



# Assumption College for Sisters Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters † December 2011

## Assumption College for Sisters Marks 50 Years of Outstanding Service!

Marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of Assumption College for Sisters in 1961 (prior to incorporation, it was known as Assumption Junior College), the school year commenced on August 25, 2011, with Orientation for Students and Faculty.

Mass of the Holy Spirit was offered by Rev. Francis Heinen, brother of Sister Julitta, former ACS president. Orientation included a welcome from Sister Joan Daniel Healy, SCC, Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Christian Charity, the sponsoring congregation, as well as from Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, president of Assumption College for Sisters. A presentation on

the history and mission of the college was given.

The morning concluded with student Orientation with Sister Gerardine Tantsits, SCC, Academic Dean/Registrar.

The college currently hosts 23 international students from Tanzania, Kenya, and Vietnam. The congregations of the Sisters of Christian Charity, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesians) and the Vocationists, have Sister students enrolled. Lay students also attend philosophy and theology classes, bringing the enrollment to 45.

We ask God's blessing upon this great institution for many more years!



## Then and Now:

*Academic Excellence and Spiritual Formation Remain Hallmarks of Assumption College for Sisters.*



*Classroom, circa 1975*



*Lecture hall, 2011*



*Sister Virginia Janson, SCC, Provincial Superior and Sister Cecile Lechner, SCC, ACS President pictured with the first two international Sister students, circa 1967.*

## Christmas Greetings from the President...

Dear Friends of ACS,

I join my Christmas greeting and prayer to those of our faculty and students.

As always, our student body continues to be a microcosm of peace in the world, a place where religious women of many congregations and many nations live and work together in peace and harmony. Their religious commitment radiates joy. It is an inspiration and a privilege to work among them.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each one for your friendship, your support and your advocacy on behalf of Assumption College for Sisters. As we celebrate 50 years of incorporation as ACS, we have taken as our theme this year, "We remember, we celebrate, we believe." We remember all the people, yourselves included, who have worked to make ACS a possibility. We celebrate the lives and accomplishments of our students and alumni. We believe that if God wants this good work to

continue, He will bless our endeavors to lead it into the future.

May God bless you and your family as you celebrate the birth of Jesus who is the source of our mission. Let us keep each other in prayer.

Sincerely,

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

### Sister Students "Make Their Mark" Throughout New Jersey

Our international Sister students were invited to the annual pancake breakfast held in their benefit at *Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Bernardsville*; they sang and danced at the *Motherhouse Jubilee celebration, Mendham*; the Sisters from Vietnam sang at the Ordination Mass of a Vietnamese priest at *Delbarton Abbey, Morristown*; they also performed in concert at *Christ the King Church, New Vernon*, to raise awareness of Malaria, the #1 killer of children in Africa; Sister students from Africa raised awareness of conditions in Africa by participating in song and procession at a school-wide liturgy at *Morris Catholic High School, Denville*; they offered music and a witness talk at liturgies for *Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hoboken* and attended the Hoboken Art and Music Festival. The parish, in turn, donated ten laptop computers. Sisters from Africa participated in the annual Paterson Diocesan Christmas Concert, *St. Peter the Apostle Church, Parsippany*. "The Sisters are an inspiration and bring a real sense of joy to our event," said Paul Kusler, Paterson Diocesan Director of Music.

### "We Welcome Our New Students to the ACS Family."



*Clockwise: Sr. Jennifer Kane, FMA; Sr. Alaina Zachmann, FMA; Sr. Elfie Del Rosario, FMA; Sr. Sydney Moss, FMA*



*Left to right: Eileen Orlandi and Katherine DeLucy, SCC on a study break!*



*Clockwise: Sr. M. Donatha Gunda, OSB; Sr. M. Antonia Mtega, OSB; Sr. Mary Catherine Dao Nha, MCC; Sr. M. Rustica Kayombo, OSB; Mrs. Kathleen Laskoski (instructor); Sr. Mary James Thuy Dinh, FMSR; Tam Le; Sr. Lucia Thiep Ngo, FMV*

### Retirement

Assumption College for Sisters is deeply grateful to the following faculty members who have retired since the close of the 2010-2011 Academic Year:

- Sister Julitta Heinen who has served the college for over 35 years, 7 of which were as president.
- Sister Immaculata Arboline who served the college as nurse and instructor for 11 years and continues to serve as college and Motherhouse nurse.
- Sister Joanice Carlson and Sister Catherine Laboure Hutt who served as ESL instructors for the past 11 and 13 years respectively.

Their loving presence and commitment is deeply appreciated by all.

