



ACS

Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ February 2024

Message from the President



Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC

Dear Friends of Assumption College for Sisters,

Greetings! I am Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC, and I am honored to be the 7th President of Assumption College for Sisters.

I began my ministry here at ACS on July 1, 2023, in "response to God's call" and my community leadership's request to serve as Assumption College for Sisters as Interim

President until December 31. Or so I thought!

Each day I learned more about what the role entailed and realized that I had "big shoes to fill" as Sister Joseph's successor. I kept telling myself it was only until December!

However, "God works in mysterious ways" for, even though I graduated from ACS and received an excellent education, I discovered, as each day progressed, an appreciation for its worldwide mission. Not only that, I was drawn more and more into the passion that I experienced from the ACS Board of Trustees, the administrative staff, the faculty, ACS donors, and the students (they are a delight!) It is a passion that is almost tangible! I wish to continue to be part of this grand adventure!

I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the year. I am reminded of the words of St. Paul to the Philippians: "Complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, and thinking one thing." For ACS, this joy is found in its Mission Statement: *Impelled by God's love, Assumption College for Sisters, through education and community, forms servant leaders who transform lives. Teach a Sister-Touch the World!*

The mission is essential! I believe that all the SCCs and each of you who advance the mission of ACS in any way will continue to see the far-reaching effects of a joy that completes, for we ever remain one mind, one love, one heart, one thing: to teach and to touch both now and forever!

I ask for your prayers for me and for Sr. Maria Teresa Nguyen, Coordinator of Student Services, Sr. Carol Schuyler, Assistant to the President/Student Services (at ACS until December), and Sr. Geralyn Schmidt, who will be joining ACS in June as Assistant to the President/Student Services.

God bless you for all you do for the mission of Assumption College for Sisters.

Gratefully,

Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC
President

ACS Launches 70th Anniversary Celebration

A Liturgy and reception was held on Sunday, October 1, at Saint Mary's Church, Denville, NJ, initiating the 70th Anniversary of Assumption College for Sisters.

Main celebrant, Rev. Martin Glynn, pastor of St. Mary's Church, and ACS Board of Trustee, hosted the inaugural event and Rev. Lawrence R. (Rick) Harty, chaplain for ACS, and Rev. Christopher Ciccario, Associate Dean for Immaculate Conception Seminary and Academic Studies and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Seton Hall University concelebrated.

Sister Joann Marie Aumand, provincial of the Sisters of Christian Charity, welcomed the congregation consisting of the SCCs, many of whom are ACS alumnae, administrative staff, past and present faculty, and members of the Board of Trustees and friends of ACS. Sister Marie Pauline Demek, ACS President, offered a reflection on the heritage and mission of the college.



Sr. Joana Charles Musenero, IHSA, conducts the Sister students of ACS during the Anniversary Liturgy.

Sister Maria del Rosario Castro, Superior General of the congregation, together with former ACS presidents, Sister Mary Joseph Schultz, Vicarress, and Sr. Joseph Spring, Director of the *Companions of Pauline* and Assistant in the SCC Institutional Advancement Office, were in attendance.

In appreciation for the presence of ACS, Denville Township posted a congratulatory message in the town's square. Mayor Thomas W. Andes expressed joy in having the Sisters as members of the community. The 70th Anniversary celebration will continue throughout the year.

Sister Marie Russo, SC, former ACS faculty, Sister Mary Joseph Schultz, former president, Sister Teresa Bruno, SC, Academic Dean, Dr. Jo Anne Silva, ACS faculty, and Gene Sylvia enjoy the reception.



ACS Makes the Pages of *America Magazine: The Jesuit Review of Faith and Culture*

The good news of ACS is being shared globally, thanks to an in-depth article featured in the magazine, *America*, a Catholic magazine published by the Jesuits of the United States, covering news and opinion about Catholicism and its relation to American faith and culture. Published continuously since 1909, *America Magazine* is a national monthly print and online publication with a circulation

of over 45,000 and a global reach thanks to a strong web presence. Such coverage is a significant step in the continued advancement of the ACS mission.

The article, authored by Joseph Pagetta, a former student of the Sisters of Christian Charity at Saint Nicholas Elementary School, Jersey City, NJ, clearly states the ACS mission and gives voice to the Sister students. Thank you to Louis Scarpa, Director of Institutional Advancement, for arranging for this amazing press coverage to promote the mission of ACS. Thanks are also extended to the staff and students at ACS for sharing their insights and faith. Also, a word of gratitude to our benefactors who sustain the mission through generous financial support. Please visit the ACS Facebook page for a link to the article or go to *America's* February edition at www.americamagazine.org.



Gratitude for Giving Tuesday Donations!

Thank you to all who contributed to our *Giving Tuesday* campaign to raise funds for new desks and chairs for residential sisters' dorm rooms. Thanks to Louis Scarpa, Patricia McGrady, and Jean Wedemeier for organizing the campaign

and to our residential students for posing for pictures to bring a visual representation to the campaign. Our fundraising goal was exceeded with \$9,995 being raised and we are in the process of purchasing 22 desks and chairs for our residential students. *Giving Tuesday* is an annual campaign created in response to Black Friday, one of the busiest shopping days in the country. Thank you to all of the *Giving Tuesday* donors!



Congratulations to Faculty and Staff

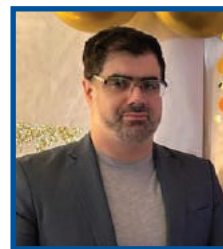
Dr. Henry Crouse, history instructor, received his PhD in History with a major focus on Early American History and a minor focus on Global and Comparative History from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.



