

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our theme this year has been **“Stir into Flame the Gift of God”**. I believe this passage from Timothy urges us to both cherish God’s gifts to us and to utilize them for His glory and the spread of His kingdom. Our Sister students have been given the gift of a religious vocation. Their congregations have urged them to pursue a college education and that is such a gift. The fact that each May at Commencement, a group stands before us proves that they have used this gift well. Our young postulant graduates have stirred the gift of their religious vocation and education into flame as they continue in initial formation with the Sisters of Christian Charity.

When I consider God’s gifts, I think not only of our students, but my fellow administrators, faculty, support staff and Board of Trustees here at the college. They are on fire with what they do—enriching the minds and hearts of our students.

So, this past May, I enjoined our Graduates, as they leave Assumption College for Sisters, to cherish and utilize the gifts they have been given. St. Ignatius Loyola told his best friend, St. Francis Xavier, “Go forth, set the world on fire.” Whether this is here in the United States, in Tanzania, in Vietnam, or in the Philippines, in the words of St. Ignatius, I said, “Go forth, set the world on fire!” And you, our readers, are making this possible! May God bless you for your faithfulness to ACS.

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC
President

ANNUAL REPORT

2013 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the birth of Assumption College for Sisters known at that time as Assumption Junior College. Although relatively young among the 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.

Mother Pauline required her young Sisters to become as qualified professionally as their contemporary lay counterparts because she was convinced of the surpassing value of the ministry of education. Knowing, too, how important the Sisters' religious formation was, she provided an integrated program of spiritual, intellectual, and cultural development.

Undaunted by religious persecution and the loss of nearly twenty institutions in Germany, she responded to the needs of the Church across the sea in the Americas.

Hardships were numerous, but the Mother Pauline 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.

Times are changing. Since 1899, the Sisters have maintained two large properties: the Motherhouse, first in Wilkes-Barre, PA and then in Mendham, NJ, along with Holy Family Convent and Infirmary in Danville, PA.

It is now time to bring the Sisters from Danville to the Mendham property. To make this possible, Assumption College for Sisters is in process of planning a move to the Morris Catholic High School campus in Summer of 2015. Plans will be finalized in the very near future.

Both the Sisters of Christian Charity and Assumption College or Sisters have been good stewards of the resources entrusted to us and this move is further proof that good stewardship of resources will continue. Over the years our loyal friends and benefactors have enabled us to operate year by year while at the same time growing an endowment fund which will help ensure our financial sustainability.

The Sisters of Christian Charity are no strangers to Morris Catholic High School. Back in 1960 when the diocese of Paterson established regional high schools, the Sisters of Christian Charity were the “founding order” of Morris Catholic. Throughout the years the SCCs have maintained a presence at the school so, in a sense, now we are “coming home.”

We can assure you that at our new site, the College is and still will remain 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.”

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 also 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. ACS is currently in process of Self-Study leading to reaccreditation in 2016.

The College is a member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. 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. This is clearly demonstrated by the involvement of the religious women who are students at the college, whether they be members of the sponsoring congregation, those of neighboring religious congregations, or international Sisters here on scholarship. A few examples provide illustration.

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 as well as the students in the Sisters of Christian Charity initial formation are offered opportunities for their annual retreat along with the Sisters of Christian Charity.

Annually, the women in initial formation for the Sisters of Christian Charity attend the "Here I am, Lord" Conference, Mount St. Mary, Emmitsburg, MD, a weekend event.

It has become a tradition that both the Orientation Day liturgy as well as the Graduation liturgy reflect the cultures and languages represented here at the college.

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. In addition, students participated in the Paterson Diocesan Vespers for the Day of Consecrated Life

with an offering representing Vietnam, El Salvador and Burundi.

To heighten awareness of the local Church, a lecture offered at Assumption College for Sisters and open to the public was on the life and miracle of Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich entitled "A Saint in NJ?" Following up on this, as part of the International Sisters' Field Experience, a visit was made to her grave site in the Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, NJ.

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

An alumna of ACS, currently the province leader of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth, invited first year ACS international students to the "Transitus" service on the eve of the feast of St. Francis at their Motherhouse.

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.

Students exercise their leadership skills in organizing and presenting various programs of entertainment for both Motherhouse community as well as for the public. This year, international students as well as the Sisters in initial formation entertained as part of a musical concert given by Irish tenor Ronan Tynan as well as at the annual Caring Basket Gala.