## The Annual Fund: Teach a Sister... Touch the World!

The Annual Fund of Assumption College for Sisters aims to increase Sister students' access to higher education and enhance the teaching, learning, research and spiritual growth provided at the college. The Annual Fund is an ongoing lifeline to the Sisters and those they educate because it builds a circle of committed benefactors like you, who understand the College's

mission and are determined to partner with the Sisters in this extraordinary work of charity and evangelization.

THANK YOU to the many who have responded with a pledge. If you have not had the opportunity to pledge, please consider making a year-end contribution. Checks are to be made payable to Assumption College for Sis-

ters. You may also donate by credit card by calling the college at 973-543-6528 x227.

Please consider a pledge to the Annual Fund as 2011 draws to a close. We need your support.

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

## Assumption College for Sisters Finds Roots at Seton Hall University

Assumption College for Sisters welcomed Dr. and Mrs. Gabriel Esteban in recognition of his appointment as President of Seton Hall University and to highlight the unique history that the two institutions share. From the beginning of the newly created North American Eastern Province in 1927, education of the young women entering the Sisters of Christian Charity took place as an extension of Seton Hall. With the encouragement of Seton Hall, the Sisters of Christian Charity replaced this extension with Assumption Junior College, approved by the state in 1953

In 1961, this institution, newly entitled Assumption College for Sisters, was incorporated as a separate legal entity.

The two institutions, in addition, are also closely tied together as many Sisters of Christian Charity are alumae of Seton Hall University. Sister Joseph Spring SCC, President, in welcoming Dr. Esteban, commented that "Dr. Esteban is a wonderful choice to lead Seton Hall. He is well prepared with both experience and spirituality to lead this exemplary Catholic institution."



*Pictured left to right: Sister Mary Francis Mai Vu, FMSR, Mrs. Josephine Esteban, Dr. Gabriel Esteban, Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, Assumption College for Sisters, President, Sister M. Joyce Mwanisenga, OSB*

## President Attends Education Conference at Boston College

Sister Joseph Spring, President of Assumption College for Sisters, participated in the 11th Annual Institute for Administrators of Higher Education held at Boston College, July 11-14, 2011.

In conjunction with 40 other participants from the United States as well as from Australia, Brazil and Canada, the group explored issues such as:

- What is Catholic higher education in the 21st Century?
- How should the Catholic intellectual tradition inform the culture of academic life on campus?
- What defines the nature of the rela-

tionships and the appropriate practices between institutions of Catholic higher education and the Church?

- How should Catholic social and moral teaching inform college culture, policies, and curriculum?
- How do we assess mission and effective practices?

"The conference theme confirmed the mission of ACS as we provide a quality education in a truly Catholic environment," said Sister Joseph Spring. Although most colleges and universities represented at the conference were far larger than Assumption College for Sisters, all expressed affirmation for our mission.

## Save the Date for the Eleventh Annual Caring Basket Gala

**March 22, 2012  
6:00 pm**

The Hanover Marriott,  
Whippany, NJ

**The Education Award Honoree**  
Sister Merris Larkin, SC, Principal  
Assumption School, Morristown

**The Social Justice Award Honoree**  
Msgr. Robert S. Meyer, Esq.  
Pastor  
Ss Peter and Paul Church,  
Hoboken, NJ

**The Family Life Award**  
Al and Lisbeth DeCotiis

## History Touches Faith! Faith Touches History!

On Friday, November 11, 2011, students of World Civilization I and instructor, Sister Mary Veronica Kulsar, SCC, enjoyed and profited from the presence of Russian Orthodox priest Rev. George Hasencz, former pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Randolph, NJ.

Father Hasencz presented the students with the history of the Russian Orthodox religion including the underground Church during the years of Communism and the resurgence of the faith after 1989.

The class was able to see some of the differences between Roman and Byzantine services and worship through samples of icons, leavened bread, vestments, crosses, prayer beads, etc. Understanding the meaning of symbolism not used in the Roman Catholic tradition was enriching for the students.



*Pictured left to right: Sr. Germana Senye, ISRA; Sr. Alfreda Ngonyani, OSB; Sr. M. Godeliva Subyeky, DM; Sr. Clara Mwanyalila, ISRA; Sr. M. Veronica Wade, DM, Father George, Sr. Mary Joseph Thouc Le, FMSR*

## Sister to Sister Program Begins



23 + 23 = 1! This is what happened in September when 23 Cornerstone women from St. Joseph Church, Mendham came to visit 23 Sister students at the college, becoming one in heart and spirit!

This program is designed to bring together the two communities of “sisters:” the Cornerstone Sisters and the international Sister students. Twenty-three students from developing nations reside at

the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity and attend the college there. Patty McGrady, ACS Treasurer and coordinator of the program says: “This is a wonderful opportunity for the Sisters to build relationships with local women and to learn about American culture. In turn, the Cornerstone women come to understand the charisms and culture of each Sister student. Despite cultural difference, we are all women of the Church.”