



ACS

Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ August 2025

Assumption College for Sisters Commencement 2025

On Saturday, May 10, Assumption College for Sisters held Commencement ceremonies with six students earning degrees. Three students earned the AA degree, one student earned the ARA degree, and two students earned both the AA and ARA degrees. Three 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. Carmen Buono, PhD, Rev. Stephen Delia, Jr., Rev. James Termyna, Rev. Rick Hardy, Rev. Joseph Ho of the Diocese of Metuchen, and assisted by Deacons Mike Allgaier and Jack Flynn of St. Mary's Parish. Peter Spellman was the cross bearer and altar server. A reception, courtesy of the parish, followed in the Riverview School Annex Auditorium to celebrate the graduates and certificate recipients.

Sister Joann Marie Aumand, SCC, Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Christian Charity for the North American Province, delivered the Commencement Address. Sister Joann Marie has been a Sister of Christian Charity for over 50 years. After earning her Associate of Arts degree from ACS in 1975, Sister continued her education at Felician College (now University) where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and then earned her Master's degree in Administration from Villanova University. Sister Joann Marie also holds a Certification in Spiritual Direction from Fordham University. Before Sister was elected as Provincial in 2020, her faithful service to her congregation included roles as Novitiate Formation Director, Director of the Temporary Professed, and Provincial Councilor.



Her ministry experience is vast, including two decades as an Administrator in Elementary and Secondary Schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Sister Joann Marie also served as Administrator for Catholic Charities' Immigration, Refugee, and Human Trafficking Programs of the Archdiocese of Newark and as a Pastoral Associate at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hoboken, NJ.

Sister Joann Marie Aumand, SCC



L to R: Sister Violete Lemla, SST, Sister Theresa Le Nguyen, LHC-V, Sister Mary Duong Tran, MRP, Sister Stephen Phiri, OSB, Sister Maria Magdalene Nhung Nguyen, LHC-V, Sister Marivone Kang, SST

determination, and compassion as you live as pilgrims of hope on the journey and witness with your lives the love of Jesus Christ in our world."

A highlight of ACS' graduation program each year is a brief talk by one of the graduates who reflects on her class's experiences during the three years of study at the College. This year's address was presented by Sister Marivone Kang, a member of the Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus of Buea congregation located in Cameroon. Sister Marivone spoke about the commencement being more than a celebration of academic achievement, but also a celebration of transformation.

Sister Marivone shared that through every hardship, including language barriers, cultural differences, homesickness, and academic pressures, they found grace and strength, "not in ourselves alone, but in one another and God." Sister Marivone thanked the ACS administration, faculty, friends, and benefactors for wisdom, care, and support, as well as their families and congregations back home for unwavering prayers, sacrifices, and encouragement. In conclusion, Sister Marivone addressed the graduates, "As we leave here today, we do not go as ordinary graduates. We go as consecrated women, as missionaries, as daughters of the Church. These diplomas are not just for ourselves; they are tools for service, symbols of readiness, and signs of hope for the people we are called to love."

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.

During her commencement address, Sister Joann Marie asked the graduates to consider, in addition to their degrees and certificates, the gifts and challenges of living in a culturally diverse environment that offered valuable lessons on living in a diverse, global community.

Sister Joann Marie offered a quote from Pope Francis, "education offers a meaning, a narrative to every element of human life. It helps to bring out the best in each person, to polish the diamond that the Lord has placed in each one so that we can be sharers with God and be lights of hope that shine in our world." Sister Joann Marie concluded her remarks to the Class of 2025 to "continue to be filled with courage,



L to R: Sister Krystle Balancio, FMA, Sister Gloria Hoang, FMA, Sister Krescentia Sugiaman, FMA

ACS HONORS 2025 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR



Sister Guerline Joseph, FMA

Congratulations to Sister Guerline Joseph of the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians, for receiving the 2025 Alumna of the Year Award.

Sister earned a BS in Management Science with a concentration in International Business from Kean University in 2007 and earned a Certificate of Theological Studies from ACS in 2011. Since her First Profession in 2011, Sister Guerline has exemplified the Salesian mission as Director of Religious Education, Assistant Retreat Director, Boys & Girls Club mentor, high school campus minister, and educator across all grade levels. She currently serves as Associate Director in the Archdiocese of Newark's Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Sister Guerline's deep passion lies in accompanying young people, affirming their dignity, and reminding them they are profoundly loved.

