



# ACS

## Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ December 2015

Dear Friends,

"Merry Christmas from our house to your house" takes on a new meaning this year as this is the first year we find ourselves in our new home. Wherever we find ourselves, the blessings of Jesus, the "reason for the season" follow us.

Christmas is such a special time to pause and reflect on the blessings of the past and to kneel before the image of the Christ Child and implore blessings for the coming year both for ourselves, for all we hold dear and for the entire world.

I can personally assure you that our Sister students from the USA and from around the world remember you daily in their prayers. We ask you to pray for us, too, as we strive to create an atmosphere of love, peace, and joy, conducive to higher learning, so that our Sister graduates can bring these gifts of mind and heart to the people to whom and with whom they will minister.

So...Merry Christmas...Feliz Navidad...Chúc Mừng Giáng Sinh...Selamat Hari Raya Natal...  
Heri ya sikukuu ya Christmas...Shubho Borodin...Malaigayang Pasko...Noheli Nziza...Joyeux Noel...  
from our house to yours!

With much love and prayer,

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



## Bishop Serratelli Blesses the New Site of ACS

On September 8, Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, bishop of the Paterson (NJ) diocese in which ACS is located, blessed the new site for ACS amid Administration, Faculty, Students, Trustees, and invited guests. In her welcoming remarks, President Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, assured the assemblage that the "mission of ACS is alive and well here in Denville, and we are very happy to be in this lovely new location."

At the conclusion of the outdoor portion, Bishop walked through the first floor of the former convent, blessing administrative offices, classroom, computer lab, kitchen, and dining room/multipurpose room. All then enjoyed some light refreshments including a specially decorated cake made for the occasion by Sister Marie Cecilia Landis, SCC, Coordinator of Residential International Student Services.



## Inspired by Laudate Si Encyclical



From left to right: Sister Lucia Anh Nguyen, SPP, Sr. M. Norbertha Mlowe, OSB, Sister Mary Cecilia Akol, LSOSF, Sister Marie-Therese Linh Nguyen, SPP, Sister M. Charity Nkwera, OSB

In paragraph #125, we read: "There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle. Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity."

International students at Assumption College for Sisters are careful with their resources, having experienced a shortage of clean water and pure air in some of their developing nations. Many students choose to walk to the neighboring Church, are careful with the use of lights, water, and heat and prepare and cook only what can be consumed. In a more recent venture, they have been given a plot in the Morris Catholic High School "Garden of Eat-In" to prepare the soil and in the spring to plant vegetables that will be consumed by them.

# Sister Gabrielle, SCC, reflects on the World Meeting of Families

In 1992, St. Pope John Paul II envisioned gathering families from all over the world together in order to pray, dialogue, and work towards strengthening their role in the family and society. Distinguished speakers representing all aspects of life, theology, ecclesiology, sociology, ethics, sexuality, philosophy, social policy, law, psychology, technology, health care, the environment, economy, social justice, etc. shared their wisdom regarding family life. The very first World Meeting of Families (WMF) was held in Rome in 1994 during the international year of the family. Every three years, a different country is chosen to host WMF.



*From left to right: Sister Gabrielle Nguyen, SCC, Sister Maria Teresa Nguyen, SCC, Sister Maria Lan, SCC,*

This year, from September 22-27, WMF was hosted in the United States in the city of fraternal love, Philadelphia. Thanks to the professional development fund of ACS, I was privileged to be a participant in this spirited gathering. It was my hope that the catechesis offered during the gathering would enrich my teaching of moral theology and philosophy. There was a wealth of interesting keynote speakers and breakout sessions.

