



ACS

Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ August 2022

Assumption College for Sisters Commencement 2022

On Saturday, May 14, Assumption College for Sisters held Commencement ceremonies where seven students earned AA degrees, three of whom also earned ARA degrees, and six students were awarded the 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. James Termyna, and Rev. Rick Hardy. A reception followed in the Riverview School Annex to celebrate the graduates and certificate earners.

The Commencement address was delivered by Sister Maria Pascuzzi,



Sister Maria Pascuzzi, CSJ CSJ, a Sister of Saint Joseph, Brentwood, NY. Sister Maria completed her graduate studies in Rome where she received the SSL degree from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in 1986 and the STD in Biblical Theology from the Gregorian University in 1997. She has taught biblical studies in various seminaries and universities and is the author of three books and various articles, both scholarly and popular. Her most recent publication, a commentary on Second Corinthians, is included in the Jerome Biblical Commentary for the Twenty-First Century (Bloomsbury Press, March 2022). Currently, Sister Maria is the founding director of Spirit Alive, a new educational institute focused on faith and theology and since August 2021 she also

serves as an elected member of the leadership team of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

During her commencement address, Sister Maria spoke about complexity, community, and charity that students learned and will take away from their time at ACS. Sister Maria concluded by addressing the graduates, "Above all, your mission is to be practitioners of Christian charity. You must model for others what it means to listen with charity so that from respectful dialogue, we may arrive at new wisdom and insights, which will help us to transcend divisions and impel us to seek anew the things that unite us so that all of us can live in peace and flourish as God intended."

ACS Class of 2022

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE FOR SISTERS
SCIENTIA PER MARIAM
CARITATEM
FOUNDED 1953
MENDHAM 1961 NEW JERSEY



Sister Martha Vi Nguyen, LHC-NT



Sister Maria Pia Arca, SCC



Sister Rachael Wakene Mshindani, SSJ



Sister Teresa Apondi Obonyo, SSJ



Sister Mary Tam Pham, FMV



Sister Mary Duyen Nguyen, FMSR



Sister Theresa Hang Phan, LHC-NT

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 Teresa Apondi Obonyo, a member of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Mombasa congregation in Kenya. After the ceremonies, the Mayor of Denville, Thomas Andes, presented each graduate with a proclamation declaring each an "Honorary Citizen of the Township of Denville."

Congratulations to the ACS class of 2022!



Sister Joalice Carlson, SCC

entered eternal life on February 21, 2022, at the Motherhouse in Mendham, at the age of 91.

Sister Joalice received a BS in Education and an MA in Education from Seton Hall University. Sister served as a teacher in elementary schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, North Carolina, and Florida teaching grades 1 through 8, and also served as a principal in Newton, NJ, and Greenville, NC. Sister was an instructor at ACS from 2001 through 2011 teaching ESL Introductory and Intermediate Reading and Basic Mathematics and tutoring international students for many years.

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



Virtual Gala: A Real-Time Success!

Assumption College for Sisters' Annual Caring Basket Gala proved to be a real-time success! The event was broadcast far and wide on March 31, 2022, with viewers tuning in to get to know the honorees, the Sister-students, and friends of ACS. The video intended to provide the viewers a glimpse into daily life at the College by filming the Sisters in class, at prayer, preparing meals, and community life. New to this year's gala was a message from each sponsored Sister. Mr. Tom Ciotti, videographer, felt this to be the most impactful way of helping the viewer understand the ACS mission.

Honorees BJ and Jeannine Agugliaro, Father Paul Manning, and Joseph and Rita Gonnella, along with many of their friends, family members, and colleagues, all contributed to promoting the ACS mission. Heartfelt congratulations were expressed to the honorees in recognition of their lifework in service to the Church and the greater community by many, including Bishop Kevin Sweeney from the Diocese of Paterson and Bishop James Checchio from the Diocese of Metuchen.