Sister Guerline says about her experience at ACS, "I am deeply grateful to the dedicated Sisters who taught me, sharing their knowledge and faith. My two years at ACS have given me a strong foundation that I carry into my ministry as a Salesian Sister." ***Congratulations, Sister Guerline!***

Caring Basket Gala: A Resounding Success

The Caring Basket Gala on March 28, 2025, at the Parsippany Sheraton was an extraordinary evening, raising over \$300,000 to support scholarships for Sisters and the mission of Assumption College for Sisters.

The event celebrated extraordinary honorees dedicated to serving the Church and their communities. Special thanks to Monsignor Geno Sylva, Rod Donnelly, Chris Powers, and Kristy and Steve Goulart for their significant contributions to the success of the Gala.

Funds raised will directly support Sisters' scholarships, enabling them to minister in areas including healthcare, education, and vocation development. The generosity of attendees and donors will positively impact countless lives in the US and beyond.

Guests enjoyed the prize of an international dinner prepared by the Sisters and the chance to bid on "Dinner with Monsignor Geno." The scholarship auction and the talents of auctioneer Andrew Anselmi contributed to the evening's fun and fundraising success.

This year's Gala sets a high bar for the future, reinforcing the commitment to supporting the mission of ACS. Every dollar and volunteer hour helps "Teach a Sister...Touch the World!"

For more information, visit www.acs350.org or contact Mr. Louis Scarpa at advancement@acs350.org.



L to R: Msgr. Geno Sylva, Dr. Jo Anne Sylva, Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC, Mr. Eugene Sylva



Mr. and Mrs. Chris Powers, pose with Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC



Mr. and Mrs. Steven Goulart and family, pictured with Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC



Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC, shares a joyful moment with Mr. and Mrs. Rod Donnelly

ACS Class of 2025

Associate in Arts Degree

Sister Theresa Le Nguyen, LHC-V
Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA

Sister Maria Magdalene Nhung Nguyen, LHC-V
Kings College, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Sister Mary Duong Tran, MRP
Saint Elizabeth University, Morristown, NJ

Associate in Religious Arts Degree

Sister Stephen Phiri, OSB
Divine World College, Epworth, Iowa

Associate in Arts and Associate in Religious Arts Degrees

Sister Marivone Kang, SST
Saint Mary University, Leavenworth, KS

Sister Violette Lemla, SST
Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, NC

Certificate in Theological Studies

Sister Krystle Balancio, FMA

Sister Gloria Hoang, FMA

Sister Kresentia Sugiaman, FMA

Gratitude to Former Faculty

Henry Crouse, PhD
World Civilization I and II

Welcome New Faculty

Ms. Clio Isaacson
World Civilization I and II

Gratitude to Former Trustees

Louis Scarpa
Kristy Goulart

Welcome New Trustees

Ms. Una Doddy
Ms. Jeanne Gradone
Mr. James Henry Oliverio

Fall 2025 Tuesday Night Lecture Series: *Hope does not Disappoint.*

In keeping with the 2025 Jubilee theme of Hope, 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.

Successful MSCHE Self-Study Team Visit

On February 23-26, 2025, ACS hosted the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) evaluation team to conduct the Self-Study Evaluation visit. Anne Clark Bartlett, PhD, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Saint Elizabeth University, chaired the evaluation team. Other team members included Ms. Barbara Calissi from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Ms. Allison Mootz from Manor College, Dr. Thomas Joseph Ward from HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership, and Dr. Gary L. Welton from Grove City College.

The team engaged with the ACS community through a meet and greet and subsequent sessions on aligning ACS with MSCHE standards. Various constituencies were involved in the visit, including the Steering Co-Chairs, Steering Committee, faculty, board, SCC leadership team, students, and working group members.

The visit culminated with Dr. Clark Bartlett presenting the Oral Exit Report on February 26, expressing gratitude to President Sister Marie Pauline Demek and the ACS community. The accreditation decision will be communicated after the Commission's June meeting.

The Self-Study is a two-and-a-half-year process aimed at assessing ACS's compliance with MSCHE standards while identifying opportunities for improvement. Thank you to everyone at ACS for their contributions to this significant effort.



