For All Who Thirst, 
Let Them Come to the Water
W E L C O M E

In June 2011, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth gathered to set the Congregation’s direction for the next four years. After much prayer and discussion, the sisters committed to “open ourselves to the God who is Love and who calls us to be channels of this transforming power…” and “to respond to the substantive needs of our times and to the energizing power of Caritas”. This commitment to reach out in love is deeply rooted in our works and tradition.

From earliest times partnering and collaboration have enabled and strengthened the works of the Sisters of Charity. Seton Associates, teachers, assistants, parents of students, support staff, health care professionals, nurses, physicians, donors, clergy, social workers, neighbors, other religious orders, leaders in the communities where ministries are located, and many, many more have stood with us in making God’s love known in the world.

In this “NEW Dimensions” we hear about partnerships and works of Charity that are expanding in creative, new ways. An Associate serves migrants from Mexico; students are helping to rebuild and heal New Orleans; professional colleagues ensure the continuation of the mission within our evolving health care system; and Maris Stella, our retreat and conference center on Long Beach Island, is partnering around sustainable community in this eco-sensitive patch of incredible beauty.

St. Vincent de Paul said, “Love is inventive to infinity”. The greatest legacy we can give our world is to be open to the Spirit of God’s transforming love within us, in our partners and in and among those around us, and in new, evolving ways throughout the world.

Many blessings,

Sister Rosemary Moynihan - General Superior

On the cover:

Sisters gather in front of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Maris Stella (2009).

Pictured left to right: Sisters Gloria O’Brien and Margaret Nulty.

Photo taken by Sister Eileen Shaw, SC
For more than fifty years, Maris Stella has provided space and nourishment for individuals and groups seeking physical, psychological and spiritual enrichment. The Long Beach Island property initially provided a majestic destination for Sisters’ summer rest and recreation. Many witty tales are told of the rules and regulations concerning vacation time for the Sisters in the 1960’s. Sister Mary Morley, administrator, and Sister Patricia Dotzauer, program director, said there was a time when the use of cameras was forbidden and the cost of a vacation was $3 a day. In so many ways, times have changed.
Today, Maris Stella hosts groups that range from schoolchildren learning about the sacredness of creation, to Navajo high school students who glory in their first glimpse of the ocean, to adults attending day and weekend programs on topics as diverse as “Grieving Our Losses” and “Tending Our Soul Garden.” Many Sisters and their loved ones continue to count Maris Stella as their number-one vacation and retreat destination. While the range and type of visitors to Maris Stella have changed over the years, the beautiful piece of land in Harvey Cedars between the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay remains one of the most majestic places in the world. In addition to the Sisters, many Seton Associates and groups of lay people can enjoy this rich resource.

Whether it is a walk on the boards between Seton and Holy Family, a refreshing shower outside the bath house, a look at a magnificent sunset, a meeting or workshop in the Conference Center, or a plunge into the often tempestuous Atlantic, Maris Stella has something for everyone. A visitor who is attuned to that still small voice can sense the years of prayer and reflection in the boat house that is now the beautifully renovated chapel. During the summer, visitors come from far and wide to attend liturgies on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Truly, the beauty of Maris Stella is open to all.

For all who care about the environment, about the spiritual life, about the life of prayer, about the life of the mind, and about social justice, Maris Stella, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, is the perfect place to bridge the past, present, and future.
“One of the best parts of being at Maris Stella is the opportunity to interact with the wonderful groups that come to use our facilities,” says Sister Mary Morley, the administrator. “Groups that we host, and those who come to programs that we create, reflect a wonderful diversity in age, interest and needs.”

Sister Mary has served in her post since 2009. During that time, she has networked and expanded collaborations with groups based on Long Beach Island and in the surrounding towns.

Some people would say that those who own summer houses on LBI are wealthy. While there is truth in this statement, LBI also has its share of poverty. This is why Maris Stella continues to participate in the Ocean County Family Promise program.

“With other local church groups, we host homeless families, one week per month during the winter months,” says Sister Mary. “This allows us to partner with Saint Francis Parish who provides the volunteers for this program.”

