Haitian nursing students warmly received
For the past several months the media have been filled with heart breaking, jolting news of escalating violence, polarization and alienation in our country and abroad. In stark contrast, the articles in this issue of NEW Dimensions highlight lives, works and events where people consciously choose to love, to serve, and to seek creative ways to respond to the needs of our times. So much good has happened; much good is happening, and much good continues to happen. It is important that we recognize the goodness around us and among us. More so, it is imperative that we affirm these efforts that make God’s love known in the world which is what goodness does.

The feature story about the Nursing Students from Haiti and their two-week educational visit reflects an incredible collaborative effort on the part of generous, thoughtful volunteers, professionals, Seton Associates and Sisters with and through the participation of institutions of higher education, health care, the interfaith community and the Sisters of Charity Congregation.

There are unique stories about a special intergenerational friendship and new volunteers, both young and not so young, who are forging new areas of service and sharing. Stories of the creative, courageous ministries of sisters in urban and rural health care and of sisters serving in a highly diverse 125 year old parish elementary school continuing the work of our sisters through multiple waves of immigrants spark one’s hope and faith!

The strength and joy of Sister Regina Rose on her 103rd Birthday and 85th Jubilee provides a wonderful perspective of the human capacity to be faithful over time; the movement of the remains of Blessed Sister Miriam Teresa to a new shrine provided a profound experience of the effects of holiness and love on generations to come.

You will also learn about our fund raising and friend raising efforts and the thoughts of one of our wonderful donors.

The Mission of Charity is alive, vibrant and growing. We are most blessed by the goodness within and among so many who join us in this Mission of Love.

Many blessings,

Sister Rosemary Moynihan - General Superior

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On the cover:
(pictured from top left clockwise) Haitian nursing students with Sister Janet Lehmann in the center; students at the Trinitas School of Nursing; each student so different, yet so much in common; and the students with Sister Janet Lehmann, Sister Marilyn Thie and Eileen Specchio. Some photos credited to GAMAX Photography
This Haitian proverb – God says, “Do your part and I’ll do mine” – captures the essence of a unique program that addresses the healthcare needs of the people of Haiti. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, their lay Seton Associates and friends joined two of the congregation’s sponsored institutions – the College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station and Trinitas School of Nursing in Elizabeth – to enhance the education of Haitian nursing students. Forty percent of the Haitian people lack access to essential health and nutrition services, due in part to the difficulty in attracting and retaining qualified health professionals. The United States Agency for International Development reports that there are as few as four health professionals per 10,000 Haitians.

In 2014, while serving as the Director of the Nursing Program at the Université Notre Dame d’Haiti in Jacmel, Sister Janet Lehmann initiated a plan to bring her students to New Jersey for an educational and cultural program. Mary Elizabeth Kelly, Dean of the Trinitas School of Nursing, and Eileen Specchio, Professor of Nursing at the College of Saint Elizabeth, responded enthusiastically to the initiative and twelve students participated in the initial program. Although plans had been made to send educators to Jacmel, political instability rendered that unwise. Instead, twenty nursing students were brought to New Jersey in June 2016 for two weeks. Each student was responsible for airfare, visa and health insurance, but all other expenses were covered by donations. The “Adopt a Student Nurse” program was begun by the Sisters of Charity, but the contributions of many ensured its success.

Sister Janet wanted her students to develop stronger critical thinking skills. Trinitas’ Learning/Simulation Center challenged them with scenarios they will face in clinical practice. Presented with medical case studies and the instructor’s question, “Now what would you do?” they were able to treat computerized patient simulators and receive immediate feedback. These devices have heartbeats and can breathe, talk and sweat to simulate a wide range of medical conditions and responses to treatment. Devices that simulate the birth of a child presented complications that can arise during pregnancy and childbirth. Other equipment enabled the students to practice intravenous therapy, urinary catheterization and colostomy care. The students enjoyed the Choking Charlie simulator on which they practiced cardiopulmonary resuscitation...
and each became CPR-certified by the American Red Cross. Classes in the morning were followed by work in the simulation center at which the students practiced until they felt confident.

Throughout the two weeks the nursing students were warmly received by many. Haitian-American nursing students served as interpreters and buddies to their guests. The College provided housing for the students, while Sisters Regis Keane and Mary Jo Ward supplied sheets, toiletries and supplies and readied their dorm rooms. On Sundays the students worshipped at neighboring parishes with Haitian-American congregations, where Mass was celebrated in Creole, familiar songs were sung and communal meals were shared.