ALUMNAE NEWS



Sr. Martha Sang Nguyen, LHC-PD

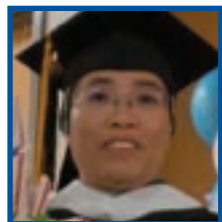
Sister Martha Sang Nguyen, LHC-PD ('23) of the Lovers of the Holy Cross located in the Phat Diem province, Vietnam, graduated in May 2025 from King's College, PA with a **BA in Sociology**. Sister Martha will continue her education at Seton Hall University toward her MA.

Sister Mary Thuan Bui, FMV ('20) from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation



Sr. Mary Thuan Bui, FMV

congregation in Vietnam, graduated from Georgian Court University with a BA in Religious Studies in 2022 and graduated from Carlow University in PA with an MSW in May 2025. Sister Mary Thuan presented her research on the Quy Lai Community in her hometown of Hue, Vietnam, at the Carlow Scholar Day.



Sr. Martha Vi Nguyen, LHC-NT

Sister Martha Vi Nguyen, LHC-NT ('22) from the Lovers of the Holy Cross in the Nha Trang province of Vietnam graduated in December 2024 from Saint Vincent College, PA with a BA in Psychology Education. Sister Martha graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors. Sister Martha will return to Vietnam and assist the elderly at her Motherhouse.

Sister Mary Paul Nhung Duong, FMSR ('23) from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary congregation in Vietnam graduated in May from Marywood University in PA with a BA double major in Religious Studies and Professional English Writing. She will continue her education at Marywood University, where she will study toward an MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and begin an online MA program at Boston College in Theology. Sister Mary Paul received the Saint Thomas More Award from the English Department and the Czachor Medal from the Religious Studies Department at Marywood.



Sr. Mary Paul Nhung Duong, FMSR



Sr. Theresa Hang Phan, FMV

Sister Theresa Hang Phan, FMV ('22) from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation congregation in Vietnam earned her BA in Education in 2024 from the College of Saint Benedict in MN and in May 2025 earned her MA in Theology from Saint John's University in MN. Before returning to Vietnam, Sister Theresa Hang will work with her congregation in California for several years to allow another sister to study full-time toward an MA in Theology.

FIELD TRIP TO ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH

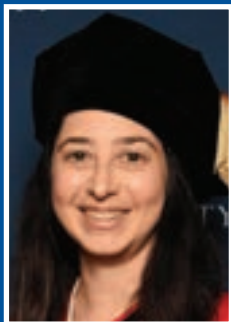
On May 17, first year residential students went to St. Catherine of Siena parish in Mountain Lakes, accompanied by Jean Wedemeier, to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. Therese the Little Flower.



Left to Right: Sister Elisabeth Manirambona, BM; Sister Restuta Mapigano, FSSB; Sister Theresa Trieu Tran LHC-TT; Sister Marie Eusebe Anh Trinh, SPP; Sister Scholastica Mushi, IHSA; Sister Maria Ahn Le, LHC-TT

Congratulations to Faculty

Dr. Mara Marino, English and Public Speaking instructor, received her PhD in Literacy from St. John's University, Queens, NY, in the Department of Education Specialties. Her research interests include curriculum design, digital literacies, English language learners, and multimodality.



2025 Board of Trustees Retreat

On April 23rd, the ACS Board of Trustees gathered for a day of prayer at the Shrine of Saint Joseph's in Stirling. The day included a liturgy concelebrated with Bishop Emeritus Arthur J. Serratelli, Board members, Fr. Martin Glynn, and Fr. Chris Ciccarino, a delicious lunch prepared by the Sisters of the Missionary Servants of the Blessed Trinity, and a presentation by Bishop Serratelli on the multiplication of the loaves and service. The Board is pictured with Bishop Serratelli, pictured center



CONGRATULATIONS, Sister Geralyn!

On May 5th, the ACS residential students joined in celebrating Sister Geralyn Schmidt's 40th anniversary of Religious Profession as a Sister of Christian Charity with a special liturgy celebrated by Fr. Rick Hardy. Sister Geralyn is the Assistant to the President and Director of Student Services.



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

200 A MORRIS AVENUE
DENVER, NJ 07834

Teach a Sister...
Touch the World!

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

The
Twenty-fifth Annual
*Caring
Basket
Gala*

March 19, 2026
The Sheraton Parsippany

More details to follow!