Another active group that utilizes the Conference Center is the Amergael Society, an Irish-American Heritage group. For the past three years, Maris Stella, in collaboration with Amergael and the Surf City Library, has hosted the “Celebration of Irish Arts Festival,” which has been attended by more than 200 people.

In keeping with the values and commitments of the Sisters of Charity regarding Reverencing Earth, Maris Stella began the “Barnegat Bay Coastal Camp” three years ago in collaboration with the American Littoral Society. The Coastal Camp is a week-long, hands-on learning experience where students in grades four through eight have an opportunity to learn and enjoy the beauty and importance of the environment.

“Our goal is to educate the next generations to love and care for the earth,” says Sister Mary. A few years ago, the Littoral Society planted a demonstration garden of plants native to the island. “With the assistance of many volunteers, including Sisters of Charity and Seton Associates, we continue to maintain this lovely garden,” says Sister Patricia Dotzauer, assistant administrator.

In the spirit of sharing faith, Maris Stella continues to welcome Jewish guests to celebrate special rituals connected with their high holy days. This past year, Maris Stella hosted the Seder Supper during Passover.

One of the other groups with whom Maris Stella partners is ROW – Religious on Water. This group is comprised of representatives of women religious who own property on the water (ocean, bay, river, etc.). Participation in this organization is how Sisters Mary and Patricia carry out the commitment of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth related to ecology and eco-spirituality.
Seton Associate Kathy Jack Serves Migrants from Mexico
by Rosemary Carroll, Director of Seton Associates

Seton Associate Kathy Jack had no idea what turn her life would take when she started volunteering in her parish in Aurora, Ill. It started with a few hours here and there, teaching English to immigrants. Today she gives herself totally to those who migrate from Mexico to her area in the Land of Lincoln.

Kathy is a New Jersey native, a graduate of the College of Saint Elizabeth, and a life-long educator, who moved to Chicago in 1972 to earn her M.A. in Curriculum Development and Supervision from Xavier University and later an Ed.D. in Education Leadership at Roosevelt University in Chicago. She served in educational positions in Illinois and learned over time that she would live her charism of charity there. Now retired, she volunteers a lifetime of expertise and a loving heart to serving poor immigrants.

“I volunteer full-time with Saint Nicholas Parish,” said Kathy. “Demographically the parish is made up of recent immigrants from Mexico. We provide services and programs in Spanish to them, many of whom are undocumented and all of whom are marginalized.”

Kathy’s “full-time schedule” is an understatement. She directs faith formation for youngsters and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs for adults, provides liaison services between English and Spanish-speaking populations, and outreach services for legal, medical and social services.

Kathy’s commitment to the Mexican immigrants took her to Mexico in July 2009 to explore a joint project between her City of Aurora and the City of Zomora, Mexico. She began working with the Sisters of the Holy Family to establish a community of lay associates for their religious community in the states. The seeds sown then are sprouting now.

“Our most recent initiative, with God’s help, is beginning to bear fruit,” she said. “In a January snowstorm, Sisters Maria Cecilia and Maria Ventura from Michoacán, Mexico, arrived to establish a mission here in Aurora. They were joined by their Mother General Sister Maria Soledad and Sister Maria Guadalupe, who stayed 10 days and then returned to Mexico.

“After much thought, prayer, and collaboration, the Sisters and I made the decision to form a new model of community comprised of lay and vowed women living together in service to the poor. Our first community is a small one. We three are living in what is currently my home and working in the parish. We hope we will grow as a model for others to follow.”

The Sisters jumped into their ministry. Sister Cecilia works with a cluster of parishes in the city and is their animadora or “inspirational mother.” Sister Ventura and Kathy are partners in religious education for 700 youth, ages 6 through 17, and lead a staff of 82 catechists.

Kathy’s motivation for all she does lies inside of her — that grace-filled essence that identifies a Seton Associate. “Uniting myself to the mission of these sisters who are specifically vowed to serve the immigrant poor and marginalized, is my way of keeping the charism of Vincent, Louise and Elizabeth alive in my heart.”

