



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2012-2013**



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“**We Walk by Faith...**” was the theme of the 2012-2013 academic year, to fittingly correspond with Pope Benedict XVI’s proclamation of the Year of Faith commencing on October 11, 2012.

As we selected that theme, little did we imagine how our faith would be tried and tested:

We experienced the death of two former faculty members in September and October.

We endured the ravages of Hurricane Sandy in October.

Along with the rest of the nation, we were shocked with the Newtown, CT school shooting.

We witnessed the unprecedented resignation of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.

But as Christians, we experienced peace and joy in the aftermath...our beloved faculty are now intercessors in heaven for us.

We made numerous new friends as we offered the facilities of Mallinckrodt Convent to storm victims

We watched the outpouring of such love and compassion for the families of the victims of the school shooting,

And finally, we were inspired by the humility of Pope Benedict XVI in recognizing his failing health which made way for the new life in the Church of Pope Francis.

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC  
President



## ANNUAL REPORT

2013 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the birth of Assumption College for Sisters, known at that time as Assumption Junior College. Comparatively young among institutions of higher learning, the College has roots that reach back over a century and a half to a wise, saintly woman, Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt. Only four years after founding the Sisters of Christian Charity, the congregation which owns and operates the College, she established a Normal School for teachers in 1853 within the motherhouse in Paderborn, Germany.

Convinced of the surpassing value of the ministry of education, Mother Pauline required her young Sisters to become as qualified professionally as their contemporary lay counterparts. Simultaneously intent on their religious formation, she provided for an integrated program of spiritual, intellectual, and cultural development.

Pressing challenges abounded, but the clarity of the vision of the Foundress remained unclouded. Her new community flourished; however, twenty years after its inception Germany experienced the “Kulturkampf” under Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. Forced to choose between either secularization or the loss of nearly twenty institutions, Mother Pauline, faithful and insightful, accepted the latter. With unwavering trust in Divine Providence, she responded to the needs of the Church across the sea in the Americas.

Her congregation, suppressed in its native land, attracted many young women in the New World where it took firm root. Hardships were numerous, but the Foundress retained her commitment to a holistic education of the young Sisters.

Already in 1873 the new motherhouse in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, housed the Mallinckrodt Normal School, affiliated with the Bloomsburg Normal School (today Bloomsburg University).

The Normal School, transferred with the motherhouse to Wilmette, Illinois, developed into an accredited two-year college in 1923. When rapid growth of the Sisters of Christian Charity in North America resulted in the creation of the Eastern Province, God led them to scenic Mendham, New Jersey, where they established a second motherhouse. Faithful to the spirit of the Foundress, superiors immediately integrated the academic development of the young postulants and novices with their religious formation. Seton Hall College (now University) allowed the Sisters to function as an extension of its institution, a situation which continued until 1953.

Encouraged by Seton Hall, the Society of the Sisters of Christian Charity of New Jersey, under provision of its charter of incorporation, replaced the extension with Assumption Junior College, approved by the State in 1953. In 1961 this institution, newly entitled Assumption College for Sisters (ACS), was incorporated as a separate legal entity, authorized to confer appropriate academic degrees on women religious and those in the program of religious formation. The College remains the embodiment of the heritage received from Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt. It witnesses to her conviction that the Sisters should be well prepared, both spiritually and professionally, to spread the Kingdom of God through sound education, from which, in her words, “flows the temporal and eternal welfare of the individual and of society.”

ACS provides a value-centered, two-year program in theology and the liberal arts. The College welcomes women religious of any racial or ethnic background. In addition, any woman who is seriously discerning religious life and is

recommended by a vocation director or spiritual director may also enroll, though she is not yet part of a religious community or a formal formation program.

Sponsored by the Sisters of Christian Charity, an international religious congregation, the College has a character animated by the spirit of Jesus Christ, rooted in its Catholic identity, and committed to sound academic development. The intercommunity, international, multicultural dimensions at ACS generate a global spirit of community among faculty and students. Assumption College for Sisters values reverence for the dignity of each person and a commitment to integrity, peace, justice, and service. This positive and inclusive atmosphere helps religious build a firm foundation in truth and charity.

