



ACS

Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ July 2018

Assumption College for Sisters Commencement 2018

On Saturday, May 12, Assumption College for Sisters held Commencement ceremonies where six students earned AA degrees and four students were awarded Certificates in Theological Studies. Commencement exercises took place in the Christopher H. Thomas Gymnasium in Morris Catholic High School followed by a reception in the MCHS Dining Hall. Rev. Martin Glynn, pastor of Saint Mary's, Denville, and ACS Board of Trustees member, offered the invocation.

The commencement address was delivered by Ms. Mary Alice Lawless, a member of the Institutional Advancement Committee of the Board and 2016 Caring Basket Honoree where Mary Alice, her husband Fred and their five children received the Family Life Award.



Ms. Mary Alice Lawless

Mary Alice is a graduate of Montclair State University, attended The University of South Carolina, Graduate School of Journalism and has completed executive education programs at the University of Notre Dame. Professionally, Mary Alice has been an advisor to leaders in healthcare policy and practice for more than 20 years. She is currently the President and CEO of Everything Health, LLC. Additionally, she serves as Chairman of the Foundation for Health Smart Consumers, a not-for-profit organization committed to the empowerment of people in their own care. Mary Alice is a recipient of the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association (HBA) Rising Star Award for "outstanding accomplishments which made a difference in the industry and inspired others".

Prior to her current roles, Mary Alice was President of Solara, part of what is now Ogilvy-CommonHealth Worldwide, a WPP Company. She also held professional positions with J. Walter Thompson and worked in journalism at ABC News, where she was on staff at "Good Morning America" and "World News Tonight". Mary Alice holds dual citizenship in the United States and Ireland.

Mary Alice and her family were introduced to ACS through Sister Dativa Mukebita, a graduate of ACS, who is now leading the youth in caring for the elderly and poor, at The Village Angels of Tanzania. Through the years, Mary Alice has met more ACS students and faculty, and has witnessed the unwavering dedication and personal commitment of graduates. In addition to being a supporter of ACS, Mary Alice is active in her home parish of Assumption Parish of Morristown, and is on the Advisory Board of Saint Paul's Inside the Walls in Madison, NJ.

In her commencement address Ms. Lawless spoke of how the clarity of purpose and the commitment of the graduates inspire the ACS community as well as the surrounding community. She addressed the graduates, "You have chosen God as your compass, and you have already taken steps of faith into a life that He has planned for you. The future of our world depends on brave, loving people like you spreading the Good News every day. What you've learned here at ACS – about learning, growing and serving - is precisely what you need to share the kingdom of God with others."

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Graduates pictured from left to right:
Sister Mary Cecilia Akol, LSOSE, Sister Lucia Anh Nguyen, SPP,
Sister M. Norbertha Mlowe, OSB, Sister Marie-Therese Linh Nguyen, SPP,
Sister M. Charity Nkwera, OSB, Sister Catherine Thu Le, FMV



17th Annual Caring Basket Gala: What a Night!

Close to 400 people turned out on March 22 to celebrate our honorees and make the mission of Assumption College for Sisters possible! There were smiles from

one end of the ballroom to the other with Sister students singing, a raucous auction led by Andrew Anselmi, fun and fantastic gifts and inspiring words of witness for the mission



Therese & Kevin Coughlin



of ACS from each of the honorees. The gala netted \$160,000 to support the education of our sponsored sisters. We thank each member of the Gala Committee, Co-chairs Patricia McGrady, Judy Milaniak, Louis Scarpa and all those who donated to the event. Prayers and gratitude are extended to honorees Kevin and Therese



Rev. Msgr. George Hundt



The Duphiney Family

Coughlin, Monsignor George Hundt, and the Duphiney Family. Visit our FaceBook page to view an album of the evening!



ACS Class of 2018

Associate in Arts Degree

Sister Mary Cecilia Akol, LSOSF

Siena College, Loudonville, NY

Sister Catherine Thu Le, FMV

Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Cromwell, CT

Sister Lucia Anh Nguyen, SPP

Marywood University, Scranton, PA

Sister Marie-Therese Nguyen, SPP

Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ

Sister M. Charity Nkwera, OSB

Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, WI

Sister M. Norbertha Mlowe, OSB

Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, WI

Certificate in Theological Studies

Sister Bernadette Joyce Bermejo, FMA

Sister Molly Heine, FMA

Cynthia Kaiser Haidri

Sister Monica Wheeler, FMA

ACS Honors 2018 Alumna of the Year

Each year, ACS recognizes an Alumna of the Year. This year ACS will honor Sister Teresa Ann Jacobs, SCC. Sister Teresa Ann has been a member of the Sisters of Christian Charity for 44 years. She is an alumna of ACS and a former Board Member.

