes; and
  - Using the results of those assessments to improve teaching and learning goals that are stated in terms of student learning outcomes;
- The team also cites that among the standards of excellence met are the following:
    - Periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of any curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular experiences that the institution provides its students and utilization of evaluation results as a basis for improving its student development program and for enabling students to understand their own educational progress);
    - Provision of comparable quality of teaching/instruction, academic rigor, and educational effectiveness of the institution’s courses and programs regardless of the location or delivery mode;
    - Course syllabi that incorporate expected learning outcomes.”

In this same vein, the team commended ACS “for their innovative approach to library resources by partnering with Morris [Catholic] High School staff, as well as, the web based Ed 099 course on information literacy while still maintaining selected print resources.”

Based on a review of the self-study, other institutional documents, and interviews with faculty, staff, students, and others, the team developed the following conclusions relative to curriculum:

“The institution’s curricula are designed so that students acquire and demonstrate College-level proficiency in general education and essential skills, including at least oral and written communication, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical analysis and reasoning, and technological competency.

ACS meets the challenges of the General Education Standard by striking an appropriate balance between specialized and more general knowledge. The institution’s ability to demonstrate that its students are able to integrate and apply in different cultural contexts including the core knowledge and skills learned in their coursework is a critical component of successful undergraduate educational programs.”

At the College, both Administration and Faculty are convinced that all curricular offerings are faithful to the mission and goals of Assumption College for Sisters and faithful to the Catholic intellectual tradition in which every discipline is open to searching for the good, the true and the beautiful.

### **Enrollment**

At the conclusion of the 2015-2016 academic year, there were 36 students enrolled, including both full-time and part-time: 20 international students, 2 Sisters of Christian Charity, 9 Sisters from local religious communities, and 5 lay students.

Student enrollment was comprised of 14 different religious congregations representing 12 different countries. The following communities were enrolled:

- Bene Maria Sisters (Burundi)
- Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady Help of Christians (Tanzania)
- Little Sisters of St. Francis (Uganda)
- Lovers of the Holy Cross—Nha Trang (Vietnam)
- Lovers of the Holy Cross—Thu Thiem (Vietnam)

- Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Canada, Philippines, Vietnam, USA)
- Daughters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (Vietnam)
- Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation (Vietnam)
- Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette (Tanzania)
- Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood (Tanzania)
- Oblates of Mother of Orphans (El Salvador)
- Religious Teachers Filippini (Bangladesh)
- Sisters of Christian Charity (Kenya, USA)
- Sisters of Divine Vocation (Indonesia)

### **Administration and Faculty**

Throughout the 2014-16 academic years, administration and faculty had been involved in the research and compiling of the Middle States Self-Study in preparation for the Accreditation visit in March 13-16, 2016. ACS is proud to quote the outside observance of the Middle States visiting team:

“At ACS, there is an adequate core of faculty and other qualified professionals that are responsible to the institution, support the programs offered, and assures the continuity and coherence of the institution’s programs. There is clear faculty participation in curriculum review, and other governance roles. Each faculty member expressed a sincere willingness to go well above and beyond for all students. The faculty also demonstrate true joy and gratitude at participating in the academic and spiritual life of the students and are proud to be a part of changing the world. In the words of one faculty member, ‘I will be in Africa, I will be in Vietnam, serving the world.’

When talking with faculty about how and why ACS has such high graduation rates, the faculty talked at length about 2 contributing factors: 1.) The characteristics of the students, for example, commitment, discipline, gratitude, courage, exceptional work ethic, having external expectations and positive peer support; and 2.) The strategies for early intervention; communication to the Sisters about student challenges, targeted and specific plans for 1-1 tutoring, continuous follow up by the faculty and Sisters, referrals

to student support services and, most importantly, the steadfast belief by the staff and faculty that each student will succeed. “

Highlights of the faculty interactions include:

