



ACS

Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ August 2020

ACS Graduation... finally!

May 9 was the intended date for 8 Sister students from Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, to receive their diplomas. However, due to the events associated with the pandemic, that aspect had been postponed to a later date.

Despite the unprecedented times, the College administration did not want the day to go unnoticed. As a special surprise, Faculty, Staff, Board of Trustees, several Denville and Mendham friends formed a special congratulations parade. The Mayor Tom Andes of Denville, a parishioner of St. Mary's, Denville, enlisted the police and fire department. Over 40 cars decorated with signs and balloons joined the car parade, led by Denville Chief of Police and concluded with Denville Fire Department and Denville Emergency squad. No one was allowed out of his/her vehicle in order to maintain social distancing.

Graduates and Sister residents of the College lined the sidewalk carrying signs with each graduate's name and special Class of 2020 masks all designed by the resident Sisters.

All were overwhelmed at the outpouring of love and support of so many friends of the Sisters. The parade for the graduates was live streamed to Facebook and can be accessed using the link. <https://bit.ly/2ZpwUAI>



Each year during commencement a member of the graduating class shares personal reflections on her class' experience during their three years of study at ACS. Sister Pascaline Musyoka, a native of Kenya and a member of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood offered this year's remarks. Sister Pascaline concluded with, "Yes the corona pandemic has imparted uncertainty but we hope the future holds the best moments for each one of us and so, with hearts filled with gratitude, we ask the Lord to bless us with boldness as we join mother Mary in her canticle of praise blessing each and everyone in a particular way."

Sister Joseph Spring, ACS President, also addressed the graduates, "As you leave ACS for your 4 year college, I pray that you bring with you the lessons of mind and heart learned here at ACS:

That studying hard pays off in the end
That cultural differences are to be cherished, not feared
That you are loved by all for who you are
That no matter what, God is in charge."

The plan was for a formal graduation to take place on May 31, Pentecost Sunday, thinking by then, Mass could be celebrated and commencement exercises could be held on a small scale level. However, due to Governor Murphy's announcement allowing in-person graduations beginning July 6, and insisting that people still be barred from hosting indoor gatherings of more than 10 people because of the pandemic, with no exemption for houses of worship, a plan for a Eucharistic Service was made. Although they weren't able to be present, our prayers and congratulations are also offered to the non-residential graduate and certificate earners.

At the conclusion, the graduates enjoyed a reception with refreshments delivered by various friends. Later that day, the Graduates prepared a festive evening meal and the first and second year students prepared a very entertaining and poignant program.



Annual Caring Basket Gala 2020

If you have ever planned a wedding or major celebration, you know that it can take many months, perhaps even a year of preparation. Reserving the venue, coordinating calendars, printing invitations, setting up a website, are just a few of the details! Planning Assumption College for Sisters Annual Caring Basket Gala was no different. Honorees Thomas Anselmi, Brother Paul Diveny, OSB, and Louis and Julianne Modugno, along with the Gala Committee, Co-chairs Patricia McGrady and Louis Scarpa, and Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, president, expended tremendous effort to ensure the success of the gala.

Then, two weeks before the Gala, scheduled for March 26, 2020, the College made the difficult decision to cancel the event due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, cancelling this major funding event, which was in the planning for more than a year, threatened financial consequences for the College.

However, the Gala Committee and honorees agreed that the benefactors desired to see the mission funded, despite the physical event being cancelled. True to the spirit of generosity of Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt, each of the Gala's approximately 300 attendees graciously donated the ticket back to the College. The commitment to the mission from the College's donor base is astounding.

Within two weeks, the Gala Committee managed to set-up an online platform for the auctions, marking the first attempt for such an undertaking. The auctions were a great success. Happily, the "virtual" gala raised \$140,000 with additional pledges made.

Despite the change in plans, those who believe in the mission of Assumption College for Sisters were united in spirit. The College was able to recognize the honorees for their service to the Church and the community. Reflecting on these blessings, Sister Joseph Spring stated, "Our honorees and many others who supported us, participate in God's divine providence. The spirit of Blessed Pauline lives on in them and in the mission of Assumption College for Sisters. May Mary, health of the sick, be our strength."