Kathy became a Seton Associate in 2004 and made her Lifetime Commitment in 2007. Her sponsor was Sister Louise O’Hara. Kathy taught at St. Paul School in Ramsey, Sts. Peter and Paul School in St. Thomas, the Virgin Islands, and School 21 in Paterson before moving to Illinois. She served as an adjunct professor at DePaul, Dominican, Benedictine and Roosevelt Universities; assistant professor and acting dean at Benedictine University, and director of field-based programs at Benedictine University.

Kathy says the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and their charism influenced her career and work with immigrants. “They are the reason I made a commitment to live a life of charity as a Seton Associate, and why I have begun this new community of sisters and lay women,” she said. “I ask all of the Seton Associates and Sisters for their prayers as we embark on this new and very exciting adventure.”

The Seton Associates are the lay affiliates of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. They are women and men who seek deeper spirituality and engage in ministry by living the charism of charity.

To learn more about becoming a Seton Associate, visit www.SCNJ.org or contact Rosemary Carroll, Director at 973-290-5336 or by email at rcarroll@scnj.org.
Students and Sisters Help Rebuild New Orleans

by Sister Maureen Corcoran, Director of Vocation Promotion and Admissions

“This was the most active faith experience I have had in many years.”

“The prayerful atmosphere of this House of Charity was so helpful in setting the tone and understanding of service.”

These are just some of the comments of the nine young women volunteers who traveled to New Orleans in January and joined seven sisters from the Sisters of Charity Federation to serve the communities affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Federation’s House of Charity hosted a house-full of Sisters and volunteers in working alongside Phoenix of New Orleans and the United Way to restore houses.

“This place is so important to New Orleans. I woke up every morning physically and emotionally prepared to serve the community because of the generosity and organization of the sisters.”

“Thank you to the Sisters of Charity for giving me this opportunity,” said Francesca Papillon, a College of St. Elizabeth student. “We worked hard and laughed even harder. From the charity work we performed, to the meaningful reflections at the end of the day, it was the perfect way to start the New Year.”

“I had been having difficulty seeing the value in strangers and this trip helped me realize how awesome people are.”

Each day after morning prayer, the volunteers and sisters climbed into vans and carried with them an inspirational word and/or phrase to support them through the day. Those who participated agreed that they experienced a great sense of bonding and community as they helped to make life better for those affected by the hurricane in 2005.
I Can Still Do This Because I Am A Sister of Charity

by Sister Edna Francis Hersinger, Coordinator of Sister Volunteers

Three Sisters in their 90’s have been “going to school” for 70 or more years. Sister Dorothy Jose Lichtenberg began teaching in elementary schools. After two decades, she was sent to teach in Saint Patrick’s High School in Elizabeth and she has been there ever since. Sister Dorothy became principal in 1968 and served in that capacity for 21 years. During that time she mentored Joe Picaro, her assistant principal, who succeeded her as principal. Since then Sister Dorothy, Administrative Assistant, has been especially helpful with fund development and maintaining contact with alums. Her strong interest, love and concern for present and former students have endeared her to all who pass through the halls of Saint Patrick’s.

“Years at Saint Patrick High School as teacher, friend and principal, saw the sprinkling of frustrations, shared sorrows and financial pressures,” she said. “However, support of the alumni and friends made these just accumulations of dark clouds, dispersed by the rays of the sun. I have the privilege at present to work with alumni mailings and bask in the light of my students’ accomplishments.”

Sister Mary Thaddeus McGotty continues to minister to the children of Sacred Heart in Jersey City by using her 40+ years as a math teacher to manage effectively the school’s tuition program. Her commitment and dedication to the mission of the Sisters of Charity and to Sacred Heart make her “irreplaceable” in the eyes of those with whom she collaborates. Besides her dedicated service to the educational mission at Sacred Heart, Sister Thaddeus for many years has been a regular visitor at Sacred Heart.

“Years at Saint Patrick High School as teacher, friend and principal, saw the sprinkling of frustrations, shared sorrows and financial pressures.”

“I can do this because I’m a Sister of Charity!” How Vincentian an answer!

Vaughn Monroe, a 1940’s band leader, once sang “Old soldiers never die; they just fade away.”