The students were welcomed at a dinner hosted by the Seton Associates. And, while Sister Janet and Sister Mary Spano, who has traveled to Haiti numerous times, helped to overcome the language barrier, the students’ singing, dancing and laughter required no interpretation. Seton Associate Doris Kempton explains the ongoing support that she and her husband provide to the mission in Haiti. “I was educated by the Sisters of Charity and now Bill and I are in a position to help others. We firmly believe in the Mission of Charity and we know that the Sisters’ work in Haiti assists the neediest of God’s people.”

Having learned of the program, Senior Pastor A. Craig Dunn of the First Baptist Church of Madison turned to his congregation. “When I told my church about the program, they donated enough money to sponsor several nursing students. But we also wanted to get to know the students, so we hosted a barbecue one evening. When we realized that the nurses needed watches with second hands to measure their patients’ vital signs we bought a new wristwatch for each student.”

While the students appreciated the high tech of the learning/simulation center, they also learned about the “high touch” aspects of nursing. While in Haiti a healthcare professional gets right down to the clinical issue, they now see the value of first sitting with the patient at eye level to develop a relationship. Recognizing the cultural differences related to domestic violence the students agreed that, as nurses, they have a role to play in assisting victims, which might begin by questioning patients about their situations at home.

“Everything was explained in a way that we could understand,” said Oscar, “but the days were very tiring. I want to thank all of you – all who helped us – for this wonderful chance to become better nurses.”
Trinitas School of Nursing is a division of Trinitas Regional Medical Center, a Catholic teaching hospital sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in partnership with Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation. The School of Nursing dates back to 1891 when it was known as Elizabeth General Hospital Training School for Nurses and to 1904 when the Sisters of Charity opened St. Elizabeth’s Training School for Nurses. The fully accredited School of Nursing is a hospital-based diploma program and, in cooperation with Union County College, graduates are awarded an Associate in Science degree as well. Graduates are eligible to sit for the licensure examination and to move seamlessly to a BSN completion program anywhere in the country.

In 2004, TSON partnered with the College of Saint Elizabeth to bring an RN-BSN program onsite and, through this program, many TSON students have earned their BSN degree. The nursing school and CSE partnered again in 2007 to offer a graduate program (MSN), enabling TSON’s graduates to move to the level of academic faculty. It increases minority representation in nursing at the faculty level and addresses the acute shortage of academic nurse educators.
As newbies to the Choose Charity Volunteer Program, we were honored to attend the Seton Associate gathering welcoming the Haitian student nurses. This being the students’ first trip to New Jersey, and our upbringing of never showing up anywhere empty-handed, we wanted to give each student a memento to remind them of this trip and the people they met.

We thought of different ideas, but then, at the exact time Anita was texting me, I was calling her as we both thought of stethoscopes, which are the most precious gift a nurse can receive. It was a sign from above!

We researched them over the next week and settled on the ones with the attachments necessary to perform assessments on newborn to geriatric patients. We chose an aqua blue color for easy identification if they were misplaced.

In each gift bag we placed a note stating “May this stethoscope, along with your compassion, touch the hearts of your patients,” and signed both our names. We set them up on the mirrored sidebar in the room and soon greeted the students. Once they were seated, we were asked to introduce ourselves as nurses for over 36 years, after which we invited them to get their gifts. They got up, chose one, and brought them back to their seats leaving them unopened during the meal. While breaking bread and conversing, as best as we could due to the language barrier, Anita and I were busting at the seams in anticipation. Finally I asked the interpreter to ask them to open their gifts and translate the note for them, which she graciously did. The smiles and squeals of excitement filled the room. We showed them how to wear the stethoscopes around their necks “like real nurses” and they began to take pictures with us and each other. There were aqua blue “necklaces” everywhere you looked. Anita and I caught each other’s eye, smiled and nodded because our hearts were overflowing with joy.

“It took me back to when I was first a student nurse and all the great experiences that I participated in. Even though there was a language barrier, one could not miss the enthusiasm and gratefulness of the gift that Claudia and I gave them. Their smiles radiated up to the heavens as if God was present. For me, that was the best feeling of closeness that we experienced and the common thread that bound us together as nurses.”