ACC students and Salesian students of ACS conduct religious education classes as well as sacramental retreats for elementary school students in a neighboring parish. Salesian Novices conduct periodic Youth Nights for high school and college students.

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.

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 as well as initiating informal exchanges such as shopping trips and visits to their homes.

Also, as part of the civic community in which ACS is situated, several students attended the local Labor Day Parade in Mendham, experiencing this tradition for the first time. In the neighboring community of Bernardsville, NJ, the students applied for and received a library card, had a tour of the library, discovered what community activities the library offers, and learned what is available to them for their research and entertainment.

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 into the evening meal prepared by the Vietnamese students during which the international student body, including Sisters from Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and the Philippines entertained with festive dance.

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.

In November, Vietnamese Sister students fulfilled a request made by Sister Mary Edward, Chancellor of the Paterson Diocese, to perform a dance to the "Magnificat Song", in conjunction with a women's retreat she was giving at Corpus Christi Parish, in Chatham, NJ.

The students attended and participated in a Benefit Concert given by the famous Irish Tenor, Ronan Tynan. This was a wonderful experience! During the various breaks in Ronan's program, the Novices and Postulants, the Vietnamese and the African Sister-students performed for the entertainment

of the many benefactors. The evening was a huge success and the proceeds went towards the ACS Scholarship Fund.

In December, the International Students were requested to perform a song and dance from their native countries for the Senior Citizen's Christmas Luncheon at St. Joseph Parish, in Mendham. Afterwards the student spent time visiting and sharing with the seniors.

On February 11, 2014, the international students participated in the Morris Catholic High School celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, with traditional song and dance representing their various cultures.

Both the young women in initial formation as well as the international students entertained with song and dance at the Jubilee celebration for the Sisters of Christian Charity.

Several students accompany the Sisters of Christian Charity on a regular basis to visit the elderly in a local nursing home as well as an elderly friend of the college who is homebound.

Prior to and during the Caring Basket Gala, the major fundraiser for ACS, students assisted with various tasks: selling of raffle tickets, serving as greeters, and providing entertainment.

In addition, as part of their religious formation, the SCC students in initial formation teach in the local parish religious education program on a weekly basis, assist the formation directresses in vocation outreach, and provide service to the local mission houses when needed. They also take part in events which allow them the opportunity to speak in small or larger groups on the topic of vocation and call to religious life. They also assist in tutoring local elementary school students in need of help.

The Sisters from neighboring religious congregations, Salesian Sisters and Sisters of Divine Vocation, are actively involved in the apostolates of their respective congregations, whether it be retreat work or early childhood education.

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.

On September 21, the International Day of Peace Day ACS students led the commemorative service. Carrying in procession the flags of the nations represented here at the College: Burundi, El Salvador, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines, Poland, South Korea, Tanzania, Uruguay, Vietnam, the United States of America. Students read the words of various men and women of peace. At the conclusion of each reading, a bell was tolled after which they recited in their native language, "Long live absolute world peace" the inscription on the Peace Bell at the United Nations, and the congregation responded the same in English.

In April, two students went to the Passaic Neighborhood Center for Women to help set up a garden that will be used for the growing of vegetables by the women who attend the center, helping the mothers feed their families.

SCC students in initial formation have volunteered with the Missionary of Charity's La Vida Day Care Center in Paterson on summer service projects. They have also made over 65 prayer shawls for elderly and delivered them for Christmas.

Students of Th 098 Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith class had an extensive tour and explanation of the various

outreaches of Corpus Christi Parish, Chatham Township, NJ.

The international resident students, as part of their Field Experience, visited Passaic Center for Women as well as Birth Haven, a home for unwed mothers and their infants.

Another way 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.

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 liberal arts curriculum at Assumption College for Sisters aims at cultivating in students the critical skill of engaging in thoughtful, meaningful dialogue as well as cultivating in students the habits of mind and heart which enable them to make positive contributions in a rapidly changing society, all within the context of living a Christ-centered life.

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 interconnectedness of all individuals whose common needs call each person to strive for the peace and justice of Gospel teaching.

In the Vatican document, "Educating Today and Tomorrow: Renewing Passion" (*Instrumentum Laboris*), it states:

"Schools and universities are places where people learn how to live their lives, achieve cultural growth, receiving educational training and engage in the pursuit of the common good; they provide the occasion and opportunity to understand the present time and imagine the future of society and mankind. At the root of catholic education is our Christian spiritual heritage which is part of a constant dialogue with the cultural heritage and the conquests of science; Catholic schools and universities are educational communities where learning thrives on the integration between research, thinking and life experience....Catholic schools and universities educate people, first and foremost, through the living context, i.e. the climate that both students and teachers establish in the environment where teaching and learning activities take place."

