



ACS

Assumption's Current Sharings



Assumption College for Sisters • December 2012

From all of us here at Assumption College for Sisters, we wish you every joy and blessing during this Christmas season.

We opened our academic year with the theme: "We Walk by Faith." Here at ACS, we have been walking by faith since its inception in 1953—each year having faith in God that He will send the human and financial resources to continue the mission of educating women religious for a life of service in the Church... and for those of you who have been following our progress, you can see that God is faithful to His promises.

The smiling faces of the present student body as well as the stories you read of our alumni are proof of this. All would not be possible without the prayers and generosity of you, our friends. At this blessed season, let me take this opportunity to thank each of you for your investment of time, treasure, and talent. You are making a difference in the lives of our students. May God continue to bless you.

Love and Prayers.

Sister Joseph Spring, S.C.C.



Assumption College for Sisters Holds Orientation Day

Assumption College for Sisters opened its academic year on August 28 with a Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated by the Rev. Francis Heinen at 9:00 AM. Reflecting the international character of the student population, students from Africa, dressed in traditional attire, processed into the Chapel singing "Nitume Mimi Bwana" (*Lord, send me, I will go and proclaim your word*) in their native Swahili. At the Offertory, Vietnamese students sang "Holy Offering" while offering gifts of fruit, flowers and school books. "A Gift of Love" was sung in both Vietnamese and English at Communion time. In keeping with the theme for the year, "We Walk By Faith" was sung by all.

Provincial Superior, Sister Joan Daniel Healy, greeted faculty, staff, and students. President of ACS, Sister Joseph Spring, shared some of the history and heritage of the college as well as expanding on the theme for the year, "We Walk By Faith." This was followed by an orientation for students with the Academic Dean, Sister Gerardine Tantsits.

The total student population this year numbers 47 with 20 Sister Students coming from the developing nations of Kenya, Tanzania and Vietnam. Local religious congregations and laity comprise the remaining population: 8 Sisters of Christian Charity, 10 Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesians), 4 Vocationists, and 5 laity. These students come from the United States, Poland, South Korea, Uruguay, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Indonesia, and El Salvador.

New faculty members were also welcomed:

Sister Gabrielle Nguyen, SCC: Ph 205 Philosophy

Dr. Katherine Doyle: Ar 101 Art History & Appreciation

Dr. Ruth Ferrer: ESL 102 & 103 Introductory

Reading & Writing

Sister Ann Lavelle, SCC: Ed 098 Keyboarding

ACS Celebrates the Year of Faith

On October 14, Assumption College for Sisters offered a lecture: "Bringing Heaven to Earth: Catholic Social Teachings Offer Hope to the World." The presenter was Msgr. John Fell, Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish; member of the Ethics Committee, Saint Peter's Healthcare System, New Brunswick; member of the diocesan Theological Commission; regular columnist for "The Catholic Spirit"; Episcopal Vicar of the diocesan Health Care Apostolate; and Trustee of Assumption College for Sisters.

Msgr. Fell's presentation challenged the audience, comprised of ACS students, Sisters of Christian Charity of the Motherhouse community, and the public, to actively live the faith we profess by espousing the Catholic Social Teachings. The slides used in Msgr. Fell's presentation can be found on ACS website blog acs350.org.

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

The Annual Fund of Assumption College for Sisters seeks to enhance the educational and spiritual formation programs offered 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 their continuous 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. Donations may be made by check, payable to Assumption College for Sisters; credit card by calling the college at 973-543-6528 x227; or online giving at acs350.org.

Young Religious Gathering

Each year, Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, bishop of the diocese of Paterson in which Assumption College for Sisters is located, hosts a gathering for young religious of the diocese. Several students from Assumption College for Sisters were invited and benefited from the inspirational liturgy celebrated by the bishop and enjoyed his words of encouragement. This was followed by a festive picnic and a lively game of volleyball on the lawn.



