



# ACS

## Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ August 2021

### Assumption College for Sisters Commencement 2021

On Friday, May 7, Assumption College for Sisters held Commencement ceremonies where nine students earned AA degrees, one student earned an ARA degree, and four students were awarded Certificate in Theological Studies.

Commencement exercises took place at St. Mary's Church, Denville, following a Mass concelebrated by Rev. Martin Glynn, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Rev. Richard Tartaglia, parochial vicar, and Rev. Joseph Nguyen, visiting clergy.

A reception followed in the Riverview School Annex to celebrate the graduates and certificate earners.



Dr. Jo Anne Sylva

Dr. Jo Anne Cammarata Sylva delivered the commencement address. Dr. Sylva has taught ESL and English at ACS since 2006 in addition to having served on the ACS Board of Trustees for eight years.

Dr. Sylva is a first-generation Italian American who grew up in Caldwell, New Jersey. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from William Paterson University, a Master of Arts from

Montclair State University, and a Doctor of Letters from Drew University. She has taught at William Paterson University and Caldwell University. She has been a board member of the American College in Leuven, Belgium, and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Columbus Citizens Foundation in New York City.

Dr. Sylva is the author of *How Italy and Her People Shaped Cardinal Newman: Italian Influences on an English Mind*. She has lectured to religious congregations on Loss and Gain in Consecrated Life and in November, 2019, presented her paper on "How Italy and Her People brought Newman to a New Holiness" at the Blessed John Henry Newman Symposium at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York. In addition, Dr. Sylva has given radio and newspaper interviews on Newman and the Italians and has published articles on rehabilitation options for persons with spinal cord injuries.

But she feels that her most rewarding professional experience continues to be here at Assumption College for Sisters where she has the privilege to instruct women religious from Asia, Africa, and Central America.

During her commencement address, Dr. Sylva recounted her early days teaching the graduates and how she included prayers

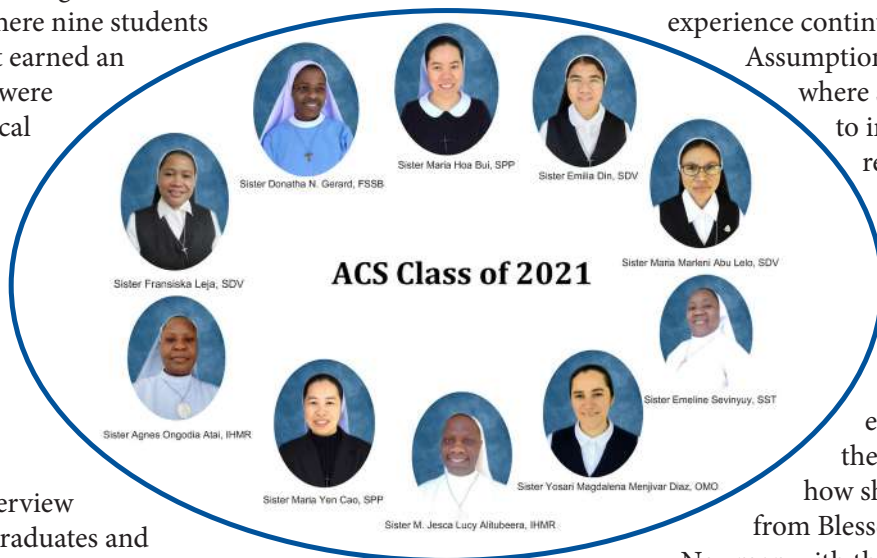
from Blessed John Henry

Newman with the students. Dr. Sylva addressed the graduates, "I explained to you that Newman took this phrase [Cor ad cor loquitur] from St. Francis de Sales and that it was a description of the personal relationship between God and women and men, and we achieve it through prayer. Once we have this internal dialogue with God, then we can truly form a bond of connection with others. For what comes from the heart, goes to the heart."

Well, the teaching lesson was over, and I was packing up my bags to leave when one of you in the back of the room raised your hand and said softly, 'I understand, Teacher. That is what happens at our College—Heart speaks to heart.'

A highlight of ACS' graduation program each year is a brief talk by one of the graduates who reflects on her class' experiences during the three years of study at the College. This year's presentation was given by Sister M. Jesca Lucy Alitubeera, IHMR, native of Uganda and member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix congregation. Sister Jesca remarked that "Education is the key that will open the doors of despair and strengthen hope." Sister Jesca added, "We would like to assure you that we will use the acquired knowledge for the benefits of our communities and those we serve."

