



# ACS

## Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters † December 2009

# CHRISTMAS GREETING

**May the Peace of Christ  
Dwell with You Richly this Christmastime**

Dear Friends of ACS,

As I write this letter to you, I am reminded that Christmas is not far off. We are deep into the season of Advent... a time of quiet waiting for the celebration of Christ's birth in our hearts and in the world. It is a time given to us to nurture that gift so that we can show forth Christ to all whom we meet.

If you would walk the halls of Assumption College for Sisters, I think you would see this daily manifestation. Christ smiles in the faces of the Sisters from Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Kenya, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, Uruguay, Vietnam, and of course,

the United States. These are the Sisters who study here at ACS and in a few short years will return to their native lands to be of service to their people, to bring Christ in a new way.

Your prayers and support are so appreciated by all of us. Thank you for your generosity in purchasing 50/50 tickets, for your donations, and especially for your prayers and friendship. We took as our theme for the year, "Together... we can make a difference." Together we are making a difference in the world here at ACS through the education we provide.

And so at this Christmas season, students, faculty, and administration of ACS offer you Christmas greetings in the languages spoken by our students:

**Merry Christmas!**

**Ukhisimusi Omuhle!**

ZULU

**M ng Chúa Giáng Sinh**

VIETNAMESE

**Heri ya sikukuu ya Noeli!**

SWAHILI

**Feliz Navidad!**

SPANISH

**Bòn Fèt Nwèl**

CREOLE

With love and prayer,

*Sister Joseph Spring, S.C.C.*

## Assumption College for Sisters Observes International Day of Peace



*Five students who participated in a prayer service in observance of the United Nations' International Day of Peace initiative at Assumption College for Sisters on September 21, 2009 grasp hands to exchange the "Sign of Peace" before the altar in the Chapel of Mary Immaculate. Shown left to right are Elizabeth Tartaglia, postulant of the Sisters of Christian Charity; Sister Martha Anne Mabuntana and Sister Ezekiel Ngongo, both of South Africa; Sister Jacinta Kioko of Kenya; and Sister Maria Sang Trinh of Vietnam.*

Students from Assumption College for Sisters, many from war-torn countries, assembled at the Chapel of Mary Immaculate at noon on September 21 to celebrate the International Day of Peace sponsored by the United Nations. They were joined by the college's faculty, administration, friends and the Sisters of Christian Charity Motherhouse community.

The prayer service also focused on Global Ceasefire Day, which calls for a worldwide cessation of hostilities to prove that universal peace is possible and allow relief workers to reach war victims,

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# ACS: Excellence in Language Instruction

Known for excellence in language instruction, Assumption College for Sisters utilizes Rosetta Stone Software combined with traditional teaching methods to effectively teach students language skills, most notably English.

Rosetta Stone is proprietary language-learning software. The software utilizes a combination of images, text, and sound, with difficulty levels increasing as the student progresses, in order to teach various vocabulary terms and grammatical functions intuitively, without drills or translation. They call this the "Dynamic Immersion Method". The goal is to teach languages the way first languages are learned. The U.S. State Department,

universities and international corporations use this software.

Students can speak into the computer's microphone and listen with a headset. English professor Sister Catherine Laboure Hutt, SCC, says the software is "very effective for beginning level users, since the students receive individualized, immediate feedback from the computer's voice recognition abilities." ACS currently has software for English, German, and Latin American Spanish and is in need of expanding the software licensing to permit installation on more computers. If you are interested in helping ACS expand its language instruction capabilities, please contact Sister Joseph Spring, SCC at 973-543-6528 x230.



*Sister students using the Rosetta Stone language program*

## Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, Installed as President of Assumption College for Sisters



Following her recent installation (Wednesday, November 4) as the sixth President of Assumption

College for Sisters, Mendham, Sister of Christian Charity Joseph Spring enjoys chatting with Monsignor John Doran, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Newark and a member of ACS Board of Trustees. He was the principal celebrant of the Mass that preceded her formal installation by Sister Joan Daniel, SCC, Provincial Superior

of the SCCs and Chair of ACS Board. African Sister students called attendees to worship with a lively native dance up the chapel's main aisle and Asian students later sang a Vietnamese hymn during the liturgy. Prior to her new role, Sister Spring was a Provincial Councilor for the SCCs, and continues to serve on this leadership team, which plans and visions for the future of her congregation's Eastern Province. She earned her BA in American Studies at Marillac College, St. Louis, MO; and an MA in General Professional Education with a concentration in history at Seton Hall University, South Orange.

"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*



# Sisters on the Trail of Discovery

As a result of a simple question raised in chemistry class, four interested students accompanied chemistry instructor Donald Succardi, on a visit to the recently renovated Thomas A. Edison Historical Site in West Orange, NJ. At the site, the laboratory and residence preserve the work and character of America's foremost inventor, Thomas Edison, and the family, friends and business associates who played a key role in his success.

The laboratory complex includes fourteen historic structures, six of which were built in 1887 as the first laboratory dedicated to the "business of inventing." Many rooms contain their original furnishings. A replica of the world's first motion picture studio, the "Black Maria," is also part of the park. Museum collections encompass over 400,000



*Pictured here are the students visiting the lab: Sister Therese Vu, FMV; Sister Maria Sang Trinh, LC; Sister Anna Nguyen, FMV; and Sister Lea Tilisbo, CPS. All students will graduate in May 2010.*

artifacts including prototype and commercial Edison products, laboratory furnishings and equipment, and personal items used by the Edison's in their home. The Edison Archives includes an estimated five million documents, 48,000 sound recordings, 10,000 rare books, 4,000 laboratory notebooks and 60,000 photographic images. These collections are among the largest in the National Park Service. The Edison home at Glenmont is a twenty-nine room brick and timber mansion built in 1880 and surrounded by fifteen acres of landscaped grounds, a greenhouse and potting shed, barn and stables, and a garage made of Edison poured concrete.