- Faculty and other professionals appropriately prepared and qualified for the positions they hold, with roles and responsibilities clearly defined, and sufficiently numerous to fulfill those roles appropriately;
- Educational curricula designed, maintained, and updated by faculty and other professionals who are academically prepared and qualified;
- Faculty and other professionals who demonstrate excellence in teaching and other activities, and who demonstrate continued professional growth;
- Appropriate institutional support for the advancement and development of faculty, including teaching, research, scholarship, and service;
- Recognition of appropriate linkages among scholarship, teaching, student learning, research, and service;
- Grievance, discipline and dismissal, based on principles of fairness with due regard for the rights of all persons;
- A valued respect for academic freedom and Catholic doctrine while simultaneously ensuring that the students have the real-world information they need to serve and communities in which they will live.”

The faculty was commended for their enthusiasm “about participating in assessment. This is particularly commendable as all ACS faculty are adjuncts. The Team applauds the faculty for taking the additional step of completing *Instructor’s Analysis of Student Learning* forms, a reflective piece in which faculty outline student’s results, comment on them and share their plans for ‘closing the loop’.”

They were further commended for their “commitment to ministering to the spiritual, formative, academic, physical, health and emotional needs of its students is exemplary. This is especially evident in Residence Life, where the students’ joy at belonging to the ACS community of learners and pride in their physical environment is palpable.”

ACS faculty and administrators have made professional contributions outside the institution:

The College Registrar has served as ministry leader for the Pre-Cana program at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Whitehouse Station, NJ and as member of the Social Concerns committee of the parish. In addition she has served as team captain for the Walk to Find a Cure for Diabetes at Rutgers University/ Cook College, worked with a Girl Scout troop to organize a clothing drive and facilitated a Bronze Award Project. She has also served as a mentor for a Gold Award project creating a peer mentor program for recently diagnosed children with type one diabetes.

The Health and Wellness instructor is a contributor to the just published book *Nursing Delegation and Management of Patient Care 2nd Edition* by Kathleen Motacki and Kathleen Burke.

ESL 101 and ESL 108 instructor was featured in a lengthy article in the *Pilates* magazine, chronicling her recovery from a serious auto accident 30 year ago. (Pilates is a physical fitness system developed in the early 20th century by Joseph Pilates. As of 2005, there were 11 million people practicing the discipline regularly and 14,000 instructors in the United States.)

The Philosophy instructor has written an article which recapped her conference at Duquesne University on "Contemplation and Beyond." She also submitted an article about her participation on the World Meeting of Families at which she also served as a volunteer.

In her position as Technology consultant, she has offered workshops and one on one in-service sessions to students, faculty, and staff on the use of Google applications, including Google docs, sheets, slides, and form, Upon request, she has offered one on one in-service sessions to faculty members on the use of learning management systems, namely the free version of Blackboard called Coursesites, and education canvases, such as Blendspace.

The President, a member of the Advisory Board for the Center Holocaust and Genocide Education at the College of Saint Elizabeth, has given a presentation on the Holocaust to Grade 8 students. She has also joined with a Holocaust survivor and his grandson to give a presentation at the East Brunswick Public Library.

### **Alumnae Achievements**

ASC's cumulative graduation rate for the 2005–2012 cohorts is 93%, far superior to the national graduation cohort rate for private non-profit two-year institutions. This was highly commended by the Middle States visiting team.

Nine new members were added to the cadre of ACS alumnae with Graduation 2016, all of whom. received an AA degree. Six of the nine graduates are continuing their studies to obtain their BA degree, They have received full scholarships to the following colleges and universities: College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, NJ; D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY; Felician Univeristy, Lodi, NJ; University of Scranton, Scranton, PA.

One of the graduates will continue in initial formation as a canonical novice and two have been assigned to congregational ministries in their native lands.

Three Salesian novices received their Certificates in Theological Studies during the commencement exercises.

Sister Mary Edward Spohrer, SCC (ACS '63), received the papal award, *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, from Bishop Serratelli for her faith service as Diocesan Chancellor.