Sister's earliest profession was in Elementary Education. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Felician College (now University) and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education Administration, from Villanova University. Sister taught elementary school for eighteen years and was an elementary school administrator for ten years.

Sister Teresa Ann began a career in healthcare administration in 2003. She accepted the position of Vice President of Mission Effectiveness then Vice President of Professional Services at Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. During that time, she completed a Master's degree in Health Administration from Penn State University. Sister Teresa Ann accepted an opportunity to work at Saint Vincent's Health System, Erie, Pennsylvania in an administrative internship and as interim Senior Vice President of Professional Services.

In January, 2009, Sister Teresa Ann accepted a Director of Sponsorship position with the Sisters of Christian Charity. In her present role, Sister ensures sponsorship effectiveness of the sponsored works of the Sisters of Christian Charity. Sister recently completed a



Sister Teresa Ann Jacobs, SCC

165,000 square foot building project for the Sisters of Christian Charity's new Motherhouse in Mendham which serves as the Sisters home for retired sisters, Formation, Provincial Administration, and central services for the Sisters of the Province.

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At the conclusion of her remarks, Ms. Lawless left these thoughts with the graduates,

“Remember ACS - the College that has given each of you so much. Your teachers and the ACS staff have launched you into a life of servant leadership, and wherever your service takes you, I hope that you will hold ACS as a precious memory and reference for your decisions. We all will share the future you will help to create through your noble works as faithful servants of God. I am very optimistic about that future, because of you and all that you promise.”

Each year during the graduation program a member of the

graduating class shares some personal reflections on her class' experiences during their three years of study at ACS. Sister Mary Cecilia Akol, a native of Uganda and a member of the Little Sisters of St. Francis offered this year's remarks. Sr. Mary Cecilia challenged the graduates and all in attendance, “Let courage be our defense against cowardice, hope our defense against

despair, compassion our defense against destruction. Let's choose love as our ultimate defense against fear. Because in the face of fear lies the golden opportunity for us to shift the whole narrative in the lives of all those we shall be serving. Here and now lies the whole golden opportunity for you, for me, for us to be the ultimate world changers.”



Students earning the Certificate in Theological Studies pictured from left to right: Sister Molly Heine, FMA, Sister Bernadette Joyce Bermejo, FMA, Sister Monica Wheeler, FMA, Cynthia Kaiser Haidri

The Annual Fund: Teach a Sister Touch the World!

The Annual Fund seeks to enhance the educational and spiritual formation programs offered at the college. All contributions to the Annual Fund assist the college and its students in achieving measurable success as they prepare for a life of service.

Donations may be made by check, payable to Assumption College for Sisters; credit card by calling the college at 973-957-0188 x 101; or online giving at acs350.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNAE: Sister Emmanuel Phan, FMSR

Sister Emmanuel Phan, a member of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Congregation, graduated from ACS in 2007 before continuing her education at D'Youville College in Buffalo, NY. After earning her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English in 2009 and Master of Science Degree in Adolescence Education in 2010, Sr. Emmanuel began teaching English as well as British and American Literature in several colleges including Ho Chi Minh City University of Foreign Languages and Information Technology (HUFLIT) and Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics and Finance (UEF). Sr. has taught at the college level for eight years and typically teaches 250 students in five different classes each semester.



Sister Emmanuel Phan, FMSR

Entering the Congregation of our Lady of the Holy Rosary in 1994, Sr. Emmanuel recalls, “To choose my religious vocation, I simply thought if I got married, I would not ‘be free’ in order to get around and serve the difficult. However, after living in religious life, I slowly realized that to follow Jesus, I need to remain in Him and do God’s will.”

Reflecting on her teaching ministry Sr. Emmanuel remarks, “The more I work with students, the more I love them and literature itself. Before and after discovering a new lesson, I always try to let them think and apply some moral values to their own life and learning process. I think that is one of my main purposes while I am teaching in colleges.”

On her time at ACS, Sr. Emmanuel remembers, “Sometimes, I recall how I was uneasy about my English language at the beginning. Thank God that the Sisters of Christian Charity (SCC) as well as the professors of ACS were very patient to help me, so that I could overcome this obstacle very soon. I seemed to be so quiet but always tried to listen and to understand what I heard and read. Three years at ACS helped me to learn and obtain a lot: language, cultures, customs, basic general knowledge, teaching skills from professors, field trips, charity, fellowship, community life, respect for individuals, and so on.”

Besides teaching, Sr. Emmanuel also serves her congregation as a provincial councilor and a directress of 79 pre-postulants, from 18 to 27 years old. Sister also guides the final-year candidates, who are transferred to the pre-novitiate.