Bishop Robert Barron, the Auxiliary of Los Angeles, delivered the opening keynote address; his topic was “Living as the Image of God: Created for Joy and Love,” which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYL5dW7c13k> (What follows is a summary of his address). Bishop Barron stressed, that having been created in the image of God, we are endowed with a mission and a responsibility to be sharers in God’s divine nature. However, we often compromise who we are, an image of God. He unpacked the Christian vocation as priest, prophet, and king by illustrating how we have compromised our vocation and challenged us to reclaim our identity. As priest, we are called to praise God; instead, we have worshipped wealth, power, and our ego. Bishop Barron challenged us to reclaim our identity as priests, by praising the right things in our life and teaching people

how to praise. He suggested that if we are not happy, we should examine the things we are worshipping. As bearers of the image of God we are called to teach the world how to worship and praise God in society.

As prophet, we are called to speak the truth according to God’s Logos. On the contrary, we have framed the world according to our opinions and desires, which undermine our prophetic mission. Bishop Barron challenged us to exercise our “freedom for excellence” where we allow the law of God to set us free to be our best selves rather than living according to our whimsical desires. We need to reclaim our role as prophets by engaging in prophetic speech and speaking clearly about objective moral values. Bishop Barron reminded us that while the demands of God’s moral law are “extravagant,” we must be just as “extravagant” in extending God’s mercy.

As king, we are called to bring God’s good order to the whole world. Instead, we have cowered behind the walls of our silent conscience by privatizing our religion. We must rediscover the image of God within us so that we can go into the world and sanctify it by our witness to holiness. Bishop Barron explained that it is within the family that the image of God is shaped and formed. Through family life, we will learn how to be priest, prophet and king. A family that prays, worships, and serves will teach the child right praise and will equip the child to fulfill his/her vocation as priest. When a family speaks about moral values and lives according to them, that family will teach the child how to engage in prophetic speech. A family that encourages and instills the virtues of courage, prudence, forgiveness, and nonviolence will imbue the world with those virtues, thus bringing God’s good order to the whole world.

The lecturers of the WMF reiterated the timeless wisdom of past sages and addressed the perennial questions regarding the family and society in a manner that was fresh and invigorating. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the WMF and look forward to integrating into my courses the wonderful catechesis that I have gained.

## 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 pledge. 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 us at 973-957-0188 x 101; or online giving at [acs350.org](https://acs350.org).

# Reflections from ACS Alumnae on Pope Francis' Visit

A group of ACS graduates had the opportunity to travel to Philadelphia for the The World Meeting of Families Congress on September 26-27. The sisters graciously agreed to share some of their reflections.

Sister Marie José de la Rosa (class of 2009) talked about the grace of the encounter and marveled at all of the people of different faiths and religions banded together to rally around the peoples' Pope. Sister was inspired with the generosity they were met with on their journey with people opening up their homes to the sisters and the camaraderie they encountered as everyone from various backgrounds experienced the Holy Father together. Sister Marie José remarked at the profound words of Pope Francis but also at the familiarity with which he addressed the crowd-he was so "real." The reverence and deep devotion of the Mass also resonated with Sister Marie José. She commented on how a hush fell over the crowd with the initial sign of the cross.

Sister Maria Angeline (class of 2009) spoke about the weekend being a true pilgrimage with lots of walking, being covered in dust, and hoping to catch a glimpse of the Pope but it was all worth it when the Popemobile drove right past them on Sunday. On her train ride Sister Maria Angeline saw a couple watching the Papal mass on an iPad and met a Vietnamese family from Chicago that didn't have tickets but wanted to come and show support for the Holy Father. Sister commented that it was a thrilling experience!

Sister Mary Peter Tartaglia (class of 2011) recalled that when her group of sisters were volunteering their time that the pilgrims and other volunteers were so grateful for the sisters' presence. She recounted that when Pope Francis' motorcade was approaching she felt like Zacchaeus, unable to see Jesus in the crowd. Eventually she found a spot to look through and was able to see Pope Francis with her own two eyes, feel the excitement and reverence from the crowd, and watch as he raised the Body and Blood of Our Lord at the Consecration.