Not so with the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. They are not nearly fading, but instead blooming again well into their 90’s. Thirty-two Sisters, aged 90 or more, still help others by prayer, but at least half also help by deeds. Most are volunteers, a few are still compensated.

“I can do this because I’m a Sister of Charity!” How Vincentian an answer!

“Sister, may I ask how old you are,” asked a hospital patient whom Sister Emily Marie Walsh was visiting. The patient’s eyes grew wide at the answer of 90 years old. And this was only one of the many people Sister Emily visits in the course of a week. Sister’s address says Hackensack, but she travels throughout Bergen County as she ministers to parishioners now in hospitals or to residents in one of the four nursing homes on her itinerary.

After serving as teacher or principal for 40 years, Sister transferred her talents to her ministry as a Pastoral Associate at Holy Trinity Parish in Hackensack, NJ. She is now “down to 12 people” to whom she brings Eucharist weekly. The St. Vincent de Paul Society and Parish Food Pantry fall under her care, as do such tasks as scheduling Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers.

When will she retire?

“When I don’t know who you are,” she quips. “As long as I can do it and feel well enough. I can do this because I’m a Sister of Charity!” How Vincentian an answer!
A Sister Of Charity

Saint Anne Villa and an active member of the Villa Committee. This year Sister Thaddeus is being honored at the Jersey City Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. Her parents, who came from Ireland, must be smiling from above.

People want to know who the friendly face is in the “Store” at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark.

It’s our Sister Agnes, of course. Sister Agnes Lucy Robinson, originally an elementary school teacher and principal, has served at Mother Seton since 1990, initially as a Basic Math and English teacher. Since then she has enjoyed interacting with the students in the “Store” — and she continues to encourage the staff. Her pleasant smile and gracious manner are as valued as the service she gives. Her interest in students and faculty members enriches their lives.

Even at Saint Anne Villa, home to infirm and retired Sisters, residents, even some over 90, contribute to the quality of life there. For example, Sister Rosemary Campbell delivers mail to other residents. Sister Marie King provides music for Masses and leads prayers. Sister Kate Carroll takes care of the Sunday collection and Mass intentions, and is a Lector.

All of these Sisters are still collaborating with others to make life richer for the many whom they serve.

“How blessed we are!”

Partnership & Immigrant Justice

by Sister Mary Katherine Hamm, Director of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity

The room was quiet as we leaned in to hear the story of this man’s border crossing more than 30 years ago. The desperate situation in El Salvador in the 1980’s made martyrs of many, forced individuals to leave their homeland for safety, and left this man with a memory that still haunts him. Tired beyond belief, anxious and overwhelmed by the moment, he crossed the border, leaving behind a friend he had promised to awaken.

As we learn more about systemic change that addresses the underlying causes of suffering and oppression, we know that heart change, legislative change and culture change can only happen when we are in a relationship with those who have the experience of suffering and who can teach us what we need to know in order to offer what we have. Therefore, the first partnership in justice-making is with those whom we serve. The Bishops, in their 2011 statement “Welcoming Christ in the Migrant,” say “We are called to open our hearts and provide hospitality to those in need. It is our duty to create a space of welcome and acceptance.” Henri Nouwen describes it this way in Reaching Out: Hospitality is to “offer an open and hospitable space where strangers can cast off their strangeness and become our fellow human beings.” For those with the Charity charism, that first space is our recognition of Jesus in the least of these. “We are many parts, we are all one body” the communion hymn reminds us.

As director of the Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity for the Sisters of Charity of New York and New Jersey, I am privileged to visit many of the congregation’s ministries. The Sisters’ early service was directed to the first wave of immigrants in the 19th and early 20th centuries, so today in church, hospital, educational, social service and legal settings there is an ongoing commitment to those on the margins, many of whom are immigrants.

- For immigrants without health insurance, we ask: Isn’t health a human right?
- For those who have no chance for higher education, our advice is: Don’t give up on your dream!
- For those who want to learn English, who want to develop skills like computer and small business management and who feel vulnerable in the face of government agencies, we say: We’ll find someone to teach, work with and accompany you.

