



Assumption College for Sisters

Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters † June 2012

Congratulations to the Class of 2012



Sister Anna Thoi Nguyen, LHC; Sister M. Joyce Mwanisenga, OSB; Sister Maria Tien Pham, FMV; Sister M. Nazarena Figawo, OSB; Sister Mary Thuy Thi Do, FMSR; Sister Mary Sabina Ndunge Muange, CPS; Sister Anna Dung Thu Duong, LHC; Sister Mary Francis Mai Vu, FMSR; not pictured: Sister Celice Marie Gonzalez, SCC

On May 12, nine students from Assumption College for Sisters received their AA degree while two students received Certificates in Theological Studies. Parents of Sister of Christian Charity Celice Marie Gonzalez, currently on mission in Chile, received her diploma in her stead.

The invocation was delivered by Rev. Msgr. John Fell, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Bernardsville and ACS Trustee.

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Former College President Remembered: Sister Julitta Heinen, SCC



Sister Julitta Heinen, fourth president of Assumption College for Sisters (1995-2002,) entered into Eternal Life on May 8 after a short illness. Sister Julitta had been involved in the mission and ministry of ACS in a variety

of ways for over 35 years: professor of philosophy, academic dean, and president. As she retired from the presidency, Sister Julitta continued in her role as professor of philosophy until her retirement in Spring 2011.

Having received her undergraduate degrees at Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart and Nazareth College, she was awarded Doctor of Philosophy degree from Catholic University of America.

Tributes from her former students attest to her influence. To quote a few: "I have admired her knowledge and wisdom, being impressed by her warm welcome and gentle love of the students;" another student writes "Sister made me love Philosophy...her humility and love for knowledge is beyond explanation. She loved God, her congregation, and all God's people;" "I was always touched as Sister made a visit to the Chapel before each class."

Another student writes "Thank you, Sister, for all you were to us...intercede for us to God. I am sure the Gates of Paradise were wide open to welcome you."

During Sister Julitta's tenure as President, the college received a decennial visit from Middle States, the first international Sisters were admitted to the college, and the Caring Basket Gala, the major fundraiser for the college, was inaugurated.

Sister Julitta will always be remembered by faculty and students for her untiring devotion to Assumption College for Sisters. May she rest in peace!

Sister Donna Brady, SCC, Alumna of the Year

Sister Donna Brady, SCC, was the recipient of the 2012 Alumna of the Year Award given at the 2012 Commencement ceremonies at Assumption College for Sisters.

Sister Donna was born in Orlando, Florida, the youngest of six children. At the age of 13, she realized God was calling her to join the Sisters of Christian Charity in Mendham where she entered the aspirancy and Immaculata High School.

Sister Donna graduated from ACS in 1969 with her AA degree and then continued her studies at Marillac College in St. Louis and received her BA in Education in 1971. She went on to receive her Masters Degree in Administration from Seton Hall University in 1990. During this time, she served as elementary school teacher and elementary school principal at several of

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Assumption Attends Indigenous Columbian Dance Event

The Fine Arts Dance and Music class recently attended *Ballet Folklorico de Antioquia, Columbia*, a program entitled MAPALE, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, Morristown.

Columbia's rhythms and traditional dances honor a multicultural wealth of indigenous, African and European origins. These come together in a fusion inspired by the customs of the places where these traditions take place.

Students were amazed at the talent and incessant energy of the performers. The sounds and rhythms were embraced by the students, who very often offer their own native songs and dance at many Assumption gatherings.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012 *(continued)*

Commencement speaker was Frank A. Petruccelli, an ACS Trustee and former Superintendent of Schools in the Diocese of Paterson. In his remarks to the graduates, he said, "I know all of you plan to continue your education and have all received scholarships to continue your studies for bachelor degrees at colleges around the country. The superior education you received at Assumption College will serve as a catalyst for your continued education. We applaud you on

your successful completion of your education here at Assumption College. You deserve our praise and admiration for your determination and dedication and most of all your courage; courage to leave the comfort of your homeland and travel to a new country, learn a new language and meet new friends. We know you will be a shining light of hope when you return to your homes to serve the people of God."

Graduating students have all received scholarships to four-year colleges:

Sister Mary Thuy Thi Do, FMSR: D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY
Sister Anna Dung Thu Duong, LHC: Benedictine University, Lisle, IL
Sister M. Nazarena Figawo, OSB: Siena College, Loudenville, NY
Sister M. Joyce Mwanisenga, OSB: D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY
Sister Mary Sabina Ndunge Muange, CPS: University of Scranton, Scranton, PA
Sister Anna Thoi Nguyen, LHC: Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ
Sister Maria Tien Pham, FMV: Mount St. Joseph College, Cincinnati, OH
Sister Mary Francis Mai Vu, FMSR: D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY
Sister Celice Marie Gonzalez, SCC: on mission in Chile

Sister Donna Brady, SCC, Alumna of the Year *(continued)*

the schools staffed by the Sisters of Christian Charity.