Sister Mathilde DeLucy (class of 2013) commented on the beautiful spirit of togetherness in Philadelphia with hundreds of thousands of souls all together, from near and far to hear the good news proclaimed and to hear the universal Shepherd

remind everyone of their calling to follow Jesus in his church today through the life of the family. Sister Mathilde reminds us to incorporate Pope Francis' challenges into our daily lives, especially asking ourselves "what about you, what will you do for Jesus" today, tomorrow, this present moment, and to remember it is the work of his love living through each of us that bonds the family even closer together, that unites us to Our Holy Mother the Church.



*Above: From left to right: Sister Maria José de la Rosa, SCC, Sister Maria Angeline Weiss, SCC, Sr. Mathilde DeLucy, SCC, Sister Bridget Harakal, SCC, Sister Mary Peter Tartaglia, SCC*

*Right: His Holiness Pope Francis*

# Middle States Visit—Affirming Over 50 Years of Educational Excellence

On October 12, Ms. Sally Mydlowec, Executive Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs at Manor College and Chairperson of the team which will visit Assumption College for Sisters in March 2016, made her pre-visit to the College in preparation for the March visit.

March 13-16, 2016 will mark the conclusion of a two year journey of self-study by administration, faculty, students, and trustees. The results of the findings of the Visiting Team will then be presented to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. At that time, re-accreditation will be awarded or recommendations will be given to be completed before re-accreditation is awarded.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education to conduct accreditation activities for institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including distance education and correspondence education programs offered at those institutions.

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.

Assumption College for Sisters was first accredited by the Commission in 1965 and subsequently reaccredited every ten years. We ask all of our friends and benefactors to keep our visit in your prayers.

## Gratitude to Former Faculty and Administration

On Sunday, June 1, the Assumption College for Sisters' community joined the Sisters of Christian Charity in the Chapel of Mary Immaculate, Mendham, to recognize the contributions of faculty and administrators who would not be transitioning with ACS to their new location in Denville. The congregation then prayed a blessing over them.

**Sister Gerardine Tantsits, SCC**

**Sister Jonathan Moyles, SCC**

**Sister Theresa Bower, SCC**

**Sister Mary Edward Spohrer, SCC**

**Sister Mary Veronica Kulsar, SCC**

**Sister John Paul Thorley, SCC**

**Sister Ann Lavelle, SCC**

## Sisters participate in Transitus Service

Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth residing in Parsipanny have invited the international Sister students each year to participate in their Transitus service commemorating the death of St. Francis. The Transitus is a Franciscan devotion to ritually remember the passing of Saint Francis from death to new life. The Franciscan Sisters presented the life of St. Francis and then invited all to participate in a candlelight procession to honor the relic of St. Francis. The evening concluded with the Night Prayer of the Church and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

## Welcome New Faculty

As ACS opened its doors in the Denville location, we welcomed several new faculty members who have been a wonderful addition to our College:

**Linda S. Dill: Instructor, College English I**

**Deacon Stuart Murphy: Instructor, Basic Mathematics**

**Jean Wedemeier: Instructor, Keyboarding; Computer Literacy**

**Sister Carol Schuyler, SCC: Instructor, World Civilization I**

**Sister Gabrielle Nguyen, SCC, is now in a full time position as Philosophy Instructor and Technology Consultant.**

**Jane Kopley: Instructor, Introduction to Biology**

**Dr. Richard Gradone: Instructor, Fine Arts Appreciation (Music)**

# Students of ACS Celebrate the International Day of Peace

On September 21, international resident students of Assumption College for Sisters in Denville, gathered in the convent chapel to pray a special Evening Prayer commemorating the International Day of Peace.

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."

Flags of the various countries represented by the students were depicted surrounding a globe placed in front of the altar.