We continue to feel blessed by the many immigrants who have touched our lives by bringing us their stories, struggles, values and faith. This partnership has many challenges but will certainly open up to a more just world for all if we can recognize these new friends as gifts.
Q: You traveled a long way from Sydney, Australia to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Elizabeth, NJ. Tell me about that journey.
A: I’m a Mercy girl; I was taught in high school by the Sisters of Mercy and did my nurse’s training in a hospital staffed by that order. When I was in Nursing School in Australia I was encouraged to go to Medical School because “I was too bright to be a nurse.” But I loved the practice of Nursing. I went to England and worked as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in a hospital for women and children. When I came to the United States I continued my Nursing education and went to work at St. Michael’s Hospital in Newark, and later came to St. Elizabeth’s. Did I regret not becoming a physician? I think there’s no such thing as a bad decision – I’m always looking forward. I love working here – I love the welcoming, the warmth, the Sister of Charity thing: the Mission.

Q: Who were the Sisters of Charity who had an impact on your work as a Nursing Executive? What effect did sisters have on enhancing the spirit of charity in the hospital?
A: When I came to Elizabeth Sister Elizabeth Ann Maloney was the President of the hospital. She worked very hard with David Fletcher, the CEO of Elizabeth General Medical Center, to accomplish the consolidation of the two hospitals into what became Trinitas in 2000. The work leading up to the creation of the new hospital was challenging, and Sister Elizabeth’s humanity and the humility of her vocation advised her intellect. She brought determination, directness, and drive to the task. Sister Rita Mercedes, a volunteer who gave her time and kindness to the “boarder babies” in our nursery, impressed me as did the work of Sister Marcella Nolan - the “young nun” then. Our challenge now is to keep alive the spirit and values of the Sisters of Charity; to make that spirit of Charity part of the everyday fabric of our practice of healthcare.

Q: The current situation in the healthcare field is quite challenging for hospitals and care providers. How do we keep alive the spirit of Charity in our hospitals; among caregivers?
A: I see my role as the Chief Nurse as a way to provide leadership and support to the more than 500 nurses on our staff. I need to be the voice for quality and integrity of healthcare delivered here at Trinitas. Nurses are expected to be professional in the eyes of the patients – not just seeing the disease, rather the whole person, their families and livelihoods. Nurses are basically problem solvers – they look to make choices in a balanced way, always mindful of how their choices affect others. I strive to make the mission a living thing, not just a statement on the wall. Much of my role in supporting the mission is to support the staff and physicians who provide care.

Q: What advice would you give to young people entering the ministry of Catholic healthcare at this time?
A: Things have changed dramatically – women have taken a very important place in healthcare. The role of the nurse has developed in many ways. Attitudes have changed; nurses are looking for respect and acknowledgement and want to be part of a team. Nurses need to learn from one another and show what they can do. There has been a shift to emphasis on the “business” of healthcare. Young nurses need to continue their education in order to change the level of their nursing practice. There needs to be a balance between the Art and Science of nursing care.
Did You Know? Do You Remember? Were You There?

Hunan, China, 1936

The China mission began in 1924 sending the first five Sisters of Charity to Hunan. In 1933, six more sisters departed for China. One of these sisters was Sister Mary Carita Pendergast who stayed until 1951 when the remaining Sisters were expelled from China by the Communist Government. Pictured with Sr. Mary Carita is Sister Marie Therese Tuan photographed on Easter Sunday.

St. Thomas, V.I., 1956

The Virgin Islands mission started in 1933 and continued through 2011. Mother Ellen Marie McCauley, Mother General (1953-1959) is pictured paying a visit to the people of St. Thomas.

Caranavi, Bolivia, 1966

Sister Grace Lavina Reilly (l) was one of the four Sisters who was sent to mission in Caranavi, Bolivia in 1963. Sister Evelyn Lebiedz (Malwina Anne) (r) joined Sister Grace in Bolivia in 1966. Mother Josephine Marie O’Brien (c), Mother General (1965-1971) visited in 1966 at the time of this photo. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth had a presence in Bolivia until 1991.

Celebrating Sister Of Charity Of Saint Elizabeth Jubilarians

Congratulations to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth celebrating milestones in their religious life. Please join us in congratulating them on many years of service to the people of God.