After such a year of uncertainty, the holding of an in-person mass and Commencement including the Sister-students beautiful songs of hope and love was a joy-filled way to celebrate the ACS class of 2021.



## ACS Class of 2021

### Associate in Arts Degree

**Sister M. Jesca Alitubeera, IHMR**  
*Divine Word College, Epworth, IA*

**Sister Maria Hoa Bui, SPP**  
*Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA*

**Sister Maria Yen Cao, SPP**  
*Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA*

**Sister Donatha Gerard, FSSB**  
*Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA*

**Sister Yosari Magdalena Menjivar Diaz, OMO**  
*Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA*

**Sister Agnes Ongodia Atai, IHMR**  
*The College of Saint Scholastica, Duluth, MN*

**Sister Emilia Din, SDV**  
*Congregational Ministry*

**Sister Fransiska Leja, SDV**  
*Saint Elizabeth University*

**Sister Maria Marleni Abu Lelo, SDV**  
*Saint Elizabeth University*

### Associate in Religious Arts Degree

**Sister Emeline Sevinyuy, SST**  
*Deputy Administrator in a Congregation Hospital  
Aspirant Directress*

### Certificate in Theological Studies

**Sister Brithany Gutierrez Bustillo, FMA**

**Sister Natasha Roig, FMA**

**Sister Anne Weis, FMA**

**Manuela Guimarães, SCC**

## Gratitude and Blessings to Sister Marie Cecilia Landis, SCC

Everyone at ACS bids a fond farewell to Sister Marie Cecilia Landis, SCC who will begin a new ministry during the summer at an international house of discernment in the Chicago area. Since 2011, Sister has served as Coordinator of Residential International Student Services as ACS where she supported the residential students in body, mind, and spirit as well as preparing healthy, delicious meals for everyone ACS to enjoy.

Sister Marie Cecilia was born in Reading, PA. She was invested into the SCCs in 1976 and made her first profession and graduated from ACS in 1978. Sister continued her education at St. Thomas Aquinas College where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology. Sr. Marie Cecilia was also a certified Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor for NY State from 2004-2009.

Working in various ministries for the Sisters of Christian Charity, Sister has served as primary school teacher, teacher aide, homemaker, (in NY, NJ, PA), co-director and counselor at New Hope Manor, Barryville, NY, and as part of retreat staff at Villa Pauline.

## Andrew Anselmi Completes 2nd Term as Chair of Board of Trustees

Many thanks to Andrew Anselmi, the first lay Chairman of the Board of Trustees, whose second term has concluded.



*Sister Joseph presents Mr. Anselmi with a commemorative plaque at the April Board meeting.*

Andrew embraced the mission of ACS and faithfully led the College through a time of great transition. At the April 22nd Board meeting, Sister Joseph thanked Andrew for his energy, commitment, and dedication to ACS. Following the meeting, all were invited to the patio for a toast and to listen to the students perform a song of thanks.



*Andrew Anselmi*

## ACS 2021 Certificate of Theological Studies Receptients



*Pictured above: Manuela Guimarães, SCC;*

*Sister Anne Weis, FMA;*

*Sister Natasha Roig, FMA;*

*Sister Brithany Gutierrez Bustillo, FMA*



*Sister Marie Cecilia Landis, SCC*

The entire ACS family wishes Sister Marie Cecilia many blessings in her new ministry.

In spring of 2021 the Language Lab computers were updated thanks to a generous grant from the **Catholic Human Services Foundation.**



*Angelo Sansano*

Angelo Sansano will assume the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

## Welcome New Faculty

**Mr. Patrick Gallagher,**  
Art History and Appreciation

**Ms. Kaitlyn Malsky,**  
ESL Introductory and Advanced Writing

**Ms. Roxanne Medina-Lewko,**  
Fine Arts Appreciation - World Music

**Mr. Joseph Schreck,**  
Fundamentals of Public Speaking

**Ms. Suzanne Shipley, RN,**  
Health and Wellness

**Ms. Vanessa Shields,**  
General Psychology

## Welcome New Staff

**Sister Monique Eloizard, SCC,**  
Administrative Assistant for Special Projects  
Student Services Coordinator

**Sister Maria Pia Arca, SCC,**  
Food Services

## Gratitude to Former Faculty

**Ms. Katherine Clyne**

**Dr. Katherine Doyle**

**Ms. Jane Kopley**

**Dr. Robb Lauzon**

**Dr. Nicolette Salerno**

**Ms. Jaye Santoro**

# ACS HONORS 2021 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Each year, ACS recognizes an Alumna of the Year.

This year ACS honored in absentia Sister Dativa Daniel Mukebita from the Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette community (FSSB), ACS class of 2003.

