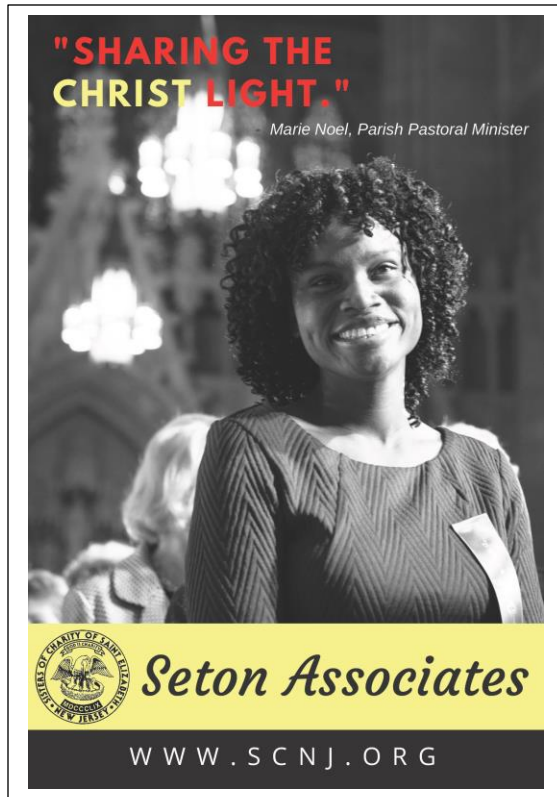


Seton Associate Newsletter

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September 2017



Seton Associates Are Signs of the Times

A display of posters illustrating Sisters, Seton Associates, and Interns, at work in their ministries, is beginning to appear around the Motherhouse, thanks to the creative efforts of Public Relations Director Donna Sartor. The exhibit includes, so far, the faces and quotes of Seton Associates Matt Schiller, Jean Semler, and Marie Noel. Above, left, is Seton Associate Marie Noel who is a pastoral minister at a parish on Staten Island, and on the right is Jean Semler who founded ChangeALife Uganda. We will be adding others – maybe even you!

Seton Associate Advisory Board Welcomes New Members

The Seton Associate Advisory Board met on September 13 and welcomed new members Sister Patricia Beaumont, SC, Seton Associate Jolynn Krempecki, Seton Associate Theresa Nolan, and Sister Maureen Sullivan, SC. They join Joan Schildwachter, chairperson; also Jacqueline Crane, Sister

Mary Fallon, SC, Anne Marie Gardiner, Sister Mary Pauline Hogan, SC, Coleen Ognissanti, Judith Rosenberg, Rosemary Carroll, Director, and Sister Maureen Dunne, SC, Council Connector. We are grateful to our Board members for their willingness to serve our mission, and are delighted to have their combined expertise to help us advance the Seton Associate program.

Register Now for Retreat at Maris Stella

Father Richard Rento, STL, author of the highly acclaimed book *It's Not Necessarily So*, will address the theme of "Transformation in the Spirit" during the annual Seton Associate Retreat set for October 20-22 at Maris Stella. Father Dick will apply his down-to-earth theology in helping us to identify and treasure moments in our lives that led us to our own spiritual transformations. On Sunday morning, Seton Associate Leda Reeves will discuss her spiritual transformation that has occurred since becoming disabled. Fee for retreat is \$145. Please try to have your reservation in by October 6.



Father Richard Rento will lead our retreat at Maris Stella October 20-22.

Federation Plans Associate Gathering in New England

Associates of congregations in the Sisters of Charity Federation who live in New England, are invited to a regional meeting on Saturday, October 28 at 11 a.m. at St. Peter's Parish Center, Court Street, Plymouth Massachusetts. The meeting will include prayer, discussion and camaraderie. A plan for the group to continue meeting will be set up. Sisters also are invited. Fee of \$20 covers lunch.

Associate Directors Jo Paulin of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, and Rosemary Carroll of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth are hosting the event. The purpose is to reach out to Associates who live too far from their congregations to participate in annual activities, but close enough to each other to form a group for sustaining prayer and programs. The Associate Directors in the Federation held a similar gathering in Denver, Colorado, and will look to other areas of the country where they share members for meetings.