75 Years entered 1937
Sr. Dorothy Jose Lichtenberg

70 Years entered 1942
Sr. Joseph Miriam Anderson
Sr. Alice Elekta Barry

65 Years entered 1947
Sr. Roberta Mary Rooney
Sr. Mary Canavan
Sr. Barbara Connell
Sr. Mary Rosarii Downes
Sr. Mary Alberta Keuhlen
Sr. Regina Bernard
McCartney
Sr. Mary Theresa Ragan
Sr. Thomas Aquinas Ragan
Sr. Jean Hemmer
Sr. Dorothy Mastrian
Sr. Elizabeth McLaughlin
Sr. Patricia Mary McMullen
Sr. Mary Rose Mitchell
Sr. Rosemary Campbell

60 Years entered 1952
Sr. Ann Dority
Sr. Edna Francis Hersinger
Sr. Elizabeth Ann Noonan
Sr. Maureen Killough
Sr. Lillian M. Silkowski
Sr. Margaret Mary Welch

55 Years entered 1957
Sr. Elizabeth Brennan
Sr. Barbara Gnecco
Sr. Mary Anne Katlack
Sr. Maureen Malone
Sr. Ann Carmela Olive
Sr. Francis Cords Bernardo
Sr. Louis Marie Bryan
Sr. Maureen Crowley
Sr. Claire Donnelly
Sr. Regina Martin Keane
Sr. Maria Cordis Lamendola
Sr. Dorothy Mary Mangan
Sr. Rita Catherine O’Farrell
Sr. Francis Raftery
Sr. Marianne Sullivan

50 Years entered 1962
Sr. Bernadette D. Crowley
Sr. E. Ann Fay
Sr. Carol Johnston
Sr. Bernice Jozwiak
Sr. Maureen Mahan
Sr. Beverly Policastro
Sr. Lillian Sharrock

25 Years entered 1987
Sr. Patricia Memtor
Sr. Mary Jane Stephan

Recognize one of the Sisters?
Send a greeting or a congratulatory note to:
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth,
Communications Office
P.O. Box 476
Convent Station, NJ
07961-0476 or escharity@scnj.org.
Thank you for this wonderful gift of Novena Masses for All Souls; we greatly appreciate it. At the same time, please accept our gift in appreciation for all that the Sisters of Charity have done for our family. With all God’s love.

~John Davies, Illinois

It has always been a privilege to be in the company of the Sisters of Charity.

~Paul & Kathy Tyaslo, New Jersey

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth’s fourth annual golf outing took place last August 22 at Cedar Hill Golf and Country Club in Livingston, N. J. Eighty-nine golfers took to the course. More than $62,000 was raised and we are especially grateful to the golfers, donors, Sisters, sponsors and friends. Special thanks are extended to our co-chairs, Ellen Kelly and Dr. Richard Mackessy.

Left - Elaine Robertazzi
Middle - (l to r) Sr. Rose Marie Padovano, Sr. Patricia Codey & Fawn Coward
Right - (l to r) Gerry Bellotti, Joe Nizza, & Gary Frungillo

What an exciting and successful evening Thursday, October 27, 2011, turned out to be at the Hilton Short Hills. The evening of the Sisters of Charity’s annual Harvest Festival that 220 guests celebrated by dancing the night away. Honorees were Victor and Andrea Richel, recipients of the Caritas Award, and Mario Marghella, recipient of the Mehegan Award. This event raised more than $141,000 for the Sisters.

Thank you for this wonderful gift of Novena Masses for All Souls; we greatly appreciate it. At the same time, please accept our gift in appreciation for all that the Sisters of Charity have done for our family. With all God’s love.

~John Davies, Illinois

The Villa of Saint Anne is always special to me because it provides caring for all the retired sisters who served many families over their lifetimes. I am grateful that my dear friend, a Sister of Charity, was able to live in dignity and respect at the Villa.