Servant Leader Award:



Thomas Anselmi

Family Life Award:



Louis & Julianne Modugno

Education Award:



Brother Paul Diveny, OSB

ACS Class of 2020

Associate in Arts Degree

Sister Mary Thuan Bui, FMV
Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ

Sister Martina Marni, SDV
College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ

Sister Lucia Misoji, OSB-OLHC
Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD

Sister Isabel Mula, CPS
Divine Word College, Epworth, IA

Sister Pascaline Musyoka, CPS
Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ

Sister Maria Duong Nguyen, FMV
King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Sister Lucia Luyen Pham, LHC-TT
Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ

Sister Maria Linh Tran, LHC-TT
Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ

Certificate in Theological Studies

Sister Cherilly Galley, FMA

Sister Janna San Juan, FMA

Ms. Purita Legaspi



Board of Trustee member, **Ellen Sandman**, suited up as a pirate on February 22nd and took a plunge at Cooks Pond to support S.P.A.R.K. (Supportive Parents Advocating for Our Kids) whose mission advocates independent living for developmental disabled men to have the choice to live with whom they are compatible in terms of age and abilities within the community they know and love.

Fall 2020 - Theology and Philosophy Courses August 25-December 17

Th 101	Sacred Scripture I	3 credits	Tue 12:30-3:15 pm	Sister Theresa Kelly, FM
Th 202	Sacramental Theology	3 credits	Tue 9:00-11:45 am	Sister Theresa Kelly, FMA
Ph 205	Historical Introduction to Philosophy	3 credits	Tue 3:00-4:15 p.m. and Fri 9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.	Craig Davis
Th 204	Spiritual Theology	3 credits	Wed 10:30-11:45 am and Wed 12:30-1:45 pm	Sister Theresa Kelly, FMA
Th 208 A	Contemporary Issues	3 credits	Wed 6:30-9:15 pm	Invited speakers (registration for individual lectures is available)
Th 206_O	Christology	3 credits	Online	Mark Tosso

The College also offers a Certificate in Theological Studies (30 credits in theology and philosophy, including 24 credits in theology and 6 in philosophy).

\$516/course for credit

\$258/course for audit

Course descriptions and registration forms are available online at our website: acs350.org

For registration call or e-mail by August 1: Academic Dean - 973-957-0188 Ext. 100 academicdean@acs350.org

ACS Life – “not as usual!”

Daily life during the CoVid-19 quarantine was not “life as usual”! Due to churches and schools ordered closed by the governor of New Jersey, ACS had to make several changes. College classes were conducted at their usual time, but instead of face to face, they were delivered either by *Zoom* or *Google Hangout*. The faculty worked hard to make the classes as interesting and interactive as possible and the students also worked hard to fulfill the requirements.



Before going back to classwork in the evenings, the Sisters exercised around the high school campus, danced and sang in the Student Center, assembled several jigsaw puzzles and enjoyed each other’s company. Sunday liturgy was livestreamed from the local parish, St. Mary’s Church in Denville.

The students and staff were grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of friends and neighbors checking in on us, providing us with groceries, fresh produce, and some treats.

To maintain our F-1 Student Visa status, we remain committed to our studies and are careful to stay quarantined. Everyone at ACS is anxiously awaiting a return to some sort of normalcy.



ACS alumnae (class of 2019) **Sister Ana Leticia Castro Osorio** from the OMO community is pictured with three postulants who entered their community in February.

Sister Rustica Kayombo, OSB-I (ACS class of 2014) earned her MBA at Mount Saint Joseph University in Cincinnati, traveled back to Imiliwaha to oversee the building of a surgical center, and then travelled to Lisle, Illinois to help raise support for the building and equipping of the surgical center.

Congratulations to Sister Rustica!



ACS Faculty Member and Alumna Inducted into Theta Alpha Kappa



On May 12, 35 students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels were inducted into Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology. This year's virtual induction ceremony was organized by Dr. Michael Maloney, Lecturer in Religion and the faculty advisor to Seton Hall's chapter Omicron of Theta Alpha Kappa.

ACS alumna Sister Marie Therese Nguyen, SPP (class of 2018) and faculty member Mr. Russell Raffay were among those inducted.

Founded in 1976, Theta Alpha Kappa's mission is to recognize academic excellence in the disciplines of religious and theological studies, and it is the only national honor society to do so. Members include undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty. There are over two hundred college chapters of Theta Alpha Kappa throughout the United States.



Congratulations, Sister Marie Therese and Mr. Raffay!

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

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NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 442
TOMS RIVER, NJ

Teach a Sister...
Touch the World!

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

The
Twentieth Annual
*Caring
Basket
Gala*

March 25, 2021
The Hanover Marriott
Whippany, NJ