*Pictured here are the students who have come to Assumption College for Sisters for the first time this year: Sister Charity Nkwera, OSB (Tanzania), Sister Marie- Therese Nguyen, SPP (Vietnam), Sister Mary Cecilia Akol, LSOSF (Uganda), Sister Norbertha Mlowe, OSB (Tanzania), Sister Lucia Anh Nguyen, SPP (Vietnam), Sister Monica Nakawala, LSOSF (Uganda), Sister Catherine Thu Le, FMV (Vietnam).*

## SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNAE: Sister Maria Sang Trinh, LHC

Sister Maria Sang Trinh from the Lovers of the Holy Cross congregation, graduated from ACS in 2010 before continuing her education at The College of Saint Elizabeth where she earned her Bachelor's degree in English and her Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Sister Maria Sang currently teaches at Thu Thiem Convent and the USA Society English Center located in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Besides directing the English program at the convent for 95 students and teaching several classes there, Sister Maria Sang teaches ESL classes at the USA Society English Center on weekends and evenings. Sister is able to bring the teaching knowledge and skills from the secular environment to her convent as well as earn some income for her congregation. In addition, Sister teaches a class per week for novices.

Apart from her teaching responsibilities, Sister Maria Sang serves in community leadership as a member of their Council where her ministry includes overseeing a program of ministries, selecting the majors that the young sisters of her community will study in order to eventually work for the congregation.

On reflecting at her time at ACS, Sister Maria Sang shared that ACS was a wonderful place to improve her English, knowledge, leadership, and life skills. She learned how to respect and appreciate the differences of other cultures and how to be a servant leader through the good examples of the ACS leaders.



*Sister Maria Sang Trinh, LHC*

A testament to our mission, Sister Maria Sang commented, "Experiences at ACS became a part of my life. The spirit of ACS is spreading in Vietnam now!"

Note: ACS has received an update from LHC congregation regarding the severe trial by the local government that they endured beginning in October of 2014. Their school buildings were dismantled and forced to close due to a land dispute in the Thu Thiem region. The congregation recently received official notification from the government that the buildings will be kept intact for the time being while the situation is resolved in the courts. The LHC congregation thanks the Interreligious council, the International Human Rights Organizations, and all of their benefactors and friends for their prayers and concern. We will continue to pray for a peaceful resolution.



## Assumption College for Sisters Hosts Docents from the 9/11 Museum

Karen Levine and Vernoy Paolini, docents at the 9/11 Museum in Manhattan, on the eve of September 11, 2015, presented photos and information concerning this event at Assumption College for Sisters. The presenters discussed the timeline of the day while showing photos.

*Karen Levine is far left in the photo and Vernoy Paolini is on the far right.*

## Friendly Neighbors

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (SMIC) our new neighbors here in Denville, as well as parishioners of Saint Mary's Church, arrive each Friday afternoon for a session of English conversation and vocabulary help to our first year ESL Sister students. Both the Missionary Sisters and the international Sister students look forward to this time together and it is quite amazing how quickly English conversation is improving!

Sisters of Christian Charity in our neighboring St. Cecilia's Convent, Rockaway, have invited groups of the international students to join them for Vespers, recreation and evening meal. The first year students were delighted to visit since this was their first outing as students.



MCHS students invited our students to their Halloween "Haunted House" and Coffee House. For many students this was their first experience with this American holiday.

Assumption College for Sisters welcomed members of the Women's Cornerstone Group from St. Joseph Church, Mendham, who initiated the "Sister to Sister" program. This program, now in its fifth year, brings together two communities of women to meet and connect. The "Cornerstone Sisters" are each paired with an international Sister student or two at Assumption College for Sisters.



*Sister Marie-Therese Linh Nguyen, SPP and Marie Beggan*

Over the past four years, friendships have been formed between the two groups. The women from St. Joseph's have reached out to these Sisters so far from home and have invited them into their homes, have surprised them with flowers or cake on their birthday, have provided shopping trips and transportation to and from the airport. More importantly, they have shared customs, cultures, and love which has forged the friendships.



*From left to right: Eileen Oakley, Sister Eusebia Urassa, CPS, Sister Mary Cecilia Akol, LSOSF*

# Field Trip for the First Year Students

On Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, ESL instructor, Dr. JoAnne Sylva, took her first year ESL 101 students on an autumn field trip. They began their afternoon with a luncheon at Charlie Brown's Steakhouse on Main Street in beautiful downtown Denville. At the restaurant they experienced a "multi-cultural" American menu which included selections such as fried calamari, chili, nachos, and sesame ginger chicken. Many of the students were quite adventurous, and they ate foods that were totally new to them. It was quite fun to see several of the students tackle French onion soup!

