



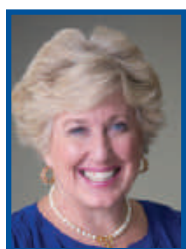
ACS

Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ August 2023

Assumption College for Sisters Commencement 2023

On Saturday, May 13, Assumption College for Sisters held Commencement ceremonies where six students earned AA degrees and four 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 and Rev. James Termyna and assisted by Deacon Jack Flynn and Deacon Jim Rizzo. A reception followed in the Riverview School Annex to celebrate the graduates and certificate earners.



Dianne Traflet

Dr. Dianne Traflet, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Administration, and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, delivered the Commencement address.

Dr. Traflet earned a BA from Montclair State University, a JD from Seton Hall University School of Law, and an MA in Catholic Theology and Pastoral Ministry from St. John's University. After practicing law, she moved to Rome, Italy, where she earned a licentiate and a doctorate in Sacred Theology.

In addition to teaching at the School of Theology for more than twenty years, Dr. Traflet is the author of *Edith Stein: A Spiritual Portrait*. Dr. Traflet has given countless lectures, days of recollection, and parish missions on topics related to the spiritual life, and has facilitated numerous retreats and presentations related to forgiveness and mercy. Currently, serving on the Board of Governors, St. Joseph's Seminary, New York, Dr. Traflet is a recipient of the Archdiocesan Sesquicentennial Cathedral Jubilee Medal for Dedicated Service to the Archdiocese of Newark. Dr. Traflet addressed the graduating class and asked them to consider not the weight of responsibility—but the blessing of responsibility and noted that within the word responsibility is RESPOND. Dr. Traflet reflected that all of the graduates have responded to a call from God with their “yes” and as the sisters continue to respond with “Yes!” they should be confident that through the grace of God, they have been prepared well to fulfill their fiat. Dr. Traflet concluded with inspirational words from St. Titus Brandsma;

“Just as we, led by revelation, acknowledged the child in her arms as

God, thus may she guide our minds to the contemplation of God and all things he has created. As he lived in her, he may live in US and born of our deeds, make his entry into the world.”

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 address was presented by Sister Mary Paul Nhung Duong, a member of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary congregation. Sister Mary Paul spoke about how the challenges of living in a new country with little knowledge of English helped to motivate the students knowing that administrators, faculty, and staff were there to support them. Speaking to faculty, Sr. Mary Paul remarked, “Please know how much we will use the knowledge that you have taught us to serve others wherever God wants us to go.” Sister Mary Paul concluded her remarks by proclaiming, “May God bless Assumption College for Sisters and its unique mission so that all of you can continue to Teach a Sister and Touch the World!”

At the conclusion of the Commencement Ceremony, Mayor Tom Andes of Denville awarded each graduate a proclamation declaring each an “Honorary Citizen of Denville” and bestowed a Key to the City of Denville to Sister Joseph Spring in recognition of her dedication and commitment to ACS which continues to enrich Denville.



Sisters Perform for Seniors

Third-year Fine Arts students delighted the residents of Saint Joseph's Senior Home in Woodbridge, NJ on May 6, 2023 by performing dances and songs and visiting with the residents. The Senior Home was founded by the Little Servant Sisters of the Poor congregation. Selections that were performed were from the Spring Dance and Music FA sections taught by Barbara Kelly-Vergona and Roxanne Lewko-Medina.



ACS HONORS 2023 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR



Sister Emmanuel Phan

Each year ACS recognizes an Alumna of the Year. This year ACS honored Sister Emmanuel Phan, class of 2007 as “Alumna of the Year.”

Sister was born in Saigon, Vietnam and entered the congregation of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary. After professing her final vows in 2004, she traveled to Mendham where she studied at Assumption College for Sisters for three years earning her Associate in Arts degree. Sister Emmanuel continued her education at D’Youville College in Buffalo, NY, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and her Master of Science degree in Adolescent Education.