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. The recent acquisition of two Epson *BrightLink* Interactive projectors are used extensively by faculty.

The new technology has enabled instructors to use new techniques in teaching. Both Ph 205 Historical Introduction to Philosophy and Ph 203 Philosophy of the Human Person have become blended courses. A blended course combines the traditional face-to-face classroom with an online learning environment. With the assistance of the course management system (CMS) application named *Coursesites*, a free version of Blackboard, the instructor is able to deliver and manage course content, assignments, learning resources, student's progress, and student's grades online. Through the use of audio and video lectures, which are

uploaded on the CMS application, and supplementary videos and articles, students access their course content prior to leaving their face-to-face class. This allows the student to review the content at her own pace. The face-to-face class time is used to clarify questions, engage in discussion, expand on complex concepts, and work on collaborative projects. Through weekly blog postings and responses, students interact with their instructor and peers online. Students are challenged to make use of online educational tools such as *Blendspace*, *Google Hang Out*, *Google Applications and Drive*, and *Google Shared Documents*. These resources have enriched, expanded, and extended the learning environment beyond the classroom walls.

All curricular offerings are faithful to the mission and goals of Assumption College for Sisters and faithful to the Catholic intellectual tradition in which every discipline is open to searching for the good, the true and the beautiful.

Enrollment

During the Fall Semester, ACS opened with 45 students, including both full-time and part-time: 22 international students, 5 Sisters of Christian Charity, 9 Sisters from local religious communities, and 9 lay students.

Student enrollment was comprised of 14 different religious congregations representing 12 different countries. The following communities were enrolled:

- Bene Maria Sisters
- Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady Help of Christians
- 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
- Maryknoll Sisters
- Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Oblates of Mother of Orphans
- Sisters of Christian Charity
- Sisters of Divine Vocation

Administration and Faculty

In a recent publication, *Integritis*, Boston College, Thomas Plante, Ph.D. of Santa Clara University, observed “Catholic liberal arts educators can proclaim boldly that we are in the business of formation and transformation of students at multiple levels and in multiple ways. We want our students to be competent, ethical, and compassionate global citizens who are thoughtful, savvy, deep thinkers who love learning and who love helping others.”

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.

The position of Academic Dean and Dean Registrar had been successfully divided at the outset of the academic year and will remain divided until ACS is relocated.

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

Phi 098 Cultural Foundations instructor, Russell Raffay, was among 39 graduates in the first class of the diocesan Certificate in Catholic Evangelization (CCE) program.

Through this three-year certificate program, participants commit themselves to following in the Blessed Mother's footsteps in bringing Jesus to the world.

ESL101 ESL Fundamentals and ESL 108 Independent English Study instructor, Joann Sylva was paid tribute by Edward Short, the author of the newest definitive biography of John Henry Newman, *Newman and his Family*. See Jo Anne Cammarata Sylva's *How Italy and her People Shaped Cardinal Newman: Italian Influences on an English Mind* for an excellent account of Newman's Interest in Manzoni." Also, in his *Preface*, he wrote, "Another new friend, Jo Anne Sylva, the author of the indispensable *How Italy and her People Shaped Cardinal Newman*, shared with me her insights into my many-sided subject."

SC101 Introduction to Biology instructor, Ann Ricculi, at the History and Culture Colloquium, Caspersen School of Graduate Studies, Drew University, Madison, NJ. served as Respondent, "Choosing a Famine Narrative: The Philadelphia Irish Memorial." as Program Committee member, 2013-2014, the Dean Hopper New Scholars Conference, "Calibrating Culture: Historical (Re)Readings in Film, Print, and Other Media." Presented a paper, "What Every Child Understood: A Place for Geography in Willa Cather's *The Song of the Lark*." at the Dean Hopper New Scholars Conference, "Thinking Publically: A Conference on Public Intellectuals." In addition she served as Session Chair, for "Global Science and Knowledge Transition in the 19th Century." at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

FA 101 instructor Barbara Kelly-Vergona also served as dance instructor at *Healthquest* of Hunterdon, Flemington, NJ where she taught three weekly classes, two ballet classes and one creative movement class. In addition she choreographed two ballet pieces for a dance performance

and performed in finale piece, *Puttin' on the Ritz*, in the annual dance performance.