Sister Romaine Niemeyer, SCC (ACS '60), chief administrative officer at Holy Spirit–A Geisinger Affiliate, was named “Business Woman of the Year” at the 20th annual Business Women’s Forum in May. On June 24, she was recognized as a recipient of *Central Penn Business Journal’s* Women of Influence Lifetime Achievement Award. Sister Romaine retired from Holy Spirit on June 30, 2016, after more than 46 years of service.

Sister Donna Brady, SCC (ACS '71), has been appointed Provincial Secretary for the North American Eastern Province.

Sister Marie Cecilia Landis, SCC (ACS '78), as a result of her participating in the Chambers Center for Well Being course entitled, "Cook Your Way to Good Health", was featured prominently in an article in the NJ Daily Record. In addition, a video journalist documented her cooking skills on Fios1, "Push Pause" in an episode called "Healthy Nun."

In the Spring, an SCC sponsored initiative provided a three week international community living and service experience for the Sisters of the various provinces among the blind and poor in the Philippines in honor of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt. From the North American Eastern Province, those participating were: Sister Justina Lanasa and Sister Marie Jose de la Rosa ('09).

Sister Dativa Mukebita, FSSB ('03), has founded "Village Angels of Tanzania" a program which recruits local unemployed young people, who are trained in appropriate skills for elderly care by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette

Since the beginning of the college in 1953, 415 Sister students have received their AA or ARA degree. Since 2005, 105 students have graduated with degrees. 100 students received their AA Degree and 5 students received their ARA Degree. Of those receiving an AA degree, 90 continued to study for an undergraduate degree. Of those who earned a Bachelor's Degree, 27 students went on to receive or are pursuing a Master's Degree and 1 is pursuing her doctorate. Fourteen alumnae are continuing in their congregation's initial formation program or congregational ministry.

In a recent Alumni survey sent to graduates within the past ten years, it was revealed that our graduates are in active ministry in their native lands, holding a variety of positions: teacher, Human Resource officer, Emergency Room technician, Emergency Room nurse, catechist, counselor of individual and group therapy,

spiritual director, Pre-K teacher and teacher working with individuals with special needs. Sisters of Christian Charity, alumni of ACS, are now ministering on four different continents: North America, South America, Europe and Asia.

### **Academic and Cultural Enrichment**

Based on a review of the self-study, other institutional documents, and interviews with faculty, staff, students, and others, the Middle States visiting team developed the following conclusions relative to the standard: “The institution’s programs or activities that are characterized by particular content, focus, location, mode of delivery, or sponsorship meet appropriate standards. Consistent with its mission, ACS effectively offers programs and activities that are defined by their particular content and focus, such as remedial and basic skills, certificate programs, and non-credit offerings.”

It also commended the English as a Second Language (ESL) faculty at ACS for “effectively moving many students with beginning level English skills upon arrival, into not only proficient English speakers, but also critical thinkers and high-level academic students some of whom are choosing to complete a 4-year program at other colleges or universities.”

The team further commended Assumption College for Sisters on the programs and services it offers to assist international students with the English language, enculturation and private tutoring. These services provide the basic elements to foster growth and learning for students.

Some of the enrichment programs offered by ACS in 2015-2016 were:

- Two docents from the 9/11 museum spoke to the international Sister students on the eve of 9/11, sharing with them the actual events of the day. They also showed photos of the newly opened memorial. On September 13, several students attended a memorial service conducted in Parsippany, honoring all those from Morris County who perished.