For the past seven years, she has served and continues to serve as pastoral associate at Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Monroe Township. (Incidentally, her first teaching position was Grade 4 in Jersey City where she taught the current pastor of Nativity parish. Father Edward Flanagan.)

Always sensitive to the needs of the poor, it is here that she has distinguished herself in service to the underserved. In her own words she acknowledges:

"It was early in my religious life that I was keenly aware of my call to service. In whatever position I held I was drawn to help in social justice projects, whether it was prison ministry, Catholic Relief Services, committees for social justice in

various parishes, and in our community. Working with the poor in Guatemala, Jamaica, and in West Virginia has been an eye-opener to the richness of faith in those deprived of material possessions. I went to give service, but came home wealthy from the faith-filled lives of God's poor."

In October, she was recipient of the Global Herald Award, given to the individual, parish, or group that shows a strong commitment to the poor, both locally and globally. Sister Donna Brady, has lived that commitment in many ways through her work as Pastoral Associate at Nativity of Our Lord Parish and as a member of the Catholic Charities Solidarity Team in the Diocese of Metuchen.

Sister Donna has a deep commitment to education, believing that education is the best way out of poverty. Through her work

as the coordinator of the Catholic Charities Solidarity team, Sister oversees the scholarship programs which provide not only tuition, but living expenses to young people in Guatemala.

Sister Donna also oversees the "Nursing Out of Poverty" scholarship program in the Diocese of Thanjavur, India, for young women from poor villages to study nursing. This not only offers women a profession and a way out of poverty, but also enables them to return to their villages and provide medical care, which is often lacking.

Locally, Sister Donna successfully coordinates the parish Rice Bowl Campaign as well as the selling of Fair Trade products.

The entire Assumption College for Sisters community is grateful for Sister Donna's service and her enduring affection for the college.

Students Visit the Cathedral-Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ

On April 19th, Sister Mary Veronica Kulsar, SCC and Dr. JoAnne Sylva accompanied the second-year students on a field trip to Newark, New Jersey. Their objectives were to introduce the students to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and to share with them a convivial lunch in a restaurant that is indicative of Newark's multi-cultural heritage.

When the students arrived at the Basilica, they were overwhelmed with its grandeur. In 1995, Pope John Paul II called it a "powerful reminder of God's steadfast love for His people." The group was joined on its tour by a very competent guide and church members from a local Baptist community. The students enjoyed meeting other Christians with the spirit of ecumenism, and a lively dialogue ensued.

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Assumption College for Sisters Annual Fund

Teach a Sister... Touch the World!

Please consider a gift to the Annual Fund. No gift is too great or too small. Checks may be made payable to Assumption College for Sisters; credit cards are accepted at www.acs350.org or by calling the college at 973-543-6528 x227.

Thank You to the 2011-2012 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

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Students and Faculty Meet with Archbishop Francis Chullikatt



Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN, met with our students and faculty at the Mission of the Holy See, NYC, discussing the role of the Vatican as a Permanent Observer

(non-voting member) at the United Nations and the work of the Holy See on behalf of human rights throughout the world. A friend of Assumption College for Sisters, Archbishop Chullikatt recognized the international stature of the college and the work of its alumnae around the world.

The day witnessed a special meeting of the Security Council to update the charter and proceedings. Additionally, the students studied the

Women are the Fabric Exhibit, utilizing quilts to highlight the enduring strength of women as weavers of the social fabric in their communities. Highlights of the tour included a photo exhibit paying tribute to the victims and rescue workers of the Japan earthquake-tsunami. Another exhibit featured rarely-seen photographs of the Jewish community life in the Lodz Ghetto, 1940-1944, depicting persecution of the Jews.

Students Explore the United Nations Millennium Development Goals

Second year students at Assumption College for Sisters completed their studies of the fundamentals of chemistry and biology with a trip to Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey, viewing an exhibit rooted in the United Nations Millennium goals. Additionally, the Sisters explored contemporary science issues through a variety of exhibits, interactive demonstrations, and video presentations.

The trip provided an opportunity to encounter various animal species and explore climate issues through the life of polar bears at the arctic tundra. The

exhibits at the science center presented many of the themes discussed during the spring semester, including cell biology and metabolism, immunology, energy and ecology.

The field trip this year was particularly relevant, as it reinforced the Sisters' recent visit to the UN. Exhibitions at Liberty Science Center addressed two of the eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals. "Water: Too Much, Too Little" and "Energy Quest" presented discussions regarding global issues of access to clean drinking water

and environmental sustainability. "Infection Connection" addressed the UN goal of disease prevention and provided an opportunity to review classroom studies about pathogens and epidemiology.

During this school year, Assumption College students explored a variety of topics in chemistry and biology through textbooks, laboratory experiments, and lectures. This field trip expanded on this foundation and highlighted the local and global applications of their studies in the natural sciences.