Sister Dativa joined the community of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette in 1988 at age 17 and made her final vows in 2005.

After graduating from ACS, Sister Dativa earned a BA in Social Work from Alvernia University and an MA in Health Services Administration from Marywood University. Upon completing her studies, she entered the healthcare field, working as a home health aide, nurse's aide and resident care coordinator at a nursing home. During her stay in the US, she volunteered to assist people with disabilities, the elderly, the poor and homeless as well as children in need.

The non-profit organization, Village Angels of Tanzania was founded in 2014 by Sister Dativa, after learning of an elderly Tanzanian woman who died after lying where she had fallen for three days without assistance. Sister Dativa, along with parishioners and retired Pastor, Father Martin Rauscher, from Assumption Parish in Morristown were called to action to create The Village Angels of Tanzania which is an unique model as it utilizes the unemployed youth to care for the elderly citizens.



*Sister Dativa Daniel Mukebita, FSSB*

Since it is the culture within Tanzania for families to care for their own, there are no known nursing homes or programs to support the elderly. As a result, countless senior citizens find themselves abandoned and alone. Additionally, the area is home to many young people with little education, few skills and no hope of finding a job. In bringing the young and elderly together in this work of love, the Village of Angels supports both groups and has greatly benefited the community.

The youth receive a stipend for providing assistance and companionship to the elderly. After planting and harvesting crops to feed the seniors, the young helpers sell the surplus at local markets to boost the project's funds. The participating young people have built 70 beds for the elderly and Sister Dativa noted for some senior citizens, this is the first time in their lives that they have slept in a bed. The senior citizens in the region "no longer live in heartbreaking isolation and poverty," Sister Dativa said.



*Sergio and Johanna Burani with Sister Donatha Gerard, FSSB*

Sergio and Johanna Burani, Co-Chairs of the Board of Village Angels, spoke on behalf of Sister Dativa and Sister Donatha Gerard, FSSB and 2021 graduate, accepted the award in her stead. Sister Dativa's mission and creation of The Village Angels of Tanzania is a tremendous inspiration of faith in action and exemplifies the mantra of Assumption College for Sisters, **Teach a Sister... Touch the World!**

## 2021 Virtual Caring Basket Gala: A real-time Success

The Assumption College for Sisters' 20th Annual Caring Basket Gala of March 26, 2021, was the first "virtual" Gala sponsored by the College. Thanks to the steadfast support of friends, benefactors, and the caring concern of our wonderful honorees, the gala netted over \$250,000, the highest amount in the 20-year history of the Gala for our international sponsored Sister students. The proceeds will

provide scholarships for over 20 Sisters next year. The 2021 honorees, Father Daniel O'Mullane and Paul and Anne Krump offered tremendous support for the event. Additionally, the Gala honored the tireless work of the entire ACS Board of Trustees. The evening featured a video production sharing the story of ACS, "starring" our honorees, Sister-students, footage of alumnae from Africa, Vietnam, and Guatemala, and a personal message from Bishop Sweeney of the Paterson Diocese. ACS expresses profound gratitude to Mr. Thomas Ciotti for his considerable skill in the production of the video. Dozens of friends from all over the world sent in photos with signs proudly displaying the college motto "**Teach a Sister... Touch the World!**" The gala featured a live "text-to-give" option as well as a printed ad journal. Special thanks to Patricia McGrady and Louis Scarpa, Gala Co-chairs, and the Gala Committee for their tireless efforts. Thanks to all who made the Gala a success. The Gala may be viewed at [acs350](https://acs350.com).



*Students and Sisters from Margrethe Home for the Blind, Manilla, Philippines join in the Virtual Caring Basket Gala*

## Fall 2021 - Theology and Philosophy Courses August 24-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 2:00-3:15 p.m. and Thurs 2:00-3:15 p.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 206_O	Christology Contemporary Issues Lecture Series	3 credits	Online See Enclosed Flyer	Mark Tosso Invited speakers (registration for individual lectures is available)

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](http://acs350.org)

**For registration call or e-mail by August 1: Academic Dean - 973-957-0188 Ext. 100 [academicdean@acs350.org](mailto:academicdean@acs350.org)**

## ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

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Teach a Sister...  
*Touch the World!*

## SAVE THE DATE! *The Twenty-first Annual Caring Basket Gala*

The  
Twenty-first Annual  
*Caring  
Basket  
Gala*

**March 31, 2022**

**The Hanover Marriott**

**Whippany, NJ**