



ACS

Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ July 2019

Assumption College for Sisters Commencement 2019

On Saturday, May 11, Assumption College for Sisters held Commencement ceremonies where six students earned AA degrees, one student earned an ARA degree, and three 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.



Graduates pictured from left to right: Sister Maria Lien Phung, LHC-NT; Sister Domitille Ndayisenga, BM; Sister Vinsensia Wunga, FSSE; Sister Maria Elizabeth Pajoc Siney, OMO; Sister Mary Catherine Hop Pham, FMSR; Sister Anna Ngoc Phan, LHC-NT; and Sister Ana Leticia Castro Osoria, OMO

The commencement address was delivered by Ms. Kristine Donovan, a former member and Vice-chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Assumption College for Sisters (2014-2018), serving on the Executive, Governance, and Facilities Committees. Kris and her husband Ken were Caring Basket Honorees in 2014 where they received the Family Life Award and they continue to wholly embrace the mission of ACS, helping to revitalize the written mission statement and facilitating many improvements to the College building and grounds.



Ms. Kristine Donovan

Kris has a BS degree in Marketing and an MBA in Financial Management and worked in the Financial Services industry as an Options Strategist until the birth of her first child. She and her husband, Ken, support and have particular interest in Catholic and values-based education as the means to positively transform lives. Kris is a current Trustee on the Board of Tri-County Scholarship Fund.

In her commencement address Ms. Donovan spoke of the graduates being like Jesus: servant leaders who will be transforming lives around the world where their skills and leadership honed at ACS are desperately needed to minister to the vulnerable, serve the elderly poor, care for the sick, teach the young and illiterate and serve their religious communities.

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Students earning the Certificate in Theological Studies pictured from left to right: Sister Marie Fe Tansioco, FMA; Sister Rachel Lauritsen, FMA; Sister Boram Lee, FMA

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNAE: Sister Cesilia Martinez Zoto, OMO



Sister Cesilia Martinez Zoto, OMO

Sister Cesilia Martinez Zoto, a member of the Opera Mater Orphanorum Congregation, graduated from ACS in 2016 before continuing her education at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, NJ. After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, Sr. Cesillia began working in various ministries for her community located in San Vicente, El Salvador. Presently, she serves the poor, elderly, and homeless by preparing food for the surrounding community as well as visiting the sick and homebound. Sister Cesilia recently had the opportunity to assist with a Eucharist service during Holy Week in a countryside town where there is a shortage of priests and no available transportation for the people to travel to the church in the city.

In addition to serving the poor, Sr. Cesilia also assists her community with formation, working with interested girls to spend time with the OMO congregation to discern vocations. Sr. Cesilia also travels wherever she is invited to speak about her community to encourage vocations.

Entering the Congregation of Operal Mater Orphanorum in 2005 when she was 19 years old, Sr. Cesillia recalls, “My vocational process began when I was 7 or 8 years old. My grandma asked me if I wanted to be a nun. I didn’t know much about it, however, I said ‘yes.’ It was a yes that I never forgot! I stated to work in my parish as a catechist and leader of pastoral youth. My passion for the youth and children made me seek a community with that kind of ministry, and I found Mother of Orphans, where I am a member”.

On her time at ACS, Sr. Cesillia remembers, “I am really grateful to all who have been part of my education, because I could not be doing what I am doing without it. ACS taught me a way of learning that led me to open my mind, my heart, and my thinking. I gained knowledge, leadership skills, spiritual insights, and wonderful experience that I could never forget. Everything I learned is significantly useful to my community.”

ACS Honors 2019 Alumna of the Year



Sister Marilyn McCusker, SCC Congratulations Sister Marilyn!

Each year, ACS recognizes an Alumna of the Year. This year ACS honored Sister Marilyn McCusker, SCC, ACS class of 1963. Sister Marilyn has been a member of the Sisters of Christian Charity for 60 years.

In 1970, Sister Marilyn graduated cum laude with her BS in Education from Seton Hall University. She continued her studies at Villanova University and was awarded her Master’s degree with certification in both math and chemistry.

A native of New York, Sister Marilyn has had a long and distinguished ministry in Catholic education. She has taught in various elementary and high schools staffed by the Sisters of Christian Charity. In 1985, she began teaching at Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg, PA, and her reputation for excellence continues today.



