



# ACS

## Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ August 2024

### Assumption College for Sisters Commencement 2024

On Saturday, May 11, Assumption College for Sisters held Commencement ceremonies as seven students earned AA degrees and five students were awarded the Certificate in Theological Studies. Commencement exercises took place at St. Mary's Church, Denville, following a Mass concelebrated by the pastor of St. Mary's Church and ACS Board of Trustee, Rev. Martin Glynn. Concelebrating were Rev. James Termyna, Rev. Rick Hardy, Rev. Christopher Ciccarino of the Diocese of Paterson, Rev. Peter Tran of the Diocese of Metuchen and assisted by Deacon Mike Allgaier, Deacon Jim Rizos, and Deacon Jack Flynn of St. Mary's Parish and Deacon Joseph Ho of the Diocese of Metuchen. A reception, courtesy of the parish, followed in the Riverview School Annex Auditorium to celebrate the graduates and certificate recipients.



Sister Kathryn Clauss, IHM, President of the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Conception, Scranton, PA., delivered the Commencement Address. After entering the IHM congregation, Sister received a BA in Education, and Master's in Counseling from Marywood, and a Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Seton Hall University. Sister has devoted much of her ministry and professional endeavors to the cause of education, serving as teacher, vice principal, and principal in elementary schools and teaching in the Psychology and Counseling Programs at Marywood University. After serving in various leadership roles within her community.

ACS is grateful to Marywood University for granting scholarships to our graduates. Sister Kathryn's message was both poignant and powerful: "In the days ahead you may find yourselves missioned in new educational settings, new ministries, new communities. You will realize the need the world has for you and realize the great gifts you

bring to the world through your academic preparation, your vowed life lived with passion, and your heartfelt respect for God's people."

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 Marietha Kimaro, a member of the Holy Spirit Sisters of the Apostolic Life Society in Tanzania. Sister Mary Marietha thanked the administration, faculty, trustees, benefactors, tutors, and friends as well as the Sisters of Christian Charity for the gift of an education at ACS which they could not access in their countries. Sister noted that the graduates of 2024 represent all of the previous ACS graduates who passed through God's hands and "now spread throughout the nations." In conclusion, Sister addressed the class of 2024 proclaiming, "Let us go, Sisters, our future and our dreams are waiting for us...the world is thirsty for our knowledge!"

After the Commencement Ceremony, Mayor Thomas Andes of Denville awarded each graduate a proclamation declaring her an "Honorary Citizen of Denville."

*Mass and Commencement Exercises are available to view at: [acs350.org](http://acs350.org)*

*1st row:  
Sister Jazmin Rangel, FMA,  
Sister Lucia Ramirez, FMA,  
Sister Alejandra Trevino, FMA*

*2nd row:  
Sister Kaitlin Trokan, FMA,  
Sister Natalie Doummar, FMA,  
Sister Desiree Barron, FMA*



*L to R:  
Sister Mary Marietha Kimaro, OSS-ALCS, Sister Avera Maxmillian Jeremia, IHSA, Sister Teresa Nhung Nguyen, OP, Sister Renifrida Kilawe, SSJ, Sister Savior Mkulia, OSB-OLHC, Sister Joana Charles Musenero, IHSA, Sister Teresa Dao Nguyen, OP*

# ACS HONORS 2024 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR



Sister Carol Schuyler, SCC

Congratulations to Sister Carol Schuyler, SCC for being awarded the 2024 Alumna of the Year. Born and raised in Reading, PA, Sister Carol was taught by the Sisters of Christian Charity at St. Paul's Elementary School and at Reading Central Catholic High School. After graduation in 1966 she decided to enter the SCCs.

Sister graduated from Assumption College for Sisters in 1970 and then traveled to Marillac College in St. Louis to receive a BA in Social Studies. In 1988, Sister earned a Master's degree in History from the University of Scranton, PA.

For over 50 years, Sister Carol has been an educator. She has taught in various PA high schools including Delone Catholic, Bishop Hogan (now Holy Redeemer), Reading Central Catholic (now Berks Catholic), and is currently teaching at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, PA. Although Sister Carol has taught in various content areas within secondary education, she is primarily a history teacher.

Beginning in 2015, Sister began teaching various history courses at ACS and continues to teach, *The Church: It's Nature and History* each summer. Sister Carol also co-presented for the Fall 2023 Lecture Series: *Honoring the Seasons of Life* on American Indigenous Peoples' History and Spirituality. Everyone at ACS is grateful to Sister Carol who took time off from her teaching responsibilities to serve as the Interim Assistant to the President and also assist with student services during the fall semester of 2023.

