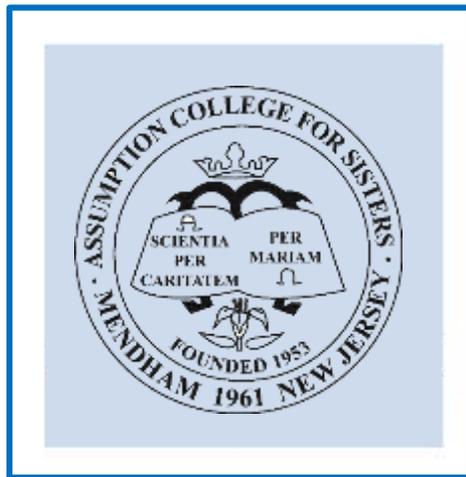


# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024

## Assumption College for Sisters



### MISSION STATEMENT

Impelled by Christ's love, Assumption College for Sisters,  
through education and community, forms servant leaders who transform lives.

*Teach a Sister... Touch the World*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends of Assumption College for Sisters,

As I write this message, it is hard to believe that one year has passed since I arrived at ACS in July 2023! And what a year it has been! I began as Interim President, and quickly rekindled my love for the mission of ACS: *Teach a Sister...Touch the World*, so that, on November 18, I was installed as its 7<sup>th</sup> president. I am grateful to the Board of Trustees, Administration and Staff, Faculty, the many friends of ACS, and especially the International Sisters, the Salesian of St. John Bosco novices (FMA) and the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth (FSSE) for welcoming me with open hands and hearts! I am blessed and grateful for all!

Thanks to the generosity of friends and benefactors, we began the school year with 18 resident international students and 21 commuters. In January, another international Sister came to live at the college bringing the numbers of resident students to 19. On October 1, ACS opened its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special Mass and reception and ended on May 11, 2024, with Commencement. We are grateful to Fr. Martin Glynn, pastor of St. Mary's, Denville, for "gifting" ACS with both receptions.

"Giving Tuesday" raised over \$9,000, affording us the opportunity to buy new desks and chairs for each of the Sisters' bedrooms. A grant allowed us to install doors for the dining room and two classrooms. We are awaiting information on a grant from the Diocese of Paterson for security purposes. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Caring Basket Gala* was again the best ever!

Groups of international Sister students participated in various events/activities throughout the year. These can be viewed in the Institutional Goals section of this report.

The Sisters are parishioners of St. Mary's Church, Denville, however, some also visited many of the area parishes in preparation for selling *Gala* raffle tickets and to experience the various liturgies of the Diocese of Paterson and Metuchen: St. Cecilia's and Sacred Heart, Rockaway, St. Joseph's, Mendham, St. James', Basking Ridge, the Vietnamese communities of St. Cecilia's and Our Lady of Czestochowa, South Plainfield. I was delighted to speak about ACS at the weekend Masses of some of these parishes. I am open to speaking at any **churches or organizations** about our unique and fruitful mission. Please spread the word!

ACS continues to prepare for our re-accreditation with the Middle State Commission on Higher Education. We recently heard that our on-site evaluation team visit will take place on February 23-26, 2025, with a preliminary visit with the Team Chair on November 7, 2024. Please keep this intention in your prayers. We are counting on them!

What a blessed year it has been! I can only exclaim in the words of Blessed Pauline, "Here all is in safest hands!" You are in our prayers.

Gratefully yours,

*Sr. Marie Pauline Demek, SCC.*

Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC – President

## GOVERNANCE

2023-2024

### *ACS Board of Trustees*

ACS is GRATEFUL to:  
Sister Joann Marie Aumand, SCC  
Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC

Rev. Christopher Ciccarino  
Christopher Draeger  
Rev. Martin Glynn  
Joseph Gonnella  
Kristy Goulart  
Ellen Sandman  
Angelo Sansano  
Louis Scarpa  
Timothy Shea  
Anthony Sturla  
Lorine Takaruzza  
Elaine Thornberry

## Thank you, 2024 Honorees!



**The  
Education  
Award**  
Sister Joseph  
Spring, SCC



**The Spirit of  
the Heart  
Award**  
Angelo Del Russo



**The Family  
Life Award**  
Kevin and Lisa  
Clayton

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

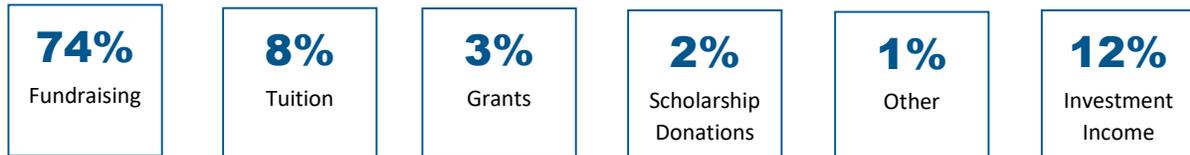
- + The Administration, staff, faculty, and nurses of ACS who have graciously welcomed me and generously assisted me in transitioning to my new ministry as President of ACS.
- + The ACS Board of Trustees and SCC provincial leadership for guiding and supporting the College through this transition in leadership.
- + Our ACS students, whose enthusiasm and energy for learning, are a blessing to the College.
- + Our many knowledgeable and efficient tutors who befriend our international students.
- + Our volunteer drivers who are ready to take the Sisters anywhere at a moment's notice.
- + Our many friends and benefactors of who so lovingly "Teach a Sister and Touch the World!"