At the completion of her studies in 2019, she returned to her Motherhouse in Vietnam. Residing there, she joined the Ho Chi Minh University of Foreign Language and Information Technology as professor of British and American Literature. The following year she also joined the Ho Chi Minh University of Economics and Finance, also as professor of British and American Literature.

Additionally, Sister Emmanuel was selected as provincial Councilor in 2012 and became Directress of the Formation house in 2013. She continues to hold these positions as well as assisting the Sisters in her congregation with English language skills as they are accepted as students at ACS. Sister embodies her motto: “Without cost you have received. Without cost you are to give.” (Mt. 10:8)

Gala Hits the Mark!

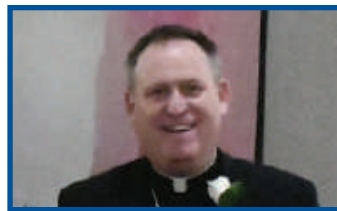
Assumption College for Sisters’ Caring Basket Gala raised over \$265,000, enabling ACS to provide full scholarships to over 20 Sister students from the developing world. With over 300 people in attendance, including over 30 Sisters, the ballroom was alive with good cheer and affection for the 2023 honorees: Bishop Kevin Sweeney, Andrew and Sole Anselmi, and Peter and Janet Simon. The College continues to express gratitude to the honorees for their service to others and their steadfast support and faith in the mission of ACS. The Gala, held on March 30, 2023, is the largest fundraiser of the year, raising almost half of the College budget. Special thanks are extended to the Gala Co-chairs Patricia McGrady and Louis Scarpa and the Caring Basket Gala Committee. Heartfelt thanks to all who attended, placed an ad in the journal and donated toward the event. May God bless you always. The Gala enables ACS to “Teach a Sister...Touch the World.”



Andrew & Sole Anselmi
The Family Life Award



Peter & Janet Simon
The Education Award



Most Rev. Kevin Sweeney
The Servant Leader Award

Farewell Celebrations for Sister Joseph

Sister Joseph and members of the SCC congregation celebrated her retirement from ACS on May 7th at Fiddler’s Elbow, Bedminster, NJ. Special thanks to Kris and Ken Donovan for hosting the beautiful event to celebrate and thank Sister Joseph.

(Below) Faculty, Board members, staff, students, tutors, and friends gathered on May 16 for a BBQ to honor and thank Sister Joseph for her 14 years of leadership of ACS.



The students performed beautiful songs and dances plus invited members of the audience to express their gratitude to Sister Joseph for her boundless energy, commitment, and dedication to ACS!



ACS Class of 2023

Associate in Arts Degree

Sister Maria Ngat Dinh LHC-PD
Divine Word College, Epworth, IA

Sister Maria Lich Do, LHC-TT
Returning to Vietnam for final vows and congregational ministry

Sister Mary Paul Nhung Duong, FMSR
Marywood University, Scranton, PA

Sister Martha Sang Nguyen, LHC-PD
King’s College, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Sister Theresa Tram Nguyen, LHC-TT
Returning to Vietnam for final vows and congregational ministry

Sister Nelcida Macuacua, CPS
Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA

Certificate in Theological Studies

Sister Juliana Alfonso, FMA

Sister Jessica Castillo, FMA

Sister Chelsy Sanchez, FMA

Sister Pamela Rose Suresca, FMA

Certificate of Participation

Sister Jacqueline Sardina, FMA,

Note: She holds an MA in Theology, Philosophy, and Religious Studies and a M.Div. and was awarded this certificate for auditing all of the required courses in the Certificate of Theological Studies program.



Congratulations!

Academic Dean,
Sister Teresa A. Bruno,
celebrated her Golden Jubilee and
50 years as a Sister of Charity in May!