In recent years, ACS has welcomed an increasing number of women religious from Africa and Vietnam as full-time, resident students. Although the Sisters of Christian Charity had been accustomed to sponsoring a few international students periodically since 1968, the recent increase in students from developing nations represents a new direction in the College's mission of educating women religious.

Assumption College for Sisters welcomes lay persons to earn credits in theology and philosophy courses and to pursue the Certificate in Theological Studies. They are invited to audit any course and to attend workshops. Their presence is mutually beneficial to all members of the College community. By opening its doors to them, ACS deepens its commitment to the education of those who serve the Church through ministry.

Assumption College for Sisters is licensed by the Commission on Higher Education of the State of New Jersey and accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, (267) 284-5000. The College earned its initial accreditation in 1965 and reaffirmation of accreditation in 1975, 1985, 1995, and 2005.

The College is a member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and the National Catholic College Admission Association. It is an approved member of the Student and Exchange Visitor System (SEVIS) of the United States Department of Homeland Security.

## **Mission and Goals**

***Assumption College for Sisters exists primarily to educate women called to a life of service in the Roman Catholic Church.*** (Mission Statement)

Rooted in its 150 year history, the education of women called by God to the consecrated life remains the heart of the mission of Assumption College for Sisters and its principal claim to distinctiveness. The intellectual, cultural and spiritual development of these women is the reason for the existence of the college, the only Sister-formation college in existence in North America.

The goals of Assumption College for Sisters clearly support its mission.

- **Integrated Religious Formation**

Throughout its history, Assumption College for Sisters has consistently maintained its focus and distinctive mission of educating women religious. By providing sound theology



and philosophy courses in an atmosphere of integrity and shared vision, the administration and faculty strive to enhance the religious formation of the students within the context of their own distinctive community charisms.

International resident students as well as SCC students in initial religious formation share in the daily prayer life of the Sisters of Christian Charity. Not only are feastdays and anniversaries of the SCCs commemorated liturgically, but holidays and community feastdays of the religious congregations attending ACS are recognized. International resident students are offered opportunities for their annual retreat along with the Sisters of Christian Charity.

The academic year opened with a multi-cultural celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy in which international students participated in song and dance. The Prayer of the Faithful highlighted the mission and institutional goals of the college.

Students participated in the Paterson Diocesan Vespers for the Day of Consecrated Life. The young women in the initial stages of formation for the SCC community met in a focus group with the ACS Development Team to provide insights into how better to “market” the mission of the college.

As opportunities present themselves in the curriculum, the history, traditions and charisms of the members of religious congregations attending the college are shared.

- **Leadership**

ACS strives to form women who will be a light for the world and a leaven in society. Whatever form their service may take, Assumption’s students need to be prepared to assume the responsibility of Christian leadership and the commitment to bring, through countercultural witness, the

Gospel message to God's people. The College aims to instill qualities of leadership in its students.

In the various courses, students are encouraged to both think logically and communicate effectively. Oral presentations, which allows ESL students to practice their language skills and increase their confidence, are an integral part of most courses.

Collaboration in academic projects as well as in preparing programs, liturgies and entertainment allow students to exercise leadership skills.

Prior to the students' Field Experience, all participated in the Paterson Diocese's VIRTUS workshop, a training mandated by the Church for all those who have contact with children. It was strongly stated to the group that NO ONE is exempt from this training and our ACS students were a very visible presence.

During the 2012-2013 academic year, students exercised leadership in preparing liturgies at some neighboring parishes, organizing programs and entertainment in the Motherhouse community and sharing their cultural heritage in song and dance at the Caring Basket Gala .

- **Community**

Community, founded on service and respect for each person's dignity, ranks among Assumption's most cherished values. Intrinsic to its heritage, the College strives to further the vision of Blessed Pauline and the spirit of Christian Charity she imparted to her Sisters.

Despite the fact that the college student body speaks several different languages as their native tongue, a great spirit of Christian love and unity exists among them.

This year, one of the students celebrated her twenty-fifth anniversary in religious life. The international student community as well as the Motherhouse community joined in preparing an inspirational celebration for her, Tanzanian style.

A true community experience exists in what is known as the “Sister to Sister” program. Cornerstone women retreat participants from St. Joseph Parish, Mendham have partnered with our international Sister-students. They provide friendship and encouragement. This year, they hosted various holiday get-togethers.

The Vietnamese celebration of Tet (Vietnamese New Year), the most important and popular holiday which celebrates the arrival of Spring, was celebrated by all students as well as the Motherhouse community. Beginning with Eucharistic liturgy, the celebration continued to the evening meal prepared by the Vietnamese students during which the international student body, including Tanzanians, Kenyans, and Vietnamese entertained with festive dance.

One of the exit essays written by a recent graduate states: “I experience the meaning of the Pentecost in Jerusalem in the early Church. I believe in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit today, and another Pentecost is still happening at ACS.”

- **Service**

Service, central to Christian discipleship, is an essential aspect of ACS. Students are expected to avail themselves of opportunities to prepare for a life of service in the Church. The dedicated, loving, generous service offered by alumnae in schools, health care, parishes, retreat ministry, and other ministries both in the United States and developing nations,

provide convincing confirmation of the irreplaceable value of Assumption College for Sisters.

On a regular basis, resident students respond to college and Motherhouse hospitality needs, offering service to both retreat centers: Villa Pauline and Quellen Spiritual Center.

Their service to the college also includes preparing and participating in local parish liturgies and festivities which serve to both share their culture as well as to market ACS to the wider public.

During Hurricane Sandy, ACS students were highly visible, socializing and ministering to the many people who took advantage of our shelter.

Several students accompany the Sisters of Christian Charity on a regular basis to visit the elderly in a local nursing home.

For the third consecutive summer, two international students each month minister at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hoboken, NJ

- **Social Justice**

Growing out of a firm belief in the dignity of each person, faculty and students at ACS strive to see the face of Jesus in all. They seek ways to embrace the poor and eliminate systems of oppression worldwide.

One of the ways in which ACS aids the poor is by its participation in **Better World Books**, an organization which uses the power of business to change the world. We donate used books and also buy used books online to fund literacy initiatives worldwide.

BEGIN HERE!

## Curriculum

The liberal arts curriculum provides the principal vehicle of academic instruction at Assumption College for Sisters. Approved by the Commission on Higher Education of the State of New Jersey, the curriculum gives priority to Catholic theology and philosophy.

The curriculum at Assumption College for Sisters is designed to reflect a global perspective that incorporates an awareness of and respect for the viewpoints, cultures, and customs of all peoples. Through the teaching and study of the contributions of the world community to humankind, ACS strives to broaden student horizons by realizing the connectedness of all individuals whose common needs call each person to strive for the peace and justice of Gospel teaching.

On May 5, 2012 Pope Benedict XVI met with prelates for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops who had just completed their “ad limina” visit. He said: “...the essential task of authentic education...is not simply that of passing on knowledge, essential as this is, but also of shaping hearts. There is a constant need to balance intellectual rigour in communicating the richness of the Church’s faith with forming the young in the love of God, the praxis of the Christian moral and sacramental life and, not least, the cultivation of personal and liturgical prayer.” The very nature of Assumption College for Sisters is fertile ground for this task.

Although ACS emphasizes the liberal arts, current technology provides a useful tool in the learning process. The library is automated and includes an electronic database, providing coverage of more than 1800 periodicals.

Each classroom is equipped with internet access, a laptop and LCD projector. A recent acquisition includes two Epson BrightLink Interactive projectors which allow for interactivity via internet Word, or PowerPoint files.

ACS offers its students an associate degree in the liberal arts in preparation for future professional studies which aim at the acquisition of those special skills necessary for the achievement of particular tasks.

Our commitment to the liberal arts is intrinsically linked to the mission of Assumption College for Sisters. We see education as the formation of the whole person through personal relationships in a rigorous pursuit of truth. As Blessed John Paul II described the nature of a Catholic college, our “privileged task” is to use scholarship to unite two perspectives that are often thought to oppose each other; “the search for truth, and the certainty of already knowing the fount of truth.” In short, faith and reason do not contradict each other.

All curricular offerings are faithful to the mission and goals of Assumption College for Sisters.

## **Enrollment**

Any woman who has been accepted for membership by a Catholic religious community can apply for admission to Assumption College for Sisters, regardless of race, color, or national origin. Women who are in a serious discernment process, with the recommendation of a vocation or spiritual director, may also apply, though they are not part of a formation program. Lay persons may register for theology and philosophy courses and may audit other courses.

In recent years, ACS has welcomed an increasing number of women religious from Africa and Asia as full-time resident

students. Although the Sisters of Christian Charity had been accustomed to sponsoring a few international students periodically since 1968, the recent increase in students from developing nations represents a new direction in the College's mission of educating women religious. Since 2004, the Sisters of Christian Charity (the sponsoring congregation) and ACS have committed to sponsoring twenty-five Sisters from developing nations on an annual basis.

During the Fall Semester, enrollment was 43 students, including both full-time and part-time: 23 international students, 2 Sisters of Christian Charity, 1 discerner for the Sisters of Christian Charity, 12 Sisters from local religious communities, and 5 lay students.

Student enrollment was comprised of 13 different religious congregations representing 7 different countries. The following communities were enrolled:

- African Benedictine Sisters
- Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes
- Congregation of the Lovers of the Holy Cross (2 congregations)
- Daughters of Mary
- Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
- Daughters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
- Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation
- Missionaries of Christ's Charity
- Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Sisters of Our Lady Queen of the Apostles
- Sisters of Christian Charity
- Vocationist Sisters

### **Administration and Faculty**

Dedicated and qualified members of the faculty invite their students to learn wisdom. The instructors themselves are the most effective mode of instruction, providing students

with a living example of their aspirations. Alumnae and current students alike testify that the ACS faculty is challenging and demanding, requiring hard work and integrity. Loving, caring and concerned, they are willing to give students the time and attention they need.

Resulting from an intensive study of curriculum and personnel, the position of Director of Experiential Learning was added to the college administrative team.

Two in-service sessions were provided for the faculty: Sister Mary Ann Jacobs, SCC, PhD, presented “Meaningful Learning for Life”. Sister Theresa Bower, SCC, and Kay Laskoski, teamed to give a workshop on the use of Office 2010.

ACS faculty and administrators have made professional contributions outside the institution:

- ESL Instructor Dr. JoAnne Sylva offered a program at St. Paul Inside the Walls entitled “Outreach through Literature—Catholic Moral Issues Depicted in Modern American Literature.”
- History instructor Sister Mary Veronica Kulsar, SCC, presented the role of the SCCs during the Kulturkampf in Germany to a group of Companions of Pauline, Associates of the Sisters of Christian Charity.
- President Sister Joseph Spring, presented “The Correct way of Teaching the Holocaust in Conformity with Vatican II” to assembled educators at the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, NJ as well as at the National Catholic Educational Convention in Boston, MA. She was invited to participate in the 2012 Annual Seminar for Seminary and Religious Faculty on The Churches and the Holocaust held in Washington, DC.

### **Alumnae Achievements**



Nine new members were added to the cadre of ACS alumnae with Graduation 2012. All have received an AA degree and eight have been granted scholarships to the following institutions of higher learning:

Benedictine University, Lisle, IL  
College of Mount St. Joseph, Cincinnati, OH.  
D'Youville College; Buffalo, NY  
Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ  
Siena College, Loudonville, NY  
University of Scranton, Scranton, PA

One graduate, a Sister of Christian Charity, finished her studies in December 2011 and is currently on mission in the Chilean Province of the congregation. Her parents received her diploma for her, *in absentia*.

Two Salesian novices received their Certificates in Theological Studies during the commencement exercises.

Sister Donna Brady was named 2012 ACS Alumna of the Year, in recognition of her outstanding involvement with the poor and underserved. In October, she had received the Global Herald Award in the diocese of Metuchen given to the individual, parish, or group that shows a strong commitment to the poor, both locally and globally.

Sister Maria Goretti Nguyen, SCC, was inducted into the Alpha Zeta Rho Chapter at Felician College of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education. This was the Instillation of the society at Felician College.

Since 2005, 73 students have graduated with degrees. 69 students received their AA Degree and 4 students received their ARA Degree. Of those receiving an AA degree, 63 students or 91% continued to receive an undergraduate degree. Factored in the remaining 9%, 1 is deceased, and 5 are in community ministry. Of those continuing their

studies 19 students or 30% went on to receive or are pursuing a Master's Degree.

In a recent Alumni survey sent to graduates within the past ten years, it was revealed that many of our graduates are in active ministry in their native lands, holding a variety of positions: teacher, Human Resource officer, Emergency Room technician, Emergency Room nurse, catechist, counselor of individual and group therapy, spiritual director, Pre-K teacher.

### **Academic and Cultural Enrichment**

As has been tradition for the past several years, ACS joined in prayerful remembrance on September 21, the UN sponsored International Day of Peace.

Various students spoke words of peace advocates: Blessed John Paul II, Blessed John XXIII, Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta, St. Francis of Assisi, Maya Angelou, Rabbi Harold Kushner. These words were greeted by the tolling of a bell and the words "Long live absolute world peace", the words inscribed in the peace bell in the United Nations.

Through the generosity of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hoboken, local culture was enjoyed as the students walked through the fall street festival in Hoboken. They enjoyed both American and ethnic food and saw many local and indigenous crafts. ACS was able to purchase a new African drum at one of the booths! They also received an invitation to attend a concert and workshop by Church musician David Haas. The Coordinators of International Resident Student Services and SCC novices and postulants attended.

Rev. George Hasenecz, Russian Orthodox priest presented the students of Hi 101, World Civilization I, 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. Students were able to see some of the differences between Roman and Byzantine services and worship through samples of icons, leavened bread, vestments, crosses, etc.

Students of the ESL 101 course visited Morris Museum to view two special exhibits: “Musical Machines and Living Dolls” and the “American Indian Cultures.” They enjoyed special luncheon at an American restaurant in keeping with the purpose of the course which is “designed to immerse students in the experience of living in the United States. With an emphasis on enhancing conversational skills, the study will include an examination of American history, culture and traditions.” [ACS Bulletin]

When it came to the attention of the instructor of the Th 098 class, Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith, that our international students had never met a person of the Jewish faith. A Jewish woman was invited to the class to share some family traditions. Subsequently, she invited them to her home where students saw first hand some religious items used in Jewish daily life and prayer. She also related the story of her parents, both Holocaust survivors.

Students from the Ed 103 class, Personal Computer Applications, toured the magnificent St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York and then stopped to see Rockefeller Center stopping at the Channel Gardens, the skating rink and the statue of Prometheus. The main destination of the day was a visit to Sony Wonder Technology Center, Madison Avenue, where students participated in the interactive display of the history of technology.

During a holiday weekend, a few students enjoyed local American history by visiting a Revolutionary War encampment held at Jockey Hollow, Morristown Historical

National Park. There they glimpsed life for colonial soldiers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Forty-four students and faculty members traveled by bus to the UN where they had a guided tour. They were also able to view the rotating exhibits which were of particular interest to international students:

- **Women are the Fabric:** a unique quilt exhibition titled “Women are the Fabric”, a tribute to the enduring strength of women and a testimony to their role in weaving the social fabric of their communities.
- **Children and the 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami:** This photo exhibition is both a tribute to the victims of the tsunami-earthquake and an opportunity to showcase humanitarian relief, in particular towards children.
- **The Face of the Ghetto:** The exhibit presents new photographs of community life in the Lodz Ghetto, taken by Jewish inhabitants.

The students also visited the Mission of the Holy See to the UN and met with Archbishop Chullikatt. This position has “observer status” and is not a voting member. The Holy See is the only observer state. Their role is to put a people-centered approach to everything.

Liberty Science Center was the destination for the Sc102 Introduction to Biology class. Accompanied by their instructor, students explored contemporary topics in biology and chemistry, employing critical thinking skills learned in the classroom, engaging with scientific text, and reviewing for the final exam.

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.

Students of ESL 108, Independent English Study, and Hi 102, World Civilization II, classes shared a trip to Newark which served to introduce the students to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The trip culminated with instructors and students sharing 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.

Students of the FA 101, Fine Arts Appreciation dance class, were treated to a performance of Indian dance by Neeraja Dhamdere who performed classical Indian dancing. They also 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.

In the FA 101, Fine Arts Appreciation drawing class, students culminated the course with an art exhibit of their work attractively displayed, open to fellow students, Sisters of the Motherhouse and visitors. Visitors were welcomed with music and refreshments.

At the close of the academic year, students were offered Ed 102, Health and Wellness II, which addressed various topics related to maintaining a healthy mind, body, soul balance: women's health concerns, good nutrition, and proper exercise. Field trips to the Breast Cancer Center of Morristown Memorial Hospital and to the Lotus Mind and Body Studio in Bernardsville provided first hand information for the students.

In the summer session, the Th 201, The Church: Its Nature and History class, participated in a Byzantine Rite liturgy at The Ukrainian Catholic Church in Great Meadows, NJ, where they experienced the rich diversity of the Catholic faith.

### **Public Relations and Outreach**

Assumption College for Sisters students were the "face" of ACS many times during the course of the academic year. They served as hostesses for the Caring Basket Gala, the major fundraiser for ACS. They entertained guests through song and dance at the Gala as well as at the Paterson (NJ) Diocesan Christmas Concert.

During the course of the year, they were invited to participate in the weekend liturgies at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Hoboken, NJ and St. Rose of Lima Church, East Hanover, NJ. They added an international flavor with their singing and liturgical dancing.

Msgr. Robert Meyer, former ACS Trustee, invited six Sister students to minister in Sts. Peter and Paul Parish during the summer months. They assisted the parish as sacristans, attended various parish meetings, visited the sick and homebound and witnessed to Catholic faith and religious life in the parish.

The international students participated in the annual “field experience”, during which they participated in various ministries of the Sisters of Christian Charity as well as the Salesian Sisters. Using skills gained in their ESL classes, in En 103 Fundamentals of Public Speaking, in Hi 098 Cultural Foundations, coupled with their own personal talents, they presented information about their native countries and shared their music and customs with the students in the elementary schools they visited. Some students ministered at Holy Family Convent and Infirmary where they helped care for sick and elderly Sisters of Christian Charity. Students benefitted from observation of teaching techniques and nursing care for the elderly and all returned with dramatically improved English speaking skills!

The college newsletter, *Assumption's Current Sharings*, continues to be the main vehicle for public relations. Through this newsletter, e-mail addresses are being collected in order to provide updates between the quarterly issues. An “Alumni and Friends Network” will be launched in July.

The ACS website, both colorful and informative, hosts photos of fundraisers and other College events. Through the efforts of our public relations person, there has been great success in getting news and feature stories in various local newspapers. ACS continues to seek avenues of involvement and opportunities for good public relations.

## **Gifts and Updates**

ACS Trustee Michael Critchley was named “Irishman of the Year” by the North Ward Center, Inc. This organization and his friends donated \$11,550 to the college in his honor.

“Cornerstone Sisters” organized a small fundraising event called “Bowling for Sisters” to raise funds for the graduates to use for books and expenses at the four-year college to which they are matriculating.

Through the initiative of Msgr. Robert Meyer, Gala honoree and former ACS trustee, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hoboken, NJ, obtained funding to purchase ten new laptops for student use. They also donated a pre-owned Toyota Camry.

Many donations were received in the form of Memorial Scholarships and “Sponsor a Sister.”

Rev. Msgr. John Fell, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Bernardsville, NJ and ACS Trustee had designated the proceeds from their annual pancake breakfast and their Lenten Soup Supper as a financial gift to Assumption College for Sisters.

As a result of the students’ participation at Sunday liturgy at St. Rose of Lima Parish, East Hanover, NJ, the pastor, Rev. Owen Moran, was inspired to ask his parishioners to consider making Assumption College for Sisters their designated Lenten sacrificial donation.