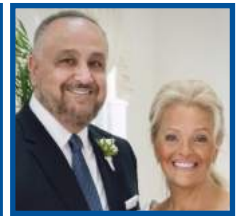
Those who tuned in had the opportunity to also make a contribution to provide over 20 scholarships for the new school



BJ & Jeannine Agugliaro
The Family Life Award



Fr. Paul Manning
The Education Award



Joseph & Rita Gonnella
The Servant Leader Award

year. Thanks to generous donors, ACS will be able to provide full scholarships to Sisters from the developing world who may not have an opportunity at home for higher education due to financial, social, or other obstacles. The Sisters will stay at ACS for three years, earning an AA degree with many continuing on to other institutions to earn advanced degrees. The Sisters then return to their homelands to be the leaders in the community equipped with the professional skills necessary to serve in a wide range of ministries.

You may still view the virtual Gala at www.acs350.org. It is not too late to contribute in support of the new class of Sisters arriving during the summer.

2022 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR Awarded to Sister Marie Cecilia Landis, SCC



Sister Maria Cecilia Landis, SCC

Congratulations to Sister Marie Cecilia Landis, SCC for being awarded the 2022 Alumna of the Year. 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 with an Addictions and Art Therapy Specialty. In 2000, Sister ministered at New Hope Manor, Barryville, NY where she obtained her CASAC License in Addictions NY as a Senior Counselor.

Working in various ministries for the Sisters of Christian Charity in NY, NJ, and PA, Sister has also served as a primary school teacher, and teacher aide, as well as assisting at the Retirement Home for the SCCs in Danville, PA, and in retreat work at Villa Pauline.

Sister Marie Cecilia played a critical role in the relocation of ACS from Mendham to Denville in the summer of 2015 and from 2011 through the early summer of 2021 Sister served as the Coordinator of Residential International Student Services where she supported the residential students as well as prepared healthy, delicious meals for everyone at ACS to enjoy.

Sister began a new ministry in July of 2021 as part of the team from the East/West Provinces, starting the First SCC Intentional International House of Discernment in Chicago, IL, based at Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

Recalling her time at ACS, Sister Marie Cecilia remarked, "I will always love and miss ACS! My heart will always cherish the memories of the fun adventures and the tough adventures; the friends and family I have there and all the graces and blessings I have received from being a part of this awesome ministry! It is a great honor that I had the opportunity to serve these beautiful and dedicated women and will always be grateful to them for their love and support, and loyalty to ACS. 'Teach a sister, touch the world' is not just a catchy cliché! I have experienced it on both sides of the coin...both as an alumna and as a supporting Staff member. And I will always believe in the impact which ACS is having in the world through all her Alumna."

ACS Class of 2022

Associate in Arts & Associate in Religious Arts Degrees

Sister Maria Pia Arca, SCC
Immigration Counselor, Diocese of Metuchen

Sister Rachael Wakene Mshindani, SSJ
Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ

Sister Teresa Apondi Obonyo, SSJ
Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA

Associate in Arts Degree

Sister Mary Duyen Nguyen, FMSR
Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ

Sister Martha Vi Nguyen, LHC-NT
Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA

Sister Mary Tam Pham, FMV
Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ

Sister Theresa Hang Phan, LHC-NT
College of Saint Benedict/St. John University, MN

Certificate in Theological Studies

Sister Nicole Daly, FMA
Sister Kathleen Deighan, FMA
Sister Shaila Mathai, FMA
Sister Valeria Jimenez Meza, FMA
Sister Thi (Amy) Nguyen, FMA
Sister Claire Ramos, FMA



ALUMNAE NEWS



Sister Mary Thuan Bui, FMV

Sister Mary Thuan Bui, FMV, (ACS class of 2020) from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation congregation in Vietnam, graduated from Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ with a BA in Religious Studies and a minor in Social Work in May 2022. Her academic achievements were recognized as she was inducted into Kappa Zeta honor society, Kappa Gamma Pi: the National Catholic College Graduate Honor Society, and received the First Award in Religious Studies. Sister Mary Thuan will continue her education at Carlow University in Pittsburgh, PA as she works toward her Master of Social Work.