Cultural Enrichment: A New York Perspective

This past March, students from Assumption College for Sisters, accompanied by their Computer Applications teacher, Ms. Kathleen Laskoski, traveled to New York City for a day of cultural enrichment and recreation. The group found themselves aboard a morning train in Bernardsville with many commuters, offering them a taste of the "American commute!" Arriving in New York, they walked from Penn Station through Times Square, and up Sixth Avenue. As you can imagine, the international students were thrilled to see such glorious sights. Their first stop was a tour of the Art-Deco GE Building at Rockefeller Center, then on to a glimpse of the famous skating rink. Some were disappointed to have left their skates at

home! Prayers were then offered at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, as the students marveled at its great gothic vaults and dazzling windows. The day culminated with a visit to the Sony Wonder Technology Center. Students were intrigued with the center's presentation, especially the high-tech robots and computer-generated animation. After visiting Sony, the group walked down Fifth Avenue, through the first floor of the famous Macy's, and then boarded the train home to Mendham. Arriving home a bit tired from all the walking, the students now enjoyed a better understanding of the history of technology, the culture of New York City, as well as a genuine appreciation for those who commute to work in the City.

Save the Date! The Twelfth Annual Caring Basket Gala March 21, 2013

Mark your calendars for another great Gala! We are accepting donations for the event. Sports and Broadway tickets, use of a vacation home, golf outings, restaurant gift certificates, wine and cheer are all fantastic gifts! Your gift will help raise funds for the Sisters and make the event fun and exciting! To donate a gift please contact the college, 973-543-6528 x227 or email: scarpalouis@gmail.com

The Eleventh Annual Caring Basket Gala: A Stellar Evening!

Over 500 people gathered at the Hanover Marriott on April 28, 2012 to congratulate our outstanding honorees and to raise scholarship funds for the Sister students. Congratulations are again extended to Sister Merris Larkin, SC, principal of Assumption School, Morristown, recipient of the Education Award; Monsignor Robert S Meyer, pastor of Ss Peter and Paul Church, Hoboken, recipient of the Social Justice Award; Mr. & Mrs. Al DeCotiis, recipients of the Family Life Award.



Al and Lisbeth DeCotiis, front & center, enjoying the evening with family and friends.

The night was filled with warm smiles, moving presentations by the Sister students, and profound words from our honorees. In addition to the exceptional culinary fare and festive cocktail hour, guests were thrilled to take a chance on over 25 auction baskets, bid on silent auction items, and enjoy the excitement of a live auction. Three lucky winners shared the cash raffle's total prize of \$13,800—the largest prize to date!



Surrounded by Smiles: Sister Merris Larkin, back row, fourth from left.

As the college's major funding event, the Gala netted over \$149,000, which will be used to directly fund the education of the Sister students. The 2012 Gala realized the largest net profit as well as the highest attendance in its eleven year history.

Thanks are extended to all those who purchased tickets, donated a prize, placed an ad in the journal, bought and sold raffle tickets, and prayed! Special thanks to Mr. Louis Scarpa, Gala chair and the *entire* Gala Committee (the "Dream Team!").



Msgr Meyer, seated, celebrates with family and friends.

For more gala photographs, visit www.acs350.org

Students Visit the Cathedral-Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ *(continued)*

The group was then off to Casa Seabra, a restaurant in the Ironbound section of Newark. One of the most beautiful aspects of the field trip was the fact that other diners saw our enthusiastic

students and came over to introduce themselves and thank the Sisters for their dedication. The goals of the field trip were surely met, and all had an enlightening and enjoyable day.

For more information about Sacred Heart Cathedral-Basilica, visit www.rcan.org

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Assumption College for Sisters Annual Fund

There is still time to pledge and the needs of the college remain!



The Annual Fund seeks to enhance the educational and spiritual formation programs offered at Assumption College for Sisters. Through sound stewardship, the college assures that all contributions assist the college and its students in achieving measurable success as they prepare for a life of service.

As the college receives no government or church-sponsored funding, the donations of individuals such as yourself are a life-line to our Sister students.

There is still time to pledge, see inside for details.

Teach a Sister...Touch the World!

Help us Update our Records and “Go Green!”

If there are any changes to your name, address or phone or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know!

To help the college reduce printing and mailing costs, you may choose to receive this newsletter and other communications from the college electronically.



Send all updates to:
secretary@acs350.org. Be sure to include your full name, address, phone and preferred email address. Thank you!

Giving to Assumption College for Sisters has Never Been Easier!



Please consider donating to the college through electronic giving. It's fast, secure and convenient! Many people already use electronic transactions to pay their mortgage and utilities bills. Why not manage your gift to Assumption in the same way? By choosing to give on a monthly basis, you eliminate the hassle of remembering to mail your donation. In turn, the Sisters can depend upon a regular income stream twelve months of the year. To sign up, please visit www.acs350.org, scroll down on the homepage and click at the very bottom. Your GRATEFUL GIFT is appreciated by the Sisters and is a sign of your thanks for all the good that God has done!