Haiti Volunteers Thank Students for Donations

Seton Associate Dawn Colapietro, who volunteers with Sister Dianne Moore in Haiti, and Sister Janet Lehmann who is dean of nursing at a college in Haiti, thanked the students at Mother Seton Regional High School on Monday, September 11, for their generous gift of \$1,000 to our mission serving the poor of the island. The *Toward Boundless Charity* students organized the school-wide fundraiser last spring. Sister Janet explained the nursing program and its importance to the small communities where the nursing students will one day serve. Dawn spoke of the work she and Sister Dianne are doing to sustain their village. Dawn hopes to make a similar presentation to the Academy of Saint Elizabeth before she returns to Haiti in mid-September. The *Toward Boundless Charity* students at the Academy also ran a school-wide fundraiser and also sent \$1,000 to Haiti.

Deceased Member Memorialized

The program at Mother Seton included the Opening School Year Liturgy during which deceased Seton Associate Katherine Sullivan, a long-time science teacher at the school, was memorialized. Katherine's adult son and daughter were present. It was our first chance to meet them and express the condolences of all Seton Associates and Sisters for the loss of their loved and admired mother.

Area Groups Schedule Year's Meetings

Our area groups continue to meet regularly and help to sustain our members with programs that are educational and spiritually enriching. The groups and their leaders are:

- Convent Area Daytime Group – MaryAnn Motiuk
- Morristown Area Evening Group – Jeanne Nicholls
- Paterson Area – Judith Rosenberg
- Trenton Area – Jacqueline Crane
- Jersey Shore Area – John Oppici, Carol Thrunk, Beverly Farano
- Jersey City Area – Patricia Lynch
- New Haven, CT – Peter and Barbara Rzasas
- Amory, MS – Carlos Ann Sanders
- Navajo, NM – Amanda Milford-Joe

Sister Judy Mertz, SC, Director of Josephine's Place, and our new Latina members will host a gathering of Seton Associates who live and/or work in Union County for a new, re-vitalized chapter on Wednesday, September 27 from 4 – 5 p.m. at Josephine's Place on Elizabeth Avenue in Elizabeth. We invited 21 Seton Associates from that area. The group will decide where it will hold subsequent gatherings and how often they will meet. We hope to identify a facilitator at the meeting.

Annual Commitment Forms and Profile Updates

Please remember to send in your Annual Commitment form and your Personal Profile form with updates and comments. Your suggestions have an impact on our programming. Thanks so much!

Mississippi Seton Associates Meet for Retreat

Amory, Mississippi Facilitator Carlos Ann Sanders writes of Sisters Marie Gilligan and Kathy Quigley who led a retreat for our members there this past summer : “Thanks to Sisters Marie and Kathy, the Seton Associates of Amory are feeling renewed in the charism of the Sisters of Charity. We enjoyed a week-long visit in early August. The Sisters were able to visit with many St. Helen parishioners and attend Mass with us. Sister Kathy sang with our choir reminding us of happy days gone by. She was instrumental in guiding us in our ministry for many years. At a gathering of the Seton Associates, Sister Marie challenged us to be open to the Spirit and be willing to say Yes just as Mother Seton said Yes many years ago. At our recent retreat, we all prayed over Sisters Marie and Kathy, as they have prayed for each of us so many times.”



Amory, Mississippi Seton Associates gather for annual retreat led by Sister Marie Gilligan, SC, standing second row on left, and Sister Kathy Quigley, SC, kneeling, front row, second from right. Sisters Marie and Kathy served as pastoral ministers at St. Helen Church in Amory for many years inspiring the women who became Seton Associates. Our Amory members provide many services to the poor including a popular Food Pantry and community garden.

Director, Sisters Attend International Vincentian Symposium

Seton Associate Director Rosemary Carroll will join 20 Sisters from the Congregation attending the International Vincentian Family Symposium in Rome October 12-15. The gathering takes place during the 400th Jubilee Year of Saint Vincent de Paul and its theme is “Welcome the Stranger.” The focus of the symposium is to discuss and identify new initiatives to serve the poor of the world. There are 8,700 registered for the symposium.