Sister Carol says about teaching at the college: "I enjoy teaching History any chance I get, especially Church History. I am always in awe of the international Sister students at ACS for all they do to study in English, living in a totally new culture while living and working with Sisters from different countries and cultures." Congratulations, Sister Carol!



## Fine Arts Dance

Students choreographed, taught, and performed dances in the Fine Arts Dance class taught by Barbara Kelly-Vergona.

## Gratitude to Former Trustees

Sheila O'Leary  
Sister Diane Moughan, SCC

## Caring Basket Gala Hits the Mark!

Each year the College hosts the Annual Caring Basket Gala, the key funding event raising scholarship dollars for the international Sister students to complete an AA degree at ACS. The Gala was held on March 22, 2024 at the Park Avenue Club, Florham Park, NJ, with over 260 guests recognizing the 2024 Honorees: Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, Angelo Del Russo, and Kevin and Lisa Clayton. The honorees demonstrate great faith in the mission and pledged their continued support and prayers for the College community. Bishop Kevin Sweeney of the Paterson Diocese offered the invocation and Bishop James Checchio of the Metuchen Diocese offered the closing prayer. Sister Joan Marie Aumand, SCC, Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Christian Charity, and Sisters of the SCC congregation were in attendance, solidifying the College's roots with the congregation as founders and sponsors. Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC, College President, graciously thanked the honorees, guests, and all those who offered generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Special thanks are extended to Mrs. Patricia McGrady and Mr. Louis Scarpa, gala co-chairs, and the Gala Committee for their efforts. The Gala raised \$287,000 with an additional gift of \$25k pledged by a donor over the next 5 years. Thanks to these gifts, 20 Sisters will receive full tuition and room and board. There is still time to donate toward scholarship funding by visiting [acs350.org/donate](https://acs350.org/donate).

*Thank you for participating in the mission!*

## ACS Class of 2024

### Associate in Arts Degree

Sister Advera Maxmillian Jeremia, IHSA  
Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA

Sister Renifrida Kilawe, SSJ  
College of Saint Mary, Omaha, NE

Sister Mary Marietha Kimaro, OSS-ALCS  
Divine Word College, Epworth, IA

Sister Joana Charles Musenero, IHSA  
The College of Saint Scholastica, Duluth, MN

Sister Savior Mkulia, OSB-OLHC  
Mount Marty University, Yankton, SD

Sister Teresa Dao Nguyen, OP  
Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA

Sister Teresa Nhung Nguyen, OP  
Georgian Court University, Lakewood N

### Certificate in Theological Studies

Sister Desiree Barron, FMA

Sister Lucia Ramirez, FMA

Sister Jazmin Rangel, FMA

Sister Alejandra Trevino, FMA

Sister Kaitlin Trokan, FMA

### Certificate of Participation

Sister Natalie Doummar, FMA

Sr. Natalie, holds a BA and an MA in Theological Studies from St. Michael's College in Toronto and a BA from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and was awarded a certificate for completing the philosophy courses & auditing the theology courses in the Certificate of Theological Studies program.





# Fall 2024 Tuesday Night Lecture Series: *Sounds of the Sacred.*

Four remote live sessions will be offered from 7:00-8:00 pm from September to December.

More information will be shared with ACS weekly email announcements.



## Giving Tuesday Campaign Funds Purchase New Desks and Chairs

Due to the generosity of everyone who contributed to the *Giving Tuesday* campaign, 22 new desks and chairs were purchased for the residential sisters' dorm rooms. Sister Violete Lemla, SST and Sister Mary Magdalene Nhung Nguyen, LHC-V are pictured sitting pretty at their new desks and chairs. Thank you to all of the *Giving Tuesday* donors!

## Special Art Event

Thank you to Board of Trustee Ellen Sandman and her husband George for providing a fun art event for the residential students on May 7th. George shared his artistic talents and everyone enjoyed ice cream cake compliments of Ellen and George.



## St. John the Baptist Cathedral Trip

On April 17, Dr. Jo Anne Sylva, Mr. Eugene Sylva, and Sister Maria Teresa, SCC, accompanied the second & third-year students on a field trip to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, where Msgr. Geno Sylva is the Rector.