"Sister to Sister" Program Continues at Assumption College for Sisters

The "Sister to Sister" program that originated last year at Assumption College for Sisters promises to be even more successful this year! On September 21st the international Sister students were introduced to their new "Sisters." Their new sisters are women from St. Joseph's Parish, Mendham. The lay women from the parish have a unique bond in that they all participated in a women's spiritual retreat program held at the Quellen Center, right on the same property as Assumption College for Sisters. After experiencing the Cornerstone retreat, the women from St. Joseph's began referring to each other as "Cornerstone Sisters."

During the gathering each international Sister was paired with a Cornerstone Sister. The event was filled with dancing, music and laughter. The paired Sisters will continue bonding and spending time together throughout the year. In keeping with the college's theme for the year, "We Walk by Faith," this program is a remarkable way to welcome others and be connected through faith.





Since graduating from Assumption College for Sisters, Sister Theresa Mfunne has gone on to become the Principal of Nkhamenya Girls Secondary School in Kasungu District, Malawi, Africa. After completing her post secondary studies in the United States, Sister Theresa returned to her native Malawi, Africa and was selected to teach Biology from 2010 to 2011. Following this, she advanced into her current position as Headmistress of the Nkhamenya Girls School. Sister Theresa continues to teach in addition to administering the school. She is responsible for 428 students, 20 teachers, and 17 supporting staff.

Sister Theresa recounts challenges and consolations she faces in her position as Headmistress. Her hardest

challenge is the school's financial problem. Many of the students that attend her school are orphans and poor. They cannot afford to pay the full amount of their tuition. She finds it hard to turn away students who are hard workers, but unable to pay due to poverty. It is also difficult for the teachers there to obtain the materials they need. The consolation here is creative teachers who improvise with what they have available. This resonates with the fact that truly stands out to Sister, which is the "hard working spirits" of the teachers and students. Last year her school produced positive degree advancement results among students. Many were selected to go on to universities and colleges. Sister prays that this year will again produce positive results.

She is forever grateful for the education she received and experiences she had while attending Assumption College for Sisters. She "continues thanking" the Sisters of Christian Charity for the "education and a nice experience." Sister credits her ability to educate young people in her country to the assistance and educational opportunities she gained while attending Assumption College for Sisters. She prays that "God reward all those people who support ACS in educating international students." Sister Theresa asserts "I am happy with my work. I just do the best I can, and the rest God does."

Praise God in a New Way!



Driving through the beautiful countryside of northern New Jersey, a beautiful gold "onion top" dome identified St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. Thus, Sr. Mary Veronica and the students of a summer course at ACS, "The Church: Its Nature and History," discovered a different world of liturgy and worship, the Byzantine Rite.

Entering the church one sees the elegant interior. White, gold, mauve, blue and light green adorn the screen enclosing the sanctuary and most of the Church. Large bright stained glass windows took up most of the side walls. What appeared at first to be Stations of the Cross (which are not part of the Byzantine Rite) were plaques on the walls representing the feast days of the Byzantine Church. In the center of the ceiling is a large glass chandelier symbolizing the stars.

The Byzantine Rite liturgy, celebrated by Rev. Petro Zbaryek, was in English but quite different from the Roman in prayer, ritual, and

readings. The most unusual and important experience was receiving the Eucharist according to that rite. Both the Body and Blood of the Lord are received. The Bread form is a cube that the priest dips into the chalice and then, using a small spoon, skillfully puts it into the mouth of the communicant. As he does so, he says, "Sister N., Servant of God, receive the body and Blood of Christ."

Refreshments prepared by the parishioners and socializing followed the Liturgy in the Church Hall. All agreed it was a day to remember.

Remember in prayer and with gratitude...

ACS faculty/staff members who have gone to their eternal reward in 2012:

Sister Julitta Heinen

ACS President and Philosophy Instructor, 1971-2011

Sister Joanna Pappicco

ACS Theology Instructor, 1995-2009

Sister Catherine Labouré Hutt

ACS Library Assistant and ESL Instructor, 1998-2011

Sister Catherine Kemper

ACS Registrar/Treasurer, 1995-2000

“Those who instruct others... will shine as stars for all eternity.”
(Dan 12:3)

It is through the efforts of these dedicated women that our ACS students continue to touch the world.