On Friday, Sister Margaret “Peggy” O’Neill, who has served the people of Suchitoto, El Salvador for many years, will address conferees on the topic: “Vincentian Formation and Communication in the Information Age.” Our delegation will join others from around the globe to consider the changing demographics and social contexts in our world, the pressing needs of the poor, and our ability to best respond to these as a Family. On Saturday morning, the attendees will gather in Saint Peter’s Square to continue the Symposium program and to attend an Audience with Pope Francis.

Rosemary Carroll has been invited to work at the conference with synthesizers, those who will record presentations, focus group comments, and recommendations, and submit a written summary of each day’s proceedings. Rosemary will coordinate the English language synthesizers and represent them the day after the conference at a day-long session to write the formal conference document.

Congregation Presents Highest Honor to Jim and Mary Smith

During its annual Harvest Home Dinner at The Madison Hotel on October 26, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth will present The Mehegan Award to Seton Associates James and Mary Smith for their decades-long life of charity in service to those in need, and for their unswerving support of the Congregation and the Seton Associates. Mary and Jim became Seton Associates in 1998, and made their Lifetime Commitments in 2004. Watch for invitation.

Seton Associates Invited to Congregation Day

Seton Associates are invited to the luncheon and afternoon session of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Congregation Day on Saturday, October 7 at the Birchwood Manor in Whippany, NJ. Seton Associate Mary Elizabeth Gannon will receive an award that afternoon and those Seton Associates present will participate in the annual Missioning Ceremony. Please let Louise Pechello know if you will be attending the luncheon and/or the meeting so accommodations for you can be made. She can be reached at 973-290-5470.

Josephine’s Place Dinner in November

The annual Josephine’s Place Dinner will be held on November 9 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, NJ. The Mother Josephine Marie Humanitarian Award will be presented to Namrta Shah, a long-time volunteer at Josephine’s Place, and the Corporate Partner Award will be presented to PSE&G. Proceeds will benefit the programs offered to immigrant women. We will all be invited.

Father Anthony Randazzo Lectures on ‘Divine Dance’

Father Anthony Randazzo will discuss contemporary theologian Richard Rohr’s *Divine Dance – The Trinity and Transformation* and its holy implications for all of us on Saturday, December 9 from 9 a.m. to noon at The Villa at Florham Park, Community Room, B Level, Assisted Living wing. Donation of \$20 will cover the cost of coffee and goodies and expenses. RSVP Ana Navarro 973-290-5446. Attendees are encouraged to read the book prior to the lecture for a deeper appreciation of Rohr’s theology and Randazzo’s illumination. The book is available through several on-line vendors. Coffee and goodies at 9 a.m. Lecture begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. We’re on our way by Noon.

Candidates for Seton Associate Will Gather for Orientation

The annual Orientation to Seton Associates will take place on Saturday, November 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 110 in the Motherhouse. The program will include a history of the Congregation by Archivist Sister Noreen Neary, SC, a surprise visit by Mother Mary Xavier herself, thanks to Sister Noreen Holly, SC, and lunch in the Sisters Dining Room. The Orientation Committee includes Jim and Mary Smith, Evy Jarzabek, Elizabeth Rifino.

Our current candidates for Seton Associate include several nurses from St. Joseph Medical Center, a College of Saint Elizabeth student and a recent graduate, a volunteer with Sister Cecilia McManus in Princess Anne, Maryland, a graduate of Mother Seton Regional High School (years ago), another health care professional, and a retired nurse educator at the College of Saint Elizabeth. Two Seton Associates, so far, have sent in letters announcing their desire to make lifetime commitments.

New Formation Process Added

To enhance our formation process, Advisory Board member Jolynn Krempecki, who has spent many years in lay formation for the Trenton and Camden dioceses in New Jersey, met with Chairperson Joan Schildwachter and Director Rosemary Carroll to discuss adding self-directed spiritual assessments for candidates and those making lifetime commitments. Jolynn discussed the process at the Seton Associate Advisory Board meeting September 13. We are grateful to her for sharing her expertise and wisdom to help strengthen the discernment and formation process for candidates and members.