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## Wine and Cheese Event in Hoboken

Assumption College for Sisters made its presence known in Hoboken at a recent wine and cheese event to raise funds and awareness of the college. Sister Joseph, and student, Sister Jacinta, spoke of the college's mission to a gathering of businesspersons and clergy. The event, hosted by Louis Scarpa, Assistant to the College President for Development, raised \$2,800 for the ACS Sponsor-a-Sister program, which provides scholarships to Sisters attending ACS from developing nations. This amount will pay for one half-semester tuition for a Sister. Attendees also pledged support of ACS's Caring Basket Gala by purchasing tickets and ad journal announcements. Special thanks are extended to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hoboken, and Monsignor Frank G. Del Prete, pastor. Please consider hosting an event for ACS! Contact Louis at [scarpalouis@gmail.com](mailto:scarpalouis@gmail.com) for more information.

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## Assumption College for Sisters Subject of a National News Article

Citing sound educational practices, stewardship of resources, and uniqueness of mission, the National Catholic Reporter published a concise overview of ACS in its November 30th edition. Tom Gallagher, a regular contributor to the NCR and lead writer for the newspaper's Mission Management column, visited the college and interviewed administration and students, finding that the "ACS formula" is a fine example of "best practices." The article recognized that students excel in English language and other subject areas, older Sisters mentor and provide teaching expertise, lay and religious faculty and administrators bring varied experiences. Profound respect exists between members of the 15 international religious communities represented at ACS. The article can be read online at <http://ncronline.org/news/women-religious/women-religious-educating-women-religious>.

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## Heartsaver Training at ACS

Josephine Sanchez, RN, offered the Heartsaver AED training course to several participants at Assumption College for Sisters. The intention of this course was to teach lay rescuers how to recognize and treat life-threatening emergencies, including cardiac arrest and choking for adult, child and infant victims and use of an AED for adult cardiac arrest victims. With the use of the recently donated AED HeartStart OnSite Defibrillator, participants can respond effectively to such an emergency.



*Heartsaver training course participants: Sister Marie Jose' de la Rosa, Sister Maria Burns, instructor Josephine Sanchez, and Sister Maria Angeline Weiss.*

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## SAVE THE DATE



**March 25, 2010**

**6:30 pm**

**The Hanover Marriott  
1401 Route 10 East  
Whippany, NJ 07981**

### *Gala Honorees*

#### **The Education Award**

Sister Dolores Lavinthal, M.P.F.  
Director, Villa Walsh Academy, Morristown, NJ

#### **The Servant Leader Award**

Frank A. Petruccelli, Ed.S.  
Retired Superintendent of Schools,  
Diocese of Paterson

#### **The Family Life Award**

Damon and Melanie Owens  
West Orange, NJ

## *Christmas Wish List*

for Assumption College for Sisters

Many ACS friends have asked to know about the college's needs at this time of the year. Here is our "wish list":

### **Help ACS Maintain Excellence in English Language Instruction**

The number of licenses for the Rosetta Stone software currently owned by Assumption College for Sisters does not allow for an adequate number of students access to the the program. Expanding the licensing will allow more of students to use the program. A donation of \$4,000 will solve our access problem and increase the effectiveness of language instruction at ACS.

### **Place the World at the Hands of the Students:**

World Book Encyclopedia On-line: \$450

### **Sponsor a Sister: directly help an individual Sister.**

Sponsor a Sister student for one year at ACS: \$8,000

Sponsor a Sister's 3-credit course: \$400

Teach a Sister and touch the world!

Contact Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, President of Assumption College for Sisters, at 973-543-6528 x230 to lend your support to the worthwhile mission of ACS. Your contribution is tax-deductible and always much appreciated.

Check out Assumption College for Sisters'  
new website: **[www.acs350.org](http://www.acs350.org)**

Remember to use iGive as your search engine.  
Log on to **iGive.com** and add Assumption College  
for Sisters as your designated charity.

### **Congratulations to the Winners**

of the 50/50 Raffle drawn on November 29, 2009

**First Place:** \$6,312.50 — Sister Theresa M. Martin

**Second Place:** \$3,787.50 — Mrs. Bernice Paul

**Third Place:** \$2,525.00 — Rev. Thomas B. Loftus, C.Ss.R.

### **Sisters Observes – *Continued from Page 1***

especially civilians, desperate for food, water, and medical supplies.

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, president of the college, noted that ACS's mission reflects the spirit of the two UN initiatives: "To send women into the world bearing gifts of love and peace as well as a commitment of goodness--a vision destined to carry them far beyond the hills of Mendham into schools, hospitals, orphanages and social agencies, here and abroad--everywhere there is a need for service."

A unique aspect of the day was an invitation to the friends of ACS who could not attend the prayer service, inviting them to pause for a moment of silence at noon on September 21. The invitation was sent via email to scores of ACS friends, many persons responding with a pledge to observe the Day of Peace.

Included in the ACS Day of Peace program and email message were statistics on violence compiled by the World Health Organization. Violence kills more than 1.6 million people annually. Additionally, millions

are left injured, suffering from physical, sexual, reproductive and mental health problems. Death and disability caused by violence makes it one of the leading public health issues of our times.

In the 20th century, an estimated 191 million people lost their live directly or indirectly as a result of conflict, and more than half of them were civilians.

Many Sister students of ACS will be working among people affected by violence. They will be there to offer professional skills and to bear gifts of love and peace.