- On September 21, international resident students of Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, gathered in the convent chapel to pray a special Evening Prayer commemorating the International Day of Peace. Flags of the various countries represented by the students were depicted surrounding a globe placed in front of the altar.
- First Year ACS students, accompanied by their ESL 101 instructor, had lunch at an American restaurant and then visited the Morris Museum. They visited two exhibits: Native American Cultures and Music Machines and Living Dolls.
- Ar 101 students, accompanied by their instructor, visited the Montclair Art Museum.
- ACS hosted a special Vesper service followed by a reception to which members of the ACS Board of Trustees, major donors, Cornerstone Sisters, and Gala committee members had been invited. The international Sister students from Africa sang a Swahili hymn as the opening song and the Sisters from Vietnam sang a Vietnamese hymn and performed a liturgical dance for the Magnificat. At the conclusion of the reception, a small gift bag containing the Christmas newsletter and small votive light was given to each guest.
- Several students participated in “A Divine Mercy Encounter” at Sacred Heart Church, Rockaway, an evening of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, musical and scriptural meditations, an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- Deacon James Rizos, St. Mary Church, Denville, Co-Chair of the parish Pro-Life Committee, spoke to the international Sister students of Assumption College for Sisters, Denville. He gave an overview of the history of the abortion movement in the United States along with the Church’s stance on the issue. His lecture concluded with the outreach and counseling provided for pregnant mothers by the Catholic Church.

- Several Sisters attended the annual musical presented by the Delbarton Abbey Players, “Nice Work if You Can Get It”, a medley of George and Ira Gershwin tunes.
- Vietnamese Sisters hosted their annual *Tet* New Year celebration, the largest celebration among the Vietnamese people.

The PH 205 class, accompanied by their instructor, attended the annual Thomas Merton Lecture at Corpus Christi Church, NYC. The lecture was delivered by Bishop Robert Barron. Bishop Barron addressed the topic: Merton: Metaphysics of Peace.

- Our Lady of Lourdes is the patron saint of Morris Catholic High School because when the high school was built, it was the 100th anniversary of Our Lady’s apparition to St. Bernadette. A special Mass was offered at the high school and the international Sister students participated with songs and liturgical dancing from their cultures.
- Ten Sister-students travelled to Holy Family Convent, Danville, to visit with the Sisters and presented an update on ACS, asking the Sisters for their prayers for the upcoming Middle States Accreditation Visit.
- Several students attended Mass at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Morristown, which houses one of the designated Holy Doors for the Year of Mercy. After entering the door, they prayed together the prayer used by Pope Francis as he opened the Holy Door at the Vatican.
- FA 101 Dance Class attended the New Jersey Ballet at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, Morristown. They witnessed the production “Highlights of Ballet in Opera” featuring Porgy and Bess, Thaïs, and Faust.
- Bishop Yousef Benham Habash, Bishop of the Syriac Catholic Diocese in the US and is well acquainted with the Syrian Refugee crisis, spoke to the MCHS student body and ACS first year students. He provided an update on the crisis and was

able to speak from recent first hand experiences based on his recent visit to the Middle East.

- On the evening of Good Friday, several Sisters attended the Way of the Cross presented by the Franciscan Mystery Player of Morris County.
- Several ACS Sister students attended the Macy's Flower Show in New York City and had a walking tour of the city.
- All the Sisters of ACS Convent attended the Mercy Sunday devotions at St. Mary Parish. The devotions opened with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily, the sung chaplet of Mercy, some prayers in honor of the day, and concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Sisters at Assumption College for Sisters Convent attended Vespers of the World Day for Consecrated Life in the Year of Mercy. During this prayer celebration, Bishop Serratelli conferred on Sister Mary Edward Spohrer the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Award for her service to the Church, to our religious congregation and to the world.
- Students of ESL 108 Independent English Study and Hi 102 experienced the religious, architectural and cultural wonders of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark. On this same trip, students were treated to a luncheon at the *Casa Seabra* Portuguese Restaurant where they had the opportunity to sample one of the many cuisines represented in New Jersey.
- An integral part of the Th 098 course, Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith, is to familiarize the international Sister students with aspects of ministry in the American Church. For the third consecutive year, Sister Margaret Dincher, SCC, Pastoral Associate for Spirituality (ACS '64), has invited the class to visit Corpus Christi Parish for a tour of the facility and an explanation of the various ministries and outreach of the parish.