Gratitude to Former Faculty

Ms. Karen Pope
Dr. Judith Popovich

Welcome New Staff

Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC - *Interim President*
Sister Carol Schuyler, SCC - *Interim Assistant to the President*
Sister Maria Theresa Nguyen, SCC - *Student Services Coordinator*

Welcome New Faculty

Ms. Isabel Roberts Corbin - *Basic Mathematics & Intro. College Algebra*



On May 18th, Dr. Paul Starkey, the MSCHE liaison for ACS conducted the Self-Study preparation visit where he met with ACS leadership, Board members, Co-chairs and members of the Steering Committee, faculty, and students. The Self-Study is a two and a half year process that provides an opportunity for an in-depth, comprehensive, and reflective assessment of ACS to demonstrate compliance with MSCHE standards and also identify opportunities for improvement and innovation.

ALUMNAE NEWS



Sister Maria Yen Cao, SPP

Sister Maria Yen Cao, SPP
(ACS class of 2021) from the Sisters of Providence of Portieux congregation in Vietnam, graduated from Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA with a BA in Education in May of 2023. Sister graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors. Sister will return to her congregation and her ministry will be educating children.

Sister Catherine Thu Le, FMA

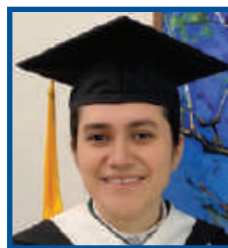
(ACS class of 2018) from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation congregation in Vietnam, earned her BA in 2021, double majoring in Philosophy and Theology from Holy Apostles College in Cromwell CT. Sister continued her education graduating in May with two advanced degrees, a MA from Holy Apostles College in Spiritual Direction and a MA from Seton Hall University in Systematic Theology.



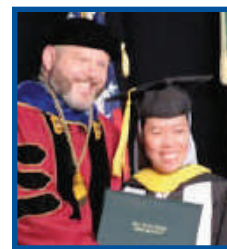
Sister Catherine Thu Le,
FMA

Sister Yosari Menjivar Diaz, OMO

(ACS class of 2021) from the Oblates of Mater Orphanorum congregation in Guatemala, graduated from Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA with a BA in Psychology Education in May of 2023. Sister graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors and will return to her congregation to teach religious education to kindergarten through sixth grade children. She will also assist in an after care program for children where she will teach English and assist students with their schoolwork. Additionally, Sister will teach religion to children in the public school system who are preparing for sacraments.



Sister Yosari Menjivar
Diaz, OMO



Sister Maria Hoa Bui, SPP

Sister Maria Hoa Bui, SPP

(ACS class of 2021) from the Sisters of Providence of Portieux congregation in Vietnam, graduated from Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA with a BS in Psychology. Sister graduated with Cum Laude honors in May of 2023 and will continue her studies at Marywood University as she works toward her MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.



Sister Isabel Mula, CPS

Sister Isabel Mula, CPS

(ACS class of 2020) from the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood congregation in Mozambique earned her BA in Theology from Divine Word College, IA in May of 2023. Sister graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors and will return to Mozambique as a Novice Directress of the CPS congregation in Eastern Africa.

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 in December of 2021 and graduated from SEU with a MA in Digital Media Graphic Design and Marketing in May of 2023. Sister graduated with Highest Honors and will return to Vietnam to work in community ministry.



Sister Mary Catherine
Hop Pham, FMSR

Board Members, Administration, and Staff Gather for Prayer and Fellowship

Taking time out of busy schedules, ACS board members, administration, and staff gathered for prayer and fellowship this past March at Villa Pauline and the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity, Mendham, NJ. Holy Mass was celebrated with Father Martin Glynn, board member and Pastor of Saint Mary Church, Denville, NJ, presiding. The group joined the Motherhouse Community for lunch, allowing for heartfelt exchanges with the Sisters, many of whom taught or graduated from ACS. Sister Joann Marie Aumand, SCC, provincial superior, led the group in a conversation with the goal of discovering what it is that brings each member to board service. Board Chair, Angelo Sansano, was thanked by all present for his able leadership and dedication. Lastly, Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, president, expressed sincere appreciation to all for their support of the Sister students and the college.



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Teach a Sister...
Touch the World!

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

The
Twenty-third Annual
*Caring
Basket
Gala*

March 21, 2024

More details to follow!