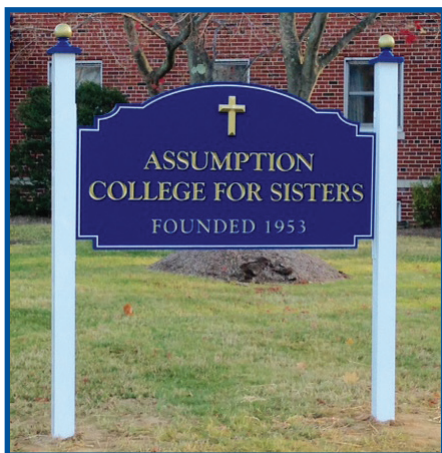
The group continued onward to the Morris Museum in Morristown where they had two hour-long programs led by a museum guide. The first program was Native American Cultures, and the guide explained about the Native Americans who had lived in the different regions of the United States including the Eastern Woodlands, the Plains, the Southwest, and the Pacific Northwest. The students were very interested in the topic because they had already learned about Native Americans when they studied Columbus Day. They were excited to see actual Native American clothing, cooking implements, and jewelry. Such an introduction prepared the students for understanding the role that Native Americans played in the First Thanksgiving. After the initial presentation, the students viewed an exhibit with beautiful antique Japanese dolls. The Vietnamese Sisters explained to us that many of the materials and techniques used were similar to those from their own country. The students then entered the Guinness Wing of the Museum which houses the world's largest collection of music machines and animated toys. They were totally enthralled by the sounds and movements, and they themselves were allowed to play many of the smaller music boxes.



Beautiful weather, interesting and relevant exhibits, and delicious food made for a very delightful field trip for the first year foreign students.

**Beautiful new  
signage for ACS.**

**Generously  
donated by  
MCHS**



## ACS Contact Information:

Assumption College for Sisters  
200 A Morris Avenue  
Denville, NJ 07834  
P (973) 957-0188  
F (973) 957-0190  
Web: [acs350.org](http://acs350.org)

## REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

Sister Aurelia Kahere, BM, (ACS'2011) passed away on October 24, 2015 in Tanzania, after several months of intense suffering.

She had been pursuing her Master's degree at D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY, prior to her return to Tanzania.



# STAY CONNECTED WITH ACS!



ACS has a new website, blog, facebook, twitter and YouTube! Visit [acs350.org](http://acs350.org) to view all of our social media links. We would also like to invite you to provide us with your email address, so that we can update our records and send occasional news happenings. Please send an email to [secretary@acs350.org](mailto:secretary@acs350.org) with the subject Add Email and we will add you to our list. Thanks for helping us go green!

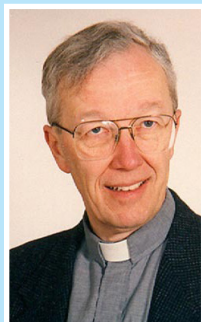
## ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

200 A MORRIS AVENUE  
DENVER, NJ 07834

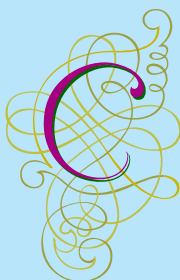
NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
TOMS RIVER, NJ  
PERMIT NO. 77

## SAVE THE DATE! *The Fifteenth Annual Caring Basket Gala*

### *Servant Leader Award:*



Msgr. Kenneth Lasch



### *Family Life Award:*



Fred and Mary Alice Lawless

### *Spirit of the Heart Award:*



Kathleen Ginty Hyland

*In support of*  
**Assumption College  
for Sisters**

April 14, 2016 at 6:30 pm  
The Hanover Marriott,  
Whippany, NJ

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