Congratulations to Sister Mary Kieu Nguyen, FMSR and Sister Monica Nakawala, LSOSF, (ACS class of 2017) who have been awarded a Recognition of Academic Achievement in Scholarly Research at Georgian Court University. Congratulations to Sisters Mary Kieu and Monica who graduated from GCU in May.

Congratulations to Sister Fides Nijimbere, BM, (ACS class of 2016) who graduated Cum Laude from the University of Scranton in May.



Kris concluded by addressing the graduates, “You are part of the movement to transform lives around the world to make it a better place. Every one life that you touch will change the lives of many more. There is a multiplying effect to what you will do. And, this is exciting to me and to all those who support you. *Teach a Sister, Touch the World*. We are grateful for what you have done and for what you will do and we are in awe of you.”

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 Elizabeth shared, “A gift from God has been your support to enable us to overcome difficult times. Each one of us will try our best to use our knowledge and to carry your dreams and wishes forward to “Teach a sister, Touch the world!”

A Gathering of Gratitude: The Caring Basket Gala

The ACS 18th Annual Caring Basket lasted one night, but the event’s impact extends for many years to come by providing sponsored Sister students from the developing nations with scholarship funds. The generosity out-poured in that one magical evening of April 4, 2019, will make a difference in the lives of the communities the Sisters will serve.

The ballroom of the Hanover Marriott was transformed once again into a place of hospitality and good cheer thanks to the joy of the Sister students who greeted the attendees. Many hugs and warm greetings were exchanged amongst those who are currently friends of the college. The gala is also a wonderful opportunity for new friends to be introduced to the Sisters and the mission of ACS.

The entire ACS community offers gratitude to God for our very special honorees: Mr. & Mrs. Charles and Jody Varvaro, Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Susie Waldele, and Monsignor Herbert Tillyer.



Gratitude to Former Faculty

Mr. Roger Richard

Welcome New Faculty

Rev. Jared Brogan

Fundamental Moral Theology

Mr. Henry Crouse

World Civilization I

Ms. Lori Kretten

Historical Intro to Philosophy (CEP)

Ms. Karen Pope

Basic Mathematics

Ms. Rebecca Rush

Fundamentals of Public Speaking

Mr. Mark Tosso

Chistology (Online)

The honorees embody in their life work, the values of ACS: faith and service to the greater community. “Our honorees inspire us with their generosity of time, talent and financial support. In the midst of their very busy lives, they made room for our Sisters,” said Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, ACS president.

These generous friends of ACS provide the Sisters with the support that is needed so that their prayer, studies, and community life can be the focus of their time at ACS.

God blesses ACS with the wonderful benefactors, friends, and spiritual companions as we, together, “Teach a Sister...touch the world.”

ACS Class of 2019

Associate in Arts Degree

Sr. Maria Ai Thi Lien Phung, LHC-NT
Marywood University, Scranton, PA

Sr. Domitille Ndayisenga, BM
Mount St. Joseph University, Cincinnati, OH

Sr. Anna Bich Thi Ngoc Phan, LHC-NT
College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ

Sr. Mary Catherine Hop Nguyen Bich Pham, FMSR
College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ

Sr. Maria Elizabeth Pajoc Siney, OMO
Congregational Ministry

Sr. Vinsensia Wunga, FSSE
Congregational Ministry

Associate in Religious Arts Degree

Sr. Ana Leticia Castro, OMO
Congregational Ministry

Certificate in Theological Studies

Sr. Rachel Lauritsen, FMA

Sr. Boram Lee, FMA

Sr. Marie Fe Tansioco, FMA

ACS Expands Concurrent Enrollment Program with Morris Catholic

Beginning with the Fall 2019 semester, ACS will add the Introduction to Psychology course taught by Ms. Lori Kretten to the Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) in which MCHS juniors and seniors have the opportunity to earn 3 college credits from ACS while completing high school. The other ACS CEP course offered at MCHS is Introduction to Philosophy, taught by Mr. Craig Davis.

The benefits of enrolling in the CEP program are numerous: earning college credit in high school gives the student an introduction to college level academics and distinguishes the candidate during the college application process, plus the credits earned from ACS are at a significant cost savings at \$225 for 3 credits. ACS plans to continue to expand the CEP program to area high schools.

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

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DENVER, NJ 07834

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Teach a Sister...
Touch the World!

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

The
Nineteenth Annual
*Caring
Basket
Gala*

March 26, 2020
The Hanover Marriott
Whippany, NJ