Sister Maria Duong Nguyen, FMV

(ACS class of 2020) from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation congregation in Vietnam, graduated Summa Cum Laude from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA in May of 2022 with a BA degree double majoring in Psychology and Theology. As recognition of her academic achievements, Sister was inducted into the Psy Chi - National Honor Society of Psychology, Theta Alpha Kappa - National Honor Society of Theology, and Delta Epsilon Sigma - National Honor Society. Sister Maria Duong will begin a Master in Theological Studies program at Villanova University in fall 2022.



Sr. Maria Duong Nguyen, FMV



Sister Josephine Wagner, SCC

Sister Josephine Wagner, SCC (ACS class of 2016) graduated Summa Cum Laude from King's College in May 2022 with a BS degree double majoring in Education and Special Education. Sister Josephine was also a Recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Adult Learner of the Year Award.

Sister Lucia Misoji (ACS class of 2020) from the Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady Help of Christians earned her BA degree in Religious Studies from Mount Marty College in May 2022. Sister will continue her studies at Seton Hall University to earn a MA in Theology.



Sister Lucia Misoji, OSB-OLHC

Sister Fides Nijimbere, BM (ACS class of 2016) from the Bene-Maria community in Burundi earned her BA in Secondary Education from the University of Scranton in 2019 and continued her education there to earn a MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling in May 2022.



Sister Fides Nijimbere, BM & Sister Theresa Mfuno, SHR pictured with Sister Theresa's sponsors, Dr. Thomas and Dr. Elizabeth Hangartner.

Sister Theresa Mfuno, SHR (ACS class of 2008) from the Sisters of the Holy Rosary community in Malawi earned her BA from Georgian Court University in 2010 and her MA from Scranton University in Health Administration in May 2022.



Sister M. Charity Nkwera, OSB

Sister Charity Nkwera and Sister Norbertha Mlowe (ACS class of 2018) from the Benedictine Sisters of Saint Agnes in Tanzania received BA degrees in May of 2022. Sister Charity graduated from The College of Saint Scholastica majoring in Elementary Education and minoring in

Psychology and will continue her studies at The College of Saint Scholastica as she earns a Master of Social Work. Sister Norbertha graduated from Benedictine University majoring in Literature and Theology.



Sr. M. Norbertha Mlowe, OSB



Sr. Mary Catherine Hop Pham, FMSR

Sister Mary Catherine Hop Pham, FMSR (ACS class of 2019) from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary congregation in Vietnam earned her BA degree in Computer Software Engineering from Saint Elizabeth University (formerly College of Saint Elizabeth) in December 2021 and is continuing her education at SEU in a MA program in Digital Media Graphic Design and Marketing.

Gratitude to Former Faculty

Dr. Nicolette Salerno

Welcome New Trustees

Elaine Thornberry

Lorine Magdalene Takaruzza

Gratitude to Former Trustees

Kenneth Betz

Francis Cavalero

Msgr. Sylvester Cronin

Mary Alice Lawless

Sisters get Creative

Third-year students choreographed, performed, and taught their dances to their classmates as part of their Fine Arts Appreciation Dance class taught by Barbara Kelly-Vergona.



Sister Maria Pia, SCC graduated from ACS in May of this year and has been hired at Catholic Charities in the Metuchen Diocese to serve as an immigration counselor. Sister will reside in Iselin, NJ.



Thank you Sister Maria Pia and blessings in your new ministry.

ACS Board Retreat

Gathering at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity, Mendham, NJ, on May 4, 2022, the Assumption College for Sisters Board of Trustees spent an enriching day in prayer, reflection and study. The retreat location proved poignant as ACS' first home was the Motherhouse, Mallinckrodt Convent.

The retreat theme, Board Service as a Formal Participation in Church Ministry, was presented by Monsignor Fell who expounded upon this topic by drawing inspiration from Ex Corde Ecclesiae, the apostolic constitution issued by Pope John Paul II regarding Catholic colleges and universities, promulgated on August 15, 1990.



The retreat concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving for the past successful academic year. The entire ACS community offers thanks to each board member for their commitment to ACS!

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

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Teach a Sister...
Touch the World!

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

The
Twenty-second Annual
*Caring
Basket
Gala*

LIVE EVENT

March 30, 2023

More details to follow!