



Assumption College for Sisters Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters † March 2011



Ex Corde Ecclesiae From the Heart of the Church



Historically, Assumption College for Sisters has prided itself, and rightly so, on its uniqueness: it is a small Sister-formation college whose mission is to educate women called to a life of consecration to God and of service in the Roman Catholic Church. As such, it is distinctly “Roman Catholic.”

In 1990, Pope John Paul II issued an Apostolic Constitution entitled “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” (literally, “from the heart of the Church”) addressed to Catholic colleges and universities. In 1999 the US bishops issued “The Application of ‘Ex Corde Ecclesiae’ for the United States” which was approved a year later by the Vatican and went into effect in 2001. Now bishops and

college leaders will be giving a 10-year review of this document.

In 2008, when Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States, he met with more than 400 Catholic college presidents and diocesan education representatives at The Catholic University of America in Washington. He urged them not to simply transmit knowledge to their students but to bring them to a deeper understanding of faith “which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation.”

Pope Benedict highlighted the importance of Catholic identity. He stressed that the Catholic identity of a school or religious education program “demands and inspires much more: namely that each and every aspect of

your learning communities reverberates within the ecclesial life of faith.”

During the 2010-2011 academic year, administration and faculty of ACS have been reviewing the college’s mission statement and goals, asking ourselves “How are we doing this?” and “How could we do better?” Many wonderful things have come to light and it is our hope that our mission and our goals of

- Integrated Religious Formation
- Leadership
- Service
- Community
- Social Justice

are reflected in the articles in our newsletter and more importantly, in the lives of all of us here at ACS.

Alumnae Contribute to Success of Cristo Rey New York High School



Left to right: Sister Jude Biank, SCC; Sister Janice Marie Kraft, SCC

A New Educational Model Emerges

Cristo Rey New York High School in East Harlem is one of twenty-four Cristo Rey Network Schools in the United States. The Cristo Rey Model offers students from low-income families an affordable, quality college-preparatory education and real-life work experience. The students work one day a week during the school year in entry level jobs at some of New York’s most prestigious companies to cover the majority of the educational costs. The remainder of the cost is covered by tuition (all families pay something!) and fundraising. Students are not given a hand-out, but rather a hand-up to help end the cycle of poverty. Because they are invested in paying

for their own education, they take the education process seriously. The ultimate goal is that students will graduate from college and become professionals for others, transforming the world for the good of their families and society.

CRNYHS opened in September 2004 with a freshman class of 99 students. It celebrated the first graduation on June 12, 2008. Now in its seventh year, CRNYHS currently has 363 students in grades 9-12.

Sister Jude Biank, SCC and Sister Janice Marie Kraft, SCC serve as faculty members. They both graduated from Assumption College for Sisters in 1973 and continued their studies at Felician College, Lodi, NJ (’77). The Sisters completed graduate work

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Goal! Children Across the Globe Receive Soccer Uniforms

“Soccer Fever” hit Assumption College for Sisters in a new and unusual way. Isabel Calo, a sophomore at West Morris Mendham High School, is an avid soccer player. Besides scoring goals to win, she set a challenging goal for herself off the field – making winners of children in orphanages and schools in South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, and Vietnam.

Why these countries? Isabel had met many of the Sisters at ACS when she was participating in a retreat at Quellen Spiritual Center and she wanted to help children from the international students’ native lands. How would she do this? Her team was changing uniforms and the old uniforms would just go to waste although still in very good condition. She reached out to other soccer teams and the idea grew exponentially.

One day in November, the ACS students met Isabel’s soccer team

and joined Isabel and her parents in preparing the boxes of uniforms for shipment, 40 boxes in total. How would they pay for the shipment? Once again, Isabel reached out to members of her community and many different local soccer teams. The girls hosted bake sales and made bracelets to raise money for postage. St. Joseph Parish

Knights of Columbus and Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical were approached and responded generously so that by mid-December all boxes were shipped.

Students from all over the world are now proudly wearing West Morris Mendham Soccer Team uniforms, thanks to the effort of this energetic young woman.



From the President...

Dear Friends of ACS,

My prayers and best wishes to each of you for a grace-filled and happy New Year! By the time you receive this newsletter, the new year will be a few months old, but my wishes are the same.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for both your financial as well as your prayerful support of ACS this year. You know we had a few new ventures: our Ronan Tynan Concert as well as our Annual Fund.

Both have been very successful and enable the Sisters of Christian Charity to continue to offer scholarships to twenty-five Sisters from developing nations each year. Both also enable ACS to provide quality higher education to all of our students in a comfortable, challenging, and faith-filled environment.

I am most grateful to each of you for your part in this important ministry: “Teach a Sister... Touch the World”! I hope that many of you will be able

to attend the Tenth Annual Caring Basket Gala to see first hand what a difference your support is making.

Let us continue to pray for one another as we journey through 2011. May this year find us all closer to God and to one another.