Msgr. Geno explained the history of the Cathedral, said mass for the Sisters, and then showed them his new school, Paterson Prep. Everyone enjoyed a luncheon afterwards at Francesco's Restaurant in Woodland Park.



## Beyond the Beacon

In May, ACS was invited to participate in the *Beyond the Beacon* podcast with Bishop Kevin Sweeney of the Paterson Diocese. Bishop Sweeney interviewed President Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC, Academic Dean Sister Teresa Bruno, SC, and students Sister Violet Lemla, SST, and Sister Mary Theresa Lan Nguyen, MRP. Information on the airing of the podcast will be included in ACS weekly email announcements.

## Health and Wellness II Class

In May, the Health and Wellness II class, taught by Suzanne Shipley, RN, welcomed special guests throughout the week including William Keating and Don Salge from the Denville Fire Department to present information about the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to the first and second year students. The defibrillator was donated to ACS by Don and Josie Succardi.



# ALUMNAE NEWS



**Sister Theresa Hang Phan and Sister Mary Tam Pham** (ACS class of 2022) from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation congregation in Vietnam both graduated in May 2024. Sister Theresa Hang graduated from the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, MN with a BA in Education and will continue her studies at the School of Theology at Saint John's University in Collegeville, MN working toward an MA in Theology.

Sister Mary Tam Pham graduated Summa Cum Laude from Georgian Court University in Lakewood, NJ with a BFA in Visual Fine Arts and received an Award of Excellence in Studio Art. Sister Mary Tam will return to Vietnam to begin working in ministry for her community.



*Sr. Mary Tam Pham, FMV*



*Sr. Lucia Misoji, OSB-OLHC*

**Sister Lucia Misoji**, (ACS class of 2020) from the Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady Help of Christians congregation earned her BA in Religious Studies from Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota in May 2022 and in May 2024 earned her MA in Theology from Seton Hall University. Sister will work for a year in Optional Practical Training before returning to minister in her community in Tanzania.

**Sister Norbertha Mlowe** (ACS class of 2018) from the Benedictine Sisters of Saint Agnes congregation in Tanzania received her BA in Education with a focus on Literature and Theology from Benedictine University in 2022 and will graduate in October of 2024 with a Master's of Education with a specialization in Transformational Leadership from Aspen University in Arizona.



*Sr. Norbertha Mlowe, OSB*



**Sister Mary Duyen Nguyen** (ACS class of 2022) from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary congregation in Vietnam graduated from Seton Hall University with a BA in Theology in May 2024. Sister Mary Duyen received the Pope Benedict XVI honor for academic excellence and will continue her studies at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, CA where she will work toward her STB (Bachelor of Sacred Theology) degree.



*Sr. Domitille Ndayisenga, BM*

**Sister Domitille Ndayisenga** (ACS class of 2019) from the Bene-Maria Sisters congregation in Burundi graduated from Mount Saint Joseph University in Cincinnati, OH with a BA in Educational Studies in 2021 and in May 2024 earned her MA in Ministry with a concentration in Social Justice from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL.

**Sister Rachael Wakene Mshindani** (ACS class of 2022) from the Sisters of St. Joseph Mombasa congregation in Kenya graduated from Georgian Court University in May 2024 with a BA in Health Sciences. In recognition of Sister's academic achievements, Sister Rachael was presented with the First Award in Health Profession Studies and inducted into the Kappa Gamma Pi National Catholic College Graduate Honor Society. Sister Rachael will continue her studies at Georgian Court-Hackensack Meridian Health working toward her Direct Entry Master's of Science degree in Nursing.



*Sr. Rachael Wakene Mshindani, SSJ*

**Sister Donatha Gerard**, (ACS class of 2021) from the Franciscan Sisters of Saint Bernadette congregation graduated Summa Cum Laude from Saint Vincent College in LaTrobe, Pennsylvania earning her BA in Accounting in May 2024. Sister Donatha will continue her studies at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan where she will work toward her MBA degree.



*Sr. Donatha Gerard, FSSB*

## Board Members Gather for Prayer and Fellowship

The Board of Trustees gathered for a retreat at Loyola House in Morristown on April 17, 2024. The group prayed and reflected on the spirituality of serving with the head, hands, and heart as leaders at ACS. A presentation was made to Sister Diane Moughan, SCC in appreciation for her ministry as a Trustee.



## ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

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

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

The  
Twenty-fourth Annual  
*Caring  
Basket  
Gala*

**March 27, 2025**  
**The Sheraton Parsippany**

**More details to follow!**