Calendar of Events Chronicles Year of Activity

The newly revised calendar of Events has been distributed to members. The Calendar remains a work in progress as new events come along or as dates change.

There are two changes already! The Seton Associate Advisory Board will meet on September 12, 2018. The Calendar correctly identifies Father Richard Rento as the retreat leader for October 20-22, 2017 but incorrectly repeats the listing for October 12-14, 2018. While we may very much desire Father Rento’s return engagement, a retreat leader for next year has not yet been secured.

If you are considering a Lifetime Commitment...

If you feel called to make your Lifetime Commitment as a Seton Associate, please send a letter to the Director by September 29 expressing your desire and why you wish to do so. Your letter does not have to be long; however, it should reveal your passion for the charism of charity and your resolve to let your heart speak in charity to all for the rest of your life. You may wish to discuss your decision with your Sponsor, if she is still alive, or with another Sister, Lifetime Associate or the Director.

Making a Lifetime Commitment changes you. It changes you because you stand before all of us, Sisters and Seton Associates, and say Yes to charity. It is a spiritually powerful moment. Your Yes is an acknowledgement that the Divine works through you in helping others, and is an affirmation of what you hold dear. It is also a reminder and affirmation to those witnessing you of what we hold dear. We are bound together in a beautiful mission and life of service that enriches us in spirit while we touch others in kindness and love. Lifetime Commitment is a decision only you can make. May the Holy Spirit reside in your heart as you ponder this step as a Seton Associate of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth.

How Have You Grown As A Seton Associate?

On this year's Profile Form, sent to all members to fill out and return, is a new question: How have you grown as a Seton Associate? Here are some of the answers we have received:

- I am more open spiritually.
- I am more confident and secure because of the Associate community.
- I am growing in the centrality of charity – making charity concrete.
- I am more aware of the meaning and purpose of being a Seton Associate.
- My prayerfulness has grown.
- I am more aware of people and places around me that need charitable help.
- I've had an awakening of the heart, especially through contemplative prayer. I've grown spiritually, emotionally, intellectually. I now go to spiritual direction.
- My faith is stronger.
- I pray daily now for family and friends.
- I cherish the fellowship with Associates.
- I get inspired from reading the Newsletter.
- I have a greater awareness of the plight of so many.
- I am more understanding and tolerant.
- The "Welcoming the Stranger" Lecture Series was wonderful –opened my eyes.
- I now seek more opportunities to serve others.
- My prayer life is nourished by Vincentian charism.
- I have a new interest to work with the homebound.

This list will grow as others send in their forms. It also can serve as a Litany of Prayer.

In the end...



...as part of our 25th Anniversary Celebration in 2015, we planted a red oak tree on the front lawn. As summer 2017 approached one could see our little tree was deader than dead. Evidently the campus deer nibbled at it. Well, they had to eat, too. Thanks to the superb Grounds Department, we have a hardy replacement – this time with a fence around it.

Upon reflection, perhaps the tree doesn't represent Seton Associates as much as it does our charism. Earlier you read about the 8,700 registrants to the International Vincentian Symposium in Rome in October. During the early half of the 17th century, Saint Vincent de Paul responded to the needs of the poor and marginalized in Paris, but his work did not die with him. It continued by the men in the Congregation of the Mission, by the Daughters of Charity, the Vincent de Paul Society, and closer to us by the Sisters of Charity founded by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Today we are awestruck that 8,700 members of the Vincentian Family from all parts of the globe will travel to Rome to help develop initiatives to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, open doors to the marginalized, bestow human dignity upon those who suffer. That response pays tribute to Vincent de Paul, and to our Vincentian charism that has persevered over 400 years. It has grown into a strong worldwide movement – a movement of people like Seton Associates who respond without hesitation to help those in need.

Over time, we have learned to replace what doesn't work with plans anew. We have lost many in whose footsteps we follow. Yet, our charism continues. We, who now shed the Christ light on the world, propagate a regard and concern for humanity that extends God's love and mercy to countless people.

For God alone,
Rosemary Lalevée Carroll, M.A. Theo.
Director

RLC-9/2017