~Helen Chaney, Alabama

More than 70 donors attended the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth’s first-ever Donor Thank-You Reception. The event was held at Saint Anne Villa on Saturday, April 30, 2011, and included a tour of the Villa, a Mass in the Chapel and a reception. It was a wonderful way to thank our loyal donors for all that they do for the Sisters. Everyone enjoyed seeing old friends, making new ones and visiting with the Sisters. This will definitely be an annual event.
Mary Pramuk

Donor & Friend Extraordinaire

by Joanne Rinaldi-Brashier, Director of Development and Sister Eileen Shaw, SC

Mary Pramuk, a former Sister of Charity for 30 years (Sr. Helen Gerard, S.C.), was born in Buffalo, N.Y. and raised in Madison, N.J. Mary was an educator at a number of schools during those 30 years; seventeen of which were at Holy Trinity High School in Hackensack and five years at Holy Trinity in Westfield.

After leaving the convent in 1959, Mary served 20 years at the Jackson Avenue School in Hackensack; three years as a teacher and 17 years as principal. In 1980, she was vice-principal at Our Lady of Visitation in Paramus until 1994 when she ‘retired’ to care for her ailing husband, Albert.

The Sisters of Charity have touched Mary’s life in many ways but the one that stands out to her the most is “how they give of themselves to others. I carry this with me for life because I have become a better person by their actions towards others.”

Mary is a considerate, compassionate and caring person who credits the Sisters for increasing “the depths of my love for God, our Blessed Mother and the Saints.”

When asked how she continues to support the Sisters of Charity, Mary replied, “With my prayers and with my finances. I believe in their projects and in their ministries of education and caring for the poor. I believe their presence in the hospitals has been a comfort to many. I also share my finances to assist them in caring for their Sisters who have given so much to so many. In return, I count on their prayers for me!”

Mary notes that “there was never a doubt in my mind, or that of my late husband, that in appreciation and love of the Sisters of Charity, and knowing first hand of their varied ministries, that I would will to them part of my estate upon my death…to assist them in some small way to continue their ministry of service to the poor.”

Mary now resides at Franciscan Oaks, a continuing care retirement community in Denville, N.J., and will celebrate a birthday in April. We wish her many, many more happy years ahead. Happy 96th Birthday, Mary!
Sources of Income

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**Bequests:** Designated for ministry, St. Anne Villa, retirement or plant funds.

**Direct Mail Program:** Solicits donations via mail requests.

**Parish Collections:** Helps support ministries and provide care for the elderly & retired sisters.

**Special Events:** Includes the Harvest Festival, Spring Lake Luncheon and Golf Outing.

**Mass Cards:** Includes Masses offered at St. Anne Villa or a private oratory.

**Window Campaign:** Phase II for Motherhouse windows and Holy Family Chapel windows.

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**In Memoriam**


May our Sisters enjoy the fruits of their labor as well as peace with their God.

**Sister Helen Jean Everett**  
January 30, 2012

**Sister Louise Barry**  
January 30, 2012

**Sister Mary Brigita Behan**  
February 11, 2012

**Sister Rita Murphy**  
April 2, 2012
SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH
2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY DIRECTION STATEMENT

We, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, at this crossroad in time, choose to move forward together in faith, with courage to change.

Drawn by Christ’s vision of a world that is healed, reconciled and fulfilled, we open ourselves to the God who is Love and who calls us to be channels of this transforming power.

Caritas ... The Mission

In each generation, the Sisters of Charity have found ways to incarnate Charity in our world. Invigorated by our renewed sense of mission, we take up the task anew.

Responding to the needs of our times and to the energizing power of Caritas, we commit ourselves to:

• Deepen our understanding of the Charism of Charity and its power to invigorate our work in carrying out the Mission
• Reflect and dialogue together on our call to live a life of integrated contemplation and action, and on the substantive issues of the times.
Upcoming Events

**Summer 50/50 Raffle**
Drawing takes place on **Wednesday, August 29, 2012**
There will be 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners

**Spring Lake Luncheon**
Tuesday, June 5, 2012
at Spring Lake Bath and Tennis Club
Guest Speaker: Amy Fine Collins
*Special Correspondent, Vanity Fair Magazine*

**5th Annual Golf Outing**
Monday, June 18, 2012
Echo Lake Country Club • Westfield, NJ

**Save the Date:**
Harvest Festival
Hilton Short Hills
Thursday, October 25, 2012