AR 101 and FA 101 Drawing Instructor Dr. Katherine Doyle, had an article published in the scholarly journal *Art in Print* May/June 2014. She also has done scholarly and professional editing on a free lance basis.

Ph 203 Philosophy of the Human Person and Ph 205 Historical Introduction to Philosophy instructor Sister Gabrielle Nguyen, SCC, offered a Google Application and Google Hang Out training session to the faculty during the Spring Faculty meeting.

ESL instructor Sister Marie Russo conducted two letter-writing campaigns in her parish, Our Lady of the Valley, Orange, NJ, one on immigration reform and the other on a Bread for the World issue of making US Food Aid more effective. She also served on a committee of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking which organized and conducted information visits to over 300 hotels and motels in NJ area before the Super Bowl and gave presentations on human trafficking at the parish's Social Justice Committee meeting and at the Women's Prayer and Faith Sharing Group.

The Theology instructor, Sister Theresa Kelly, FMA, also Director of a Retreat Center offers numerous sacramental retreats for school children, retreats for adults, and a series of adult/catechist faith formation sessions in the Paterson Diocese as well as workshops at the Archdiocese of Newark's annual Catechetical Convocation and retreats/workshops in several parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Sister Joseph Spring received the annual "Sister Rose Thering Award" on June 11, 2014 at the NJ Department of Education, Trenton, NJ. According to the letter sent from Dr.

Paul B. Winkler, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, “the award is to honor the life work of Sister Rose in the area of education, specifically related to anti-Semitism, the Holocaust/Genocide and prejudice reduction and in developing relationships between Jewish and non-Jewish communities to better enhance and strengthen relationships with each other.” Throughout the year, Sister Joseph has delivered several presentations at both elementary, high school and college level on various Holocaust related topics.

Alumnae Achievements

In the recent document, “Educating Today and Tomorrow: A Renewing Passion,” the Congregation for Catholic Education acknowledged that “the real expected result” of education “is not the acquisition of information or knowledge, but rather personal transformation.” As a Sister-formation college, here at ACS, as we educate our students, we strive to provide the fertile ground for both formation and transformation.

Five new members were added to the cadre of ACS alumnae with Graduation 2014. All have received an AA degree and seven have been granted scholarships to the following institutions of higher learning:

College of St. Mary, Omaha, NE
College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN
Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ
Siena College, Loudonville, NY

One graduate, a postulant for the Sisters of Christian Charity will continue her initial formation in the congregation.

Four Salesian novices and three Sisters of Christian Charity women in initial formation received their Certificates in Theological Studies during the commencement exercises.

Sister Elizabeth Calello, MPF, ('74) was honored as Alumna of the Year at the 2014 Commencement. Currently on the Provincial Leadership team for the Filippini Sisters, she serves as principal of St. Bartholomew Academy, Scotch Plains, NJ. Sister Elizabeth's ministry in Catholic school education spans several dioceses and archdioceses: Philadelphia, Newark, Trenton, Camden, Cleveland, Albany. She has served as principal for 22 years.

Sister Maria Angeline Weiss, SCC (ACS '11) has been awarded the opportunity to spend 5 weeks in the Uruguay-Argentinian Province to advance her skills in conversational Spanish.

Sister Mary Dominic Kopitar, SCC (ACS '82) has been named Secretary General for the Sisters of Christian Charity, position effective December 2015.

Sister Margaret Muchire, SCC, graduated from Penn State University with her BSN and was inducted into the National Honor Society Alpha Sigma Lambda.

Sister Marie Jose de la Rosa, SCC (ACS '11) graduated with her Associate Degree in Nursing from Harrisburg Area Community College. She also won the Nursing Faculty Award for Exemplary Nursing Practice. In June 2014, she successfully completed the national RN licensure exam.

The North American Eastern Province of the Sisters of Christian Charity has taken the call by Our Holy Father Pope Francis “to go forth to everyone without exception...but above all the poor and sick” through our participation in the WORLD SURGICAL FOUNDATION. For the past two years

One of our Sister Nurses, Sister Martin Haubrich, SCC (ACS 67), has joined the Mission to serve the poorest Philippine people in Coron and General Santos City and this coming autumn in Honduras.

Sister Mary Sabina, CPS, (ACS '12) was elected and inducted to membership in Alpha Upsilon Chapter at Scranton University.

Sister Anna Thoi, LHC, (ACS '12) was recognized with highest honors in Psychology and in Religious Studies at graduation from Georgian Court University.