May they rest in peace.

ACS International Students Enjoy Hoboken Hospitality

Msgr. Robert S. Meyer hosted the international students for weekend liturgies at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish on September 30. Following the morning Masses, students enjoyed the Hoboken Street Fair, giving them yet another idea of American culture and life.



Students Visit Art Exhibit

Angels and Tomboys: Girlhood in 19th Century American Art

Sponsored by Mr. Nicholas Maceli of TD Bank, students of the Ar 101, Art History and Appreciation class, visited the Newark Museum to view the traveling art exhibit on October 3. *Angels & Tomboys: Girlhood in 19th-Century American Art* is a major traveling loan exhibition, which is the first to examine nineteenth-century depictions of girls in paintings, sculpture, prints and photographs. Featuring approximately 80 masterworks by John Singer Sargent, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, Cecilia Beaux and William Merritt Chase, the exhibition analyzes the myriad ways that artists vigorously participated in the artistic and social construction of girlhood while also revealing the hopes and fears that adults had for their children. While the sentimental portrayal of girls as angelic, passive and domestic was the pervasive characterization, this project also identifies and investigates compelling and transgressive female images including tomboys, working children and adolescents.



12th Annual Caring Basket Gala



The education of our Catholic Sisters is of paramount importance to the Church and the global community. Assumption College for Sisters is the only Sister formation college in the United States. A major funding event for the college is the annual Caring Basket Gala to be held on March 21, 2013. This year's honorees are:

Eustace “Gus” Anselmi – Education Award
Dorian & Kevin Corcoran – Family Life Award
Andy Chang, DMD – Service Award.

The evening features a silent and oral auction and a gift basket raffle. Our committee has put together a “Wish List” for the gala. If you are able to donate any item on our “Wish List” or would like to make a monetary donation, we would be happy to do the shopping for you. Here are some items we wish to offer at auction thanks to your generosity:

- Broadway Theater Tickets: Wicked, Jersey Boys, Lion King
- Round trip limo service to NYC
- Restaurant Gift Certificates: Local and NYC Theater District
- Giants or Yankee Tickets
- Spa Gift Certificates
- Sports Memorabilia

Your monetary donation can be made in one of three ways:

1. Check can be made payable to: Assumption College for Sisters
350 Bernardsville Rd, Mendham, NJ 07945
2. Credit card by calling Assumption College at 973-543-6528 x227; ask for Patty McGrady
3. Credit card online by visiting our website: www.acs350.org

Your generosity will be recognized as your gift item is displayed at the Gala.

Students of Assumption College for Sisters Celebrate the International Day of Peace



On September 21, 11:45 AM, students of Assumption College for Sisters gathered in the Chapel of Mary Immaculate to join in 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.”

Students prayed for the countries and territories represented at the college as photos of their national flags were presented in procession: El Salvador, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Poland, South Korea, Tanzania, Uruguay, Vietnam, and the United States of America.

As students commemorated this special day, they reflected on statements made by the bishops during Vatican Council II, as they recognized its 50th anniversary and prepare to usher in the “Year of Faith.” At the conclusion of each reading, a bell was tolled and the congregation responded: “Long live absolute world peace,” the inscription on the Peace Bell at the United Nations.

Meeting With His Holiness

On September 20, 2012, ACS faculty member, Dr. Jo Anne Sylva, and her husband, Eugene, left for Rome to spend a week with their son, Fr. Geno Sylva, who is a Vatican official serving on the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. Fr. Geno's Council is headed by Archbishop Salvatore Rino Fisichella. Knowing that Pope Benedict XVI has long championed Blessed John Henry Newman, Archbishop Fisichella and the Council Undersecretary, Msgr. Graham Bell, arranged for Dr. Sylva to be received by the Holy Father during his Wednesday audience. Pictured are Gene and Jo Anne Sylva presenting the Pope with her book entitled, *How Italy and Her People Shaped Cardinal Newman*.



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE
for Sisters

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