With prayerful gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Joseph Spring, S.C.C." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC

“Call us to hear the voices that challenge”



Assumption College for Sisters

350 Bernardsville Road
Mendham, NJ 07945

973.543.6528 · 973.543.1738 fax
acs@acs350.org
www.acs350.org

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC *President*

Sister Gerardine Tantsits, SCC *Academic Dean / Registrar*

Sister Theresa Bower, SCC *Librarian*

The Annual Fund

To date, over \$26,370 has been donated to the 2010 - 2011 Annual Fund by friends of Assumption College for Sisters. The Annual Fund seeks to increase Sister students' access to higher education and enhance the teaching, learning, research and spiritual growth provided at the college. Thank you to the many who have responded in generosity. Please consider a pledge to the fund. You may donate securely online at www.acs350.org or make check payable to Assumption College for Sisters. "Teach a Sister...Touch the World"

Cristo Rey *Continued from Page 1*

at Villanova University with Masters degrees in English and Mathematics respectively. Since that time, the Sisters have held administrative and teaching positions at both elementary and secondary schools staffed by the Sisters of Christian Charity.

Being skillful teachers, they have a passion for working with the underserved and Cristo Rey is part of this passion. Sister Jude, in her sixth year at the school, and Sister Janice, in her fourth year, have been recognized by the school for their leadership qualities as both were selected to attend the Educational Enrichment Initiative Meeting in Chicago, IL with other leader school teachers and administrators for the Cristo Rey Network this past summer. The educators worked on developing standards and benchmarks for the entire Cristo Rey Network.

Boths Sisters have seen immense growth in the school. The students have acquired technical and practical workplace skills, have developed the strong work ethic, confidence and self-respect needed to succeed in the classroom and beyond, and have opened their minds to life-challenging career possibilities. 100% of the seniors have earned college acceptances. Cristo Rey New York High School is certainly a success story and our alumnae are a part of it!

Field Trip to Morris Museum

December 1 was a memorable day for the first year international students as they experienced (and tasted!) American culture. The ESL 101 course is "designed to immerse students in the experience of living in the United States. With an emphasis on enhancing conversational skills, study will include an examination of American history, culture and traditions" [ACS Bulletin]. Each year professor Dr. JoAnne Sylva, in keeping with the nature of the course, takes her class to the Morris Museum and then to an American restaurant.

While at the Morris Museum in nearby Morristown, students had the opportunity to view two special exhibits: Musical Machines & Living Dolls: Mechanical Musical Instruments and Automata from the Murtoogh D. Guinness Collection & The Legacy of Currier & Ives: Shaping the American Spirit. Both exhibits afforded the students a closer understanding and appreciation of American culture.

Christmas Joy

Christmas, the time of joy and giving, was celebrated a few days early among the international students, many of whom would travel to visit with community members and relatives here in the US during the holiday season. Parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bernardsville, NJ and St. Rose of Lima, Short Hills, NJ as well as Companions of Pauline (Associates of the Sisters of Christian Charity), Ocean City, NJ provided a variety of practical gifts.



Assumption College for Sisters Invites You to Celebrate The Tenth Annual Caring Basket Gala

March 24, 2011 · 6:30 pm · The Hanover Marriott, Whippany, NJ

Please join us for a memorable evening!

HONOREES



THE EDUCATION AWARD
**Reverend Monsignor
Kieran McHugh**
*President
Pope John XXIII High School
Sparta, NJ*



THE FAMILY LIFE AWARD
**The Robert and Frances
Cavaleiro Family**
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THE SERVANT LEADER AWARD
Brian Beyerl, MD
*Neurosurgeon
and Deacon*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

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Assumption College for Sisters Celebrates Tet

Multiculturalism is the keyword! With the international population of Assumption College for Sisters, the celebration of the Lunar New Year was indeed multicultural. Sisters from Vietnam prayed and sang at the Vietnamese Mass at St. Cecilia's Church, Rockaway, NJ on Sunday, January 30, as a preparation for the New Year. Here at the college, they, along with their fellow students from the United States, Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa sang and danced to the delight of the Sisters of Christian Charity of the Motherhouse community.

Tet, as the Vietnamese New Year is commonly called, marks the arrival of spring based on the lunar calendar. 2011 is the Year of the Cat. The New Year is always a time to celebrate new beginnings!



Photo credit: The Beacon/Rich Gigli

Servant of All: Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Family Member and Former Staffer Speak at ACS

Assumption College for Sisters joined a nationwide effort to promote Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's candidacy for sainthood with the showing of a documentary on January 30, "Servant of All", created for that purpose. Those attending, well over 100 people, were particularly moved with the closing lines spoken by Archbishop Sheen:

"Show me your hands. Do they have scars from giving?
Show me your feet. Were you wounded in service?
Show me your heart. Have you a place for Divine Love?"
After the film, Sister Marlene Brownett, SHCJ, former staff member under Bishop Sheen, and Dr. Yolanda Hollinger, relative, conducted a question and answer period.