First and second year international students visited the shrine of Blessed Miriam Teresa, Convent Station, and heard a presentation on her life and spirituality.

- As part of the Ed 102 Health and Wellness course, students were provided instruction which led to CPR Certification.

### **Public Relations and Outreach**

Assumption College for Sisters students were the “face” of ACS many times during the course of the academic year.

As the college moved to the new site, the residential international Sister students provided hospitality to attendees at the various open house events. They served as hostesses and provided entertainment for the Caring Basket Gala, the major fundraiser for ACS.

The college newsletter, *Assumption's Current Sharings*, continues to be the main vehicle for public relations along with the newly designed website. The ACS Development Team has assisted in the creation and management of an Alumni and Friends Network. They have sent several e-mails encouraging alumni to stay connected and to update ACS with their status since graduating.

Two students and one member of the ACS support staff joined the St. Mary Parish Choir. Announcements about college events are regularly featured in the parish bulletin.

Sister students visited the various classrooms at St. Mary's Prep as part of a program called “Sister Sessions.” Two by two, they shared a bit about themselves and their culture and in return, elementary school students introduced themselves and spoke about education in America.

Because of the involvement of the Coordinator of Residential Student Services with the Morristown Memorial Health System, students participated in a donor thank you event culminating the Carnegie 3Sixty Campaign.

The ACS website, both colorful and informative, hosts photos of fundraisers and other College events. There has been great success in getting news and feature stories in various local newspapers. ACS continues to seek avenues of involvement and opportunities for good public relations.

## **Finances**

The Middle States report praised the financial stewardship of the College. You, our donors, can be sure that your contributions are carefully guarded and wisely used. The report states:

“ACS has made significant progress in planning, resource allocation and institutional renewal. Although not a fully systematized process, the culture of planning at ACS is definitely in development. There is evidence that the institution is using data from various sources to make good, sound academic, fiscal and policy decisions. Because the ACS mission is clear and visible by the various constituents, it is easy to see that the College has a willingness to seek improved approaches and resist complacency (as evidenced by the courageous physical move of the location of the College in 2015). ACS is certainly open to growth, development and change, as well as, a rational process of self-examination, which requires it to remain open and flexible enough to respond to the dynamic environment in which it exists...

The College has made great strides in effectively allocating resources toward its academic programs, student support services and technology as a result of the data resulting from components of the planning process. While each of these also represents institutional renewal, the most important evidence of fiscal responsibility and institutional renewal is the courageous decision to move the physical location of ACS to co-locate with Morris Catholic High School.”

The team recognized and praised ACS “on its commitment to providing full tuition, room and board scholarships to all religious communities of developing nations.”

Many donations which make this possible were received in the form of scholarship aid, Memorial Scholarships and “Sponsor a Sister.”

Grants received were:

- Gleason Family Foundation
- Glenmede Trust (Paragano)
- John F. Byrne Family Foundation
- William E. Simon Foundation

Once again, The Fifteenth Annual Caring Basket Gala marked a great success This year’s honorees were:

**Spirit of the Heart:** Kathleen Ginty Hyland  
**Family Life:** Fred and Mary Alice Lawless  
**Servant Leader:** Rev. Msgr. Kenneth E, Lasch

The success of our development efforts and the extraordinary generosity of our friends and benefactors enabled Assumption College for Sisters to approach a more sound financial basis.

### **Conclusion**

With the graduation of 2016, Assumption College for Sisters awarded an AA degree for the 54th time.

At this year’s commencement I reminded the graduates that they have taken a unique path and read for them from Robert Frost’s “The Road Less Taken.” Their chosen path has made a difference and they are called to make a difference now in the lives of all with whom and to whom they minister.

As you read this report, we ask you to help us thank God for his manifold blessings on ACS. As we move into a new and challenging phase of our history, we ask His blessing for its continuance.

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Sister Joseph Spring, SCC  
President, Assumption College for Sisters  
August 2016





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by the Sisters of Christian Charity

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