Sr. Emmanuel reflects on the values she learned from the Sisters of Christian Charity and ACS: patience, respect, bringing happiness and sharing love freely. She receives inspiration from the Gospel of St. Matthew: “Freely you have received; freely give (Mt 10:8). Sr. Emmanuel concludes, “In short, from my heart, I could never forget how I was welcomed and instructed by the SCCs and ACS. I also know that there were many benefactors who supported my education there. So, what can I do except remember all in my prayers!?”



Board of Trustees Annual Retreat: Start with Why

On April 18th the Board of Trustees, administration, and staff participated in the third annual Board retreat generously hosted by Ken and Kris Donovan at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club, Basking Ridge.



Ken and Kris Donovan, hosts of the ACS Board Retreat and owners of Fiddler's Elbow Country Club, Basking Ridge, NJ.

The day began with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Rev. Martin Glynn, pastor of St. Mary's parish in Denville and member of the Board of Trustees. In addition to the final Board meeting for the academic year, the Board attended a keynote presentation offered by Ken Donovan inspired by Simon Sinek's book, *Start With Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action*. Board members were challenged to consider what is the purpose, cause, or belief of ACS; why do we exist and why should anyone care.

The book explores what it takes to truly lead and inspire and how truly inspired leaders and organizations, regardless of size and industry, all think, act, and communicate from the inside out.

Understanding that most organizations can explain what they do, some can explain *how* they go about their mission, but can they articulate *why*? Ken offered valuable insights in applying this model of organization and leadership based upon his successful experience at Fiddler's Elbow. The presentation inspired Board members to clearly articulate the why of ACS and to continue to be great leaders who participate in God's plan of mercy, charity and love through the education of Catholic sisters. Ken and Kris Donovan are long-time supporters of ACS and were honored at the 2014 Caring Basket where they received the Family Life Award. Kris has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2014 and is also on the Facilities Committee of the Board. We are so grateful to the Donovan's for their continued generosity to ACS and for their example of faith in action.

ACS Field Trips



Students from the FA 101 Art Appreciation-Drawing class were accompanied by instructors Dr. Kathy Doyle, Jane Kopley, and Barbara Kelly-Vergona on a field trip to Luna Parc located in Sandyston Township, NJ. The sculpture park, residence, private museum of artist Ricky Boscarino is assembled with Art, objects and oddities from his worldwide travels. Luna Parc is part of the Luna Parc Atelier Foundation which is an arts colony that teaches apprentices vocational, business, and life skills to succeed as self-supporting artists.

Students Visit Corpus Christi Parish

On April 19, first year students visited Corpus Christi parish in Chatham where Sister Margaret Dincher, SCC gave them a tour and discussed various parish ministries



Pictured from left to right: Sister Mary Thuan Bui, FMV; Sister Lucia Luyen Pham, LHC-TT; Sister Renilde Ndabihaze, BM; Sister Margaret Dincher, SCC; Sister Maria Linh Tran, LHC-TT; Sister Maria Duong Nguyen, FMV; Sister Pascaline Musyoka, CPS; Sister Lucia Misoji, OSB; Sister Isabel Mula, CPS

Additional field trips taken during the semester include: the FA 101 Art Appreciation Dance class attended the New York City Ballet's performance of Romeo and Juliet In February, the Ed 099 Library Information Resources class visited the Denville Public Library in April, and the second year students visited the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark in April.

ACS Mourns the Passing of Mrs. Antoinette Petrocelli

The ACS community gives thanks to God for the life of Ann, who passed away suddenly on May 11, 2018. Ann and her late husband, Anthony, were strong proponents of education, creating a charitable trust in 1988 that provides grants to nonprofit organizations in New Jersey. Ann was a Trustee of Fairleigh Dickinson University, assuming the term of her late husband. She also served as a Board of Trustees Member for the Link Community Charter School and Link Education Partners.

Ann took a keen interest in the education of Catholic sisters here at ACS. She was deeply interested in the academic program and the work of the Sisters in their homelands. In recognition of her outstanding commitment to education, Ann was the 2015 recipient of the ACS Education Award. In discovering rewards in life, Ann said "Find something challenging, take initiative and you will stay interested and engaged."

ACS thanks all those who made a donation to the College in loving memory of Ann.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her!



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

200 A MORRIS AVENUE
DENVER, NJ 07834

SAVE THE DATE! *The Eighteenth Annual Caring Basket Gala*

The
Eighteenth Annual
**Caring
Basket
Gala**

April 4, 2019

The Hanover Marriott

Whippany, NJ