Dr. Rafael Gonzalez, philosophy instructor, received his PhD in Theology from Pontifex University, operated by Holy Spirit College, Atlanta, Georgia.



Ms. Barbara Kelly-Vergona, Registrar and Fine Arts dance instructor, received her MA in Higher Education from Caldwell University.



Gratitude to Former Faculty Deacon Russell Raffay

Welcome New Faculty

Mr. David Gillespie
Cultural Foundations

Welcome New Board of Trustees

Rev. Christopher Ciccarino
Mr. Joseph Gonnella

Gratitude to Former Board of Trustees

Mr. Timothy Duffy

Thank You, Sister Carol!

A heartfelt thank you goes to Sister Carol Schuyler who worked tirelessly as the Interim Assistant to the President from August until December. Sister Carol has returned to Harrisburg, PA where she teaches history at Bishop McDevitt High School. Sister Carol will be honored as alumna of the year at the 2024 Commencement and will return to ACS in the summer to teach *The Church: Its Nature and History* course.



ALUMNAE NEWS



Multicultural Sharing Event

The residential students participated in a multicultural sharing event on Columbus Day where students from Vietnam and African nations shared some cultural dances, songs, traditions, and food.



Sister Marie-Therese Nguyen from the Sisters of Providence of Portieux Community (ACS class of 2018) earned her BA in Theology from Seton Hall University and returned to Vietnam where she taught English for two years. In early December, Sister Marie-Therese began a new ministry as the Secretary to the Provincial Superior of her Community. Congratulations to Sister Marie-Therese!



Field Trip

In October, Art History students were accompanied by their instructor, Mr. Patrick Gallagher to visit the *Grounds for Sculpture* in Hamilton, New Jersey.



Visit from General Superior

Sister Agnes Mjume Mpode, SST, General Superior of the Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus of Buea, Cameroon, visited ACS and the SCC Motherhouse in October for a visit with Sister Joseph Spring, past President. Sister Agnes traveled from Cameroon for her canonical visit with second-year students Sister Violette Lemla, SST, and Sister Marivone Buse Kang, SST.



Sisters Hike

A group of residential students were treated to a hike on Thanksgiving weekend accompanied by Board Chair Angelo Sansano, and Board members Lorine Takaruza, and Louis Scarpa. The group was guided by Anthony J.R. Falcone, Angelo Del Russo, 2024 Gala Honoree, and friends. The hikers went up Tripod Rock on Pyramid Mountain in Boonton Township.



Fall Festivities

Gratitude to Board member Ellen Sandman and her husband George who organized a pumpkin carving event for ACS residential students.

Rosary Rally

During October, the month of the Holy Rosary, faculty member Jean Wedemeier, ACS students, parishioners of Saint Mary's Church in Denville, and parishioners from surrounding churches gathered to participate in the Rosary Rally at Saint Mary's Church to pray for peace in our country and around the world. The group is pictured with Sister Susan Keatley, SCC.



Christmas Fun!

Above: ACS students celebrated Christmas with a visit from Santa's "elves," Board member Anthony Sturla and his wife Cynthia along with friends of ACS from Long Valley, NJ.

Below: Children and religious educators from the fifth-grade faith formation class of Saint Joseph's Parish, Mendham, NJ, joined ACS students for a Christmas visit.



40 Days for Life

Beginning in September each Friday several students accompany faculty member, Jean Wedemeier, to peacefully pray the rosary for God's intercession and healing outside of Planned Parenthood in Morristown during the biannual *40 Days for Life*. Pictured are Sister Letisia Komba, OSB, and Sister Violette Lemla, SST.

Assistant to the President

We anticipate the arrival of Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SCC in the summer as the Assistant to the President. After graduating from ACS with an ARA degree, Sister continued her education at Felician College (now University) earning a BA with a dual certification in Special Education and Elementary Education. Sister also earned a Master of Instructional Technology (MIT) from Marywood University. Sister Geralyn is currently a member of the Diocese of Harrisburg Informational Technology team and writes for the Diocesan newspaper, the *Catholic Witness*, and contributes to the Diocesan YouTube channel. Sister Geralyn is involved with many ministries including formator to the wives whose husbands are preparing for the Permanent Diaconate, to laity preparing to be Spiritual Directors, and as a retreat director.



Student Services Coordinator

ACS welcomes Sister Maria Teresa Nguyen, SCC as Student Services Coordinator. A graduate of the ACS class of 2011, Sister Maria Teresa received her LPN from the Pennsylvania College of Technology and is currently working toward her BSN at the County College of Morris. Before ACS, she ministered at the Motherhouse in Mendham caring for sisters in the infirmary. In her role as Student Services Coordinator, Sister Maria Teresa resides at the College and assists in meeting the non-academic needs of residential sisters including food and supply shopping, overseeing dining services, maintaining house schedules, and supporting the students in their spiritual and academic formation.



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

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Teach a Sister...
Touch the World!

With gratitude to God,
Assumption College for Sisters
and the
Sisters of Christian Charity
cordially invite you to
save this date...

**Friday,
March 22, 2024**

Invitations to follow

Please join us to support the work of Assumption College for Sisters and congratulate our honorees.

Twenty-Third Annual Caring Basket Gala



Angelo DelRusso
The Spirit of the Heart Award



Kevin and Lisa Clayton
The Family Life Award



Sister Joseph Spring, SCC
The Education Award

Date: Friday, March 22, 2024

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: *The Park Avenue Club*
184 Park Avenue
Florham Park, NJ 07932

For More Information Contact:
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