Anita Pansini

“Hearing, to me, is the most valuable sense a nurse can have. You “hear” the call to service; you “hear” an altered cadence indicating difficulty walking; you “hear” a story over the phone that paints a picture; and you “hear,” through silence, the lifeblood of your patent. Add to this a stethoscope, and you “hear” subtle body sounds which could end up saving a patient’s life. What better way to welcome these young women and men into our Nursing profession, than with the tool to do just that.”

Claudia Rohan

Intertwining the Common Threads of Nursing

by Claudia Rohan and Anita Pansini, Choose Charity Volunteers

Claudia Rohan and the students with their new stethoscopes.
Q and A with Seton Associate
Karen Lukenda, R.N.

Q. What was your role in the training of the nursing students from Haiti?
A. I arranged all the bus transportation, from and to the airport, from the college dorm to Trinitas Regional Medical Center and back, and side trips. I helped develop a CPR day where we taught them basic first aid, what to do if someone is choking, airway management, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), and use of the AED (automatic external defibrillator for adults and children). We used mannequins in the Simulation Learning Center at the school to practice life-saving techniques. We gave them three mannequins to take back to Haiti, and the students received American Heart Association Heartsaver Cards. The students toured the ER, Medical Surgical Units, and ICU at Trinitas.

Q. What impressed you most about the Haitian nursing students?
A. The hardest part was saying goodbye to young women whom we will probably never see again, but in our hearts knowing that they will make a difference in Haiti’s Healthcare System. They carved a piece of memory so deep within us that we will cherish forever.

Q. Did you have any special memorable moment with the students?
A. I think the most touching part for me was when one student came up to me crying and thanking me for the CPR mannequin, so that now she can practice and keep up her skills.
The family of Robert E. Havas has a long relationship with the Sisters of Charity, primarily through its shared ministries at All Souls’ Hospital, the first hospital in Morris County, N. J. Havas’ mother Pat, grandmother Bernice, and cousins Donna and Diane were volunteers at All Souls’ and later Robert’s father worked there when it was known as Community Medical Center. Robert was born on Nov. 30, 1961, in the maternity ward at All Souls’ and he cherishes a picture of his newborn self, being held by Sister Malwina Anne (now Sister Evelyn Lebiedz), who served as the supervisor of the Maternity Unit, in which she incorporated many new practices in maternal and child health.

In addition to his contact with the Sisters of Charity as a newborn, Robert encountered two other Sisters at All Souls’ Hospital three years later. Sister Joseph Irene, an L.P.N. who worked in the surgery department, prepped the toddler for a tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy, while Sister Grace Bernardine O’Connor administered the anesthesia. He also recalls his family’s friendship with Sister Mary Eleanor Martin, an administrator of the hospital, and Sister Evelyn Lebiedz whom he remembers as loved by the nurses and the patients.

As a teen, Robert attended Bayley-Ellard High School in Madison and recalls with great fondness the Sisters on the faculty, including Sister Regina Miriam Donnelly, Sister Mary Vincentine Finnegan and, especially, Sister Margaret Hewitt and Sister Catherine Vincent. While he wanted to follow in their footsteps as an educator, there was not a great demand for teachers when he graduated from Bayley-Ellard, and so he became a licensed practical nurse. Later he returned to school to pursue his dream of becoming a teacher. Now retired, Robert taught college courses in psychology and education, became a public school counselor, and then co-taught special needs students with a focus on their inclusion in the school community. “Sister Peggy [Hewitt] was always there for me, always available and willing to help me to help my special needs students,” he said appreciatively. Robert continues to maintain regular contact with Sister Peggy and Sister Cathy.
His family had lost track of Sister Evelyn over the years. But one day Robert was at a picnic and began to converse with two women sitting near him. “I was so surprised to learn that these women were our Sisters of Charity, and even better – Sister Mary Jo [Ward] and Sister Regis [Keane] knew Sister Evelyn and could help me to get in touch with her!”

At the time Sister Evelyn was a certified nurse midwife in Fort Myers, Fla., working with Sister Bernice Buckley in the Improved Pregnancy Outcome Project, which sought to reduce fetal, neonatal and maternal mortality in underserved Lee County. Robert reached Sister Evelyn by phone: “I heard her voice and it was like I knew her. We just clicked.” Since Sister Evelyn’s return to New Jersey, the two have kept in touch. “We get together…usually around my birthday!”

Robert and Sister Evelyn