# Financials:

Fiscal Year:

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

## INCOME:



## EXPENSES:



## Outcomes

- + 19 international Sister Students offered full scholarships to ACS including room and board.
- + 22 new desks and chairs for bedrooms from "Giving Tuesday" donations.
- + Donations of a new microwave oven, a 65" television, and new doors installed on the classrooms and dining room.
- + 7 graduates received academic scholarships and room and board to various colleges in the U.S. and 6 Salesians novices of St. John Bosco received a Certificate of Theological Studies.
- + ACS appeared in America magazine.
- + A new president was installed, October 2023.
- + A new staff person arrived, June 2024 – Assistant to the President.

**100%**

**19**

**462**

**78**

**Graduation  
Rate**

**Scholarships  
Awarded  
2023/24**

**AA Degrees/  
ARA Degrees  
Awarded  
Since 1955**

**Certificates in  
Theology  
Awarded  
Since 1983**

# INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

The mission of ACS is guided by Institutional Goals which provide the framework for all we do.

Integrated Religious Formation • Leadership • Service • Community • Social Justice

## ACS Shines a Light on INTEGRATED RELIGIOUS FORMATION

By providing sound theology and philosophy courses in an atmosphere of integrity and shared vision, administration and faculty strive to enhance the religious formation of the students within the context of their own distinctive community charisms.



### Shine a **FORMATION** light on Sisters:

- + serving as Eucharistic Ministers.
- + sharing the history, ministries of the students' congregations.
- + learning about the life of Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt.
- + visiting the *Heritage Room* at the SCC Motherhouse.
- + observing the Renewal and Final Vows of four international Sisters.
- + celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary of pastor of Vietnamese communities.
- + honoring the Vietnamese Martyrs with Mass and reception at St. Cecilia's Parish.
- + thanking the SCC community at graduation.



## ACS Shines a Light on LEADERSHIP

Assumption College for Sisters strives to form women who will be a light for the world and a leaven in society.



### Shine a LEADERSHIP light on Sisters:

- + leading/participating in classroom discussions.
- + sharing their cooking expertise with guests and resident Sister students.
- + electing two servant leaders for the resident Sister students.
- + taking charge of household chores, decorations, food shopping, adoration, prayer times.
- + serving as hostesses at college events (*Gala*, Orientation, Lunar New Year celebrations).
- + preparing liturgies for college events: 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Commencement, Orientation.
- + lecturing at the morning liturgies at Morris Catholic High School, Denville.
- + participating in the Divine Mercy service and Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's Parish.

## ACS Shines a Light on SERVICE



Sister students are to avail themselves of opportunities to prepare for a life of *service* in the Church.



### Shine a SERVICE light on Sisters:

- + representing ACS at Women's Achievement Awards, presence at Passaic Neighborhood for Women Luncheon.
- + preparing food for the "Dinner with the Sisters."
- + sharing on *Beyond the Beacon* podcast.
- + selling tickets for the *Caring Basket Gala*.
- + participating in the St. Mary's Parish Rosary Rally, World Mission Sunday Rosary.
- + serving as pastoral associates at St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit in the summer.
- + visiting with General and Provincial Superiors who come to visit the college.
- + preparing the reception hall for the ACS 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass and Commencement.
- + attending the prayer service and talk on St. Therese with Bishop Sweeney.
- + learning the use of the AED in the Wellness Course.
- + viewing *The Shroud Project* at Our Lady of Magnificat Church, Kinnelon, NJ.



## ACS Shines a Light on COMMUNITY



Community, founded on service and respect for each person's dignity, ranks among Assumption's most cherished values.

### Shine a COMMUNITY light on Sisters:



- + appreciating the variety of cultures in the College through music and dance.
- + having fun carving pumpkins with a Board of Trustee.
- + sharing in the *Run for a Nun* 5K.
- + hiking with "friends" at Pyramid Rock in Boonton, NJ.
- + attending 9/11 Memorial Services at Morris Plains and Morris Catholic High School.
- + enjoying the St. Patrick's Day Party at St. Mary's, the Lunar New Year celebration at St. Cecilia's and ACS.
- + praying the *Transitus of St. Francis* with the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Parsippany.
- + appreciating one another through class presentations and activities.
- + practicing yoga in Wellness Week class.
- + visiting the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Paterson.
- + visiting St. Ann's Melkite Church for Church History class.

## ACS Shines a Light on SOCIAL JUSTICE



Students at ACS strive to see the face of Jesus in ALL!

### Shine a SOCIAL JUSTICE light on Sisters:

- + attending the “Faith in Blackness” documentary shown at the Motherhouse.
- + learning the fundamentals of Catholic Social Teaching.
- + walking in St. Cecilia’s Parish *March for Life*.
- + participating in a prayer service for International Peace Day, the “40 Days for Life” campaign and attending the National Day of Prayer service in Denville.
- + going to see the movie *Cabrini* at the AMC Rockaway Theater.
- + appearing in February ’24 issue of *America* magazine.

**8 Countries  
National Origin**

Burundi  
Tanzania

Cameroon  
Vietnam

Canada  
United States

Indonesia  
Zambia

### *Communities Served in 2023-2024:*

**Bene Maria + Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady, Help of Christians + Benedictine Sisters, Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert + Daughters of Our Lady of the Rosary + Dominican Sisters of Tam Hiep + Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth + Holy Spirit Sisters ALCS + Immaculate Heart Sisters of Africa + Lovers of the Holy Cross Vinh Lovers of the Holy Cross Go Vap + Missionary Benedictine Sisters + Salesians Sisters of St. John Bosco + Sisters of St. Joseph of Mombasa + Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus of Buea + The Congregation of Mary, Queen of Peace**



**Assumption College for Sisters**  
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