A major accomplishment of the ACS Board of Trustees was the revision of its By-laws, approved in March 2011. Under



the leadership of the Director of Sponsorship for Sisters of Christian Charity and as a result of the data gleaned from the Board Assessment instrument, the By-laws of the Board were revised to reflect “best practices.” To cite some of the notable changes:

- Chair of the Board shifted from the Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Christian Charity to an elected Board Member
- Leadership of the Board was increased to include an elected Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.
- Membership on the board was revised to reflect four members of the sponsoring congregation rather than six.
- Total membership would be no fewer than twelve and no more than fifteen.
- As terms expire, the Board will nominate trustees who would bring various skills to the table: e.g. legal, marketing, finance.
- Committees were re-structured and tasks were clarified.
- Written reports of all committee meetings are to be submitted to the Chair of the Board.
- The Executive Committee has been restructured to reflect what is stated in the By-laws: The Executive Committee shall include the Provincial Superior, who shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Secretary of the Board, the President of the College, and one other Trustee appointed by the Board.

## **Finances**

Through the generosity of friends of Assumption College for Sisters, three Sisters received total scholarships for the academic year. Several others received partial scholarships through interest gained from the Memorial Scholarships.

Archbishop Chullikatt, chair of the Path to Peace Foundation, was instrumental in awarding a full one year scholarship to an international student.

2011 was the second year for the Annual Fund, netting \$29,347 to date. As the name implies, this will be an annual appeal sent to all on the mailing list.

Proceeds from the Eleventh Annual Caring Basket Gala amounted to \$151,100. The event marked the greatest success of all previous ACS Galas. This year's honorees were:

- Education:** Sister Merris Larkin, SC, Principal, Assumption School, Morristown
- Family Life:** Lisbet and Al DeCotiis, New Vernon
- Social Justice:** Rev. Msgr. Reobert Meyer, pastor, Sts. Peter and Paul, Hoboken

The financial success of our development effort enabled Assumption College for Sisters to approach a more sound financial basis.

The Board of Trustees had voted on the resolution to contribute 10% of each fundraiser to the Endowment Fund. Therefore, \$18,045 was added to the Endowment Fund, bringing it to \$278,108.69 as of July 1.

The College paid \$41, 730.48 in occupancy expenses which included the payment of 20% student room and board for 21 international students as well as prorated utilities and internet.

Total contributed salaries of SCC teachers and administrators amounted to \$104,003 for the 2011-2012 academic year, based upon current faculty salary and Paterson Diocesan stipend.

The total operating annual budget for Assumption College for Sisters is \$375,756, excluding contributed services.

### **Loss of a Friend...Former ACS President**

Sister Julitta Heinen, 4<sup>th</sup> president of Assumption College for Sisters from 1995-2002, entered into Eternal Life on May 8 after a short illness.

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.

Sister Julitta's lifelong ministry was education. Beginning in 1949 she taught elementary school and high school; she served as principal of Immaculata High School here at Mallinckrodt; she taught philosophy at both Assumption College for Sisters as well as at Seton Hall University.

Her service to Assumption College for Sisters was rich and varied. She served as Dean, ACS instructor and then as President. As she retired from the presidency, Sister Julitta continued in her role as professor of philosophy until her retirement in Spring 2011. Tributes from her former students attest to her influence. "I have admired her knowledge and wisdom, impressed by her warm welcome and gentle love of the students." Another writes: "Sister made me love Philosophy ... her humility and love for knowledge are beyond explanation. Sister Julitta loved God, her congregation and all God's people, always making a visitation to the Chapel before going to teach." She continues, "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!

## **Conclusion**

With the graduation of 2012, Assumption College for Sisters awarded an AA degree for the 50<sup>th</sup> time, concluding the celebration of fifty-years of incorporation.

True to its founding purpose, ACS continues its mission as a Sister Formation College, intent upon preparing religious women and those in formation for religious life for a lifetime of consecrated service to God's people. Lay persons wishing to grow in both knowledge and spirituality continue to augment and enhance the student body.

ACS alumnae all over the world will continue to touch countless minds and hearts.

As you read this report, we ask you to help us thank God for his manifold blessings on ACS and ask His blessing for its continuance into the future.

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Sister Joseph Spring, SCC  
President, Assumption College for Sisters

August 2012

## **Governance**

### **Members**

Sister Joan Daniel Healy, SCC, Provincial Superior  
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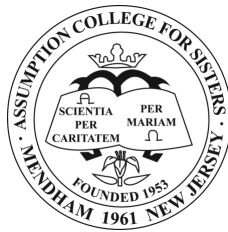
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