Since the beginning of the college in 1953, 397 Sister students have received their AA or ARA degree. Since 2005, 88 students have graduated with degrees. 83 students received their AA Degree and 5 students received their ARA Degree. Of those receiving an AA degree, 75 or 90% continued to study for an undergraduate degree. Factored in the remaining 10%, 1 is deceased, and 7 are in community ministry. Of those who earned a Bachelor's Degree, 27 students or 36% 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 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

ESL 101 ESL Fundamentals class visited the Morris Museum to see and experience the display on the American

Indian and the Collection of Music Boxes and their history. Coupled with this was a "dining out" experience in which students were taught how to read and order from a menu.

Students from Ar 101, Art History and Appreciation, accompanied their instructor to the studio of local artist Cindy Reyner. The visit followed a November presentation by Mrs. Reyner at ACS that touched on the sources of her inspiration as an artist and discussed several of her actual works (brought to ACS classroom specifically for that purpose). It was the culmination of the class's focus on art appreciation and the nature of creativity.

Students attended an ACS fundraiser sponsored by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Bernardsville, NJ. The old silent movie, "Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde" was the feature film accompanied by Mr. Trent Johnson, organist at the Church. A 101 Music class attended the musical "West Side Story" performed by Delbarton School, Morristown, NJ.

First Year international students visited the Morris County Courthouse to obtain their Morris County Resident ID Cards. While there, they learned about the county history and actual working of the Courthouse; they also met the County Commissioner.

SC 102 Introduction to Biology students traveled to Liberty Science Center and explored current research in technology, ecology, and immunology. The theme of this year's Introduction to Biology curriculum was science communication. Students debated lab results and analyzed graphs. They wrote papers on disease prevention and researched conservation issues in Vietnam and Africa. Through class work, students learned how scientists perform experiments and discuss results. They also discovered that non-scientists, too, contribute to local and global discussions

of relevant issues. Within the ACS science and mathematics program, students acquired strategies for life-long learning. Students of the ESL 108 Independent English Study and the Th 102 World Civilization class was fortunate again this year to have as its guide Rev. Armand Mantia, pastor of Holy Spirit Church, Union, NJ, and a true historian of the Basilica. Fr. Mantia gave an expansive presentation highlighting the five ambulatory chapels surrounding the sanctuary which reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the Roman Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Newark at the time of construction. He also explained the dual purpose of the magnificent stained glass windows as bringing color and light to the faithful and teaching them about the lives of the saints.

The second part of the field trip was a luncheon at the Casa Beabra Portuguese restaurant in the Ironbound Section of Newark which afforded the students an opportunity to sample one of the hundreds of cuisines that are part of the fabric of America. As an added highlight, one of the students, a former missionary in Brazil, spoke in Portuguese to the restaurant employees.

Students in FA 101 Drawing Class, proudly exhibited their new found talents in drawing. Contour drawing, shading, still life were just a few of the media shown. ACS students along with Sisters of the SCC Motherhouse and visitors that day were welcomed to view the exhibit.

The FA 101 Fine Arts Appreciation Drawing Class was treated to a field trip to the Princeton University Art Museum. Docent Harvey Rothberg kept the students engaged by his informative remarks, taking the small group through exhibits of Renaissance Drawings, the prints of Edvard Munch, and Renaissance and Baroque paintings which included some of the masterworks of Princeton's collection. The trip also

featured a final stop at the Gothic-style university chapel, the third largest university chapel in the world.

Several International Students attended the International Festival held at St. Elizabeth College, at Convent Station, Morristown, NJ. The students were treated to a night of music, dancing, a fashion show and a wide variety of food, all with the multiple international flavors of many countries throughout the world.

ACS sponsored a lecture sharing the life and story of Venerable Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich presented by Sister Mary Canavan, SC, Vice-postulator of the Cause for Canonization of Venerable Sister Miriam Teresa and Dr. Mary Mazarella, MD, Medical Consultant to the Cause.

An integral part of the Th 098 course, Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith, is to familiarize the international Sister students with aspects of ministry in the American Church. For the second consecutive year, Sister Margaret Dincher, SCC, Pastoral Associate for Spirituality, has invited the class to visit Corpus Christi Parish for a tour of the facility and an explanation of the various ministries and outreach of the parish.

Several Sisters of Christian Charity and ACS students gathered with Bishop Serratelli at St. Philip's Church, Clifton, NJ to participate in the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. An ACS student from Burundi presented a globe and a student from El Salvador offered flowers. Vietnamese students participated in a lovely candle procession. Sister Mary Edward Spohrer, SCC, (ACS '63) diocesan chancellor/delegate for religious, coordinated the evening. SCC novices and postulants provided singing and bell choir accompaniment.

As part of the Ed 102 Health and Wellness course, 16 students were trained in the use of the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and the skills necessary to perform CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation).

The international students participated in the annual “field experience”. In the past, students lived and engaged in ministries at various convents of the Sisters of Christian Charity and Salesian Sisters. This year, the experience took a different turn. While continuing to reside at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity, students visited various ministries engaged in by the Sisters: Holy Family Convent, Danville, PA; St. Nicholas-St. Mary School and St. Nicholas Parish ministries, Wilkes-Barre, PA; St. Paul-Inside-the-Walls, Madison, NJ; Passaic Women’s and Children Center, Passaic, NJ. They also visited a facility providing specialized care, Birthhaven, Newton, NJ. Interspersed with these experiences were visits to religious, educational, and cultural sites: College of Saint Elizabeth and visit to the gravesite of the soon to be beatified Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, Convent Station, NJ; Historic Speedwell Village (“birthplace of the telegraph”), Morris Plains, NJ.

Brother Paul Diveny, OSB, Headmaster at Delbarton School, Morristown, NJ, spoke about St. Benedict and the Benedictine rule through the centuries to the Th 201, The Church: Its Nature and History class.

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 and provided entertainment for the Caring Basket Gala, the major fundraiser for ACS.

At the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity, the women in initial formation play in the Bell Choir for local and diocesan events.

During the course of the year, the international students were invited to participate at the special patronal feastday (Our Lady of Lourdes) Mass at Morris Catholic High School. They added an international flavor with their singing and liturgical dancing.

The SCC women in initial formation have been highly visible on vocation school visits in both high school and elementary as well as assisting with “live-in” experiences at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity.

The college newsletter, *Assumption’s Current Sharings*, continues to be the main vehicle for public relations along with the newly designed website. The ACS Development Team has assisted in the creation and management of an Alumni and Friends Network. The team has begun to connect with friends and benefactors through the website blog, Facebook page, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn group. They have sent several e-mails encouraging alumni to stay connected and to update ACS with their status since graduating.

The ACS website, both colorful and informative, hosts photos of fundraisers and other College events. 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

Ten laptop computers were received, compliments of DreamWorks Animation, LLC.

Many donations were received in the form of Memorial Scholarships and “Sponsor a Sister.” During the current year, four international Sister students have been sponsored and one single semester tuition was gifted to us.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Bernardsville, NJ had designated the proceeds from their annual pancake breakfast and their Lenten Soup Supper as a financial gift to Assumption College for Sisters. An added feature this year was the presentation of the silent film, “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” with live organ accompaniment; proceeds were designated for Assumption College for Sisters.

We have been very fortunate to receive four grants:

- William E. Simon Foundation
- Gleason Family Foundation
- Lipari Family Foundation
- The Glenmeade Trust

On November 1, Ronan Tynan entertained guests with song, both Irish and traditional. Ticket sales and sponsorship, under the leadership of Finn Wentworth and Michael Critchley gifted the college with monies to be added to our Endowment Fund.

The Thirteenth Annual Caring Basket Gala marked the greatest success of all previous ACS Galas. This year’s honorees were:

Spirit of the Heart: Barbara and James Salerno, Mendham

Family Life: Kristine and Kenneth Donovan,
Brookside

Servant Leader: Rev. Michael Drury, Long Valley

The success of our development efforts and the extraordinary generosity of our friends and benefactors

enabled Assumption College for Sisters to approach a more sound financial basis.

Conclusion

With the graduation of 2014, Assumption College for Sisters awarded an AA degree for the 52st time.

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.

In his 2014 World Youth Day Homily in Brazil, Pope Francis prayed:

“Lord, where do you send us to bring your love and mercy to others? There are no borders, no limits: you send us to everyone. Grant us the grace to remember that your love is not only for those who seem close to us, more receptive, more welcoming. It is for everyone. Help us not to be afraid to go and to bring the Gospel into every area of life, to the fringes of society; even to those who seem farthest away, most indifferent. You seek all, and you want everyone to feel the warmth of your mercy and love.”

Our ACS alumnae all over the world make these words incarnate. We are proud to give them the gift of education to make this possible. Along with you, our generous friends and benefactors, we are co-missionaries in “bringing the Gospel to every area of life.”

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.

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC
President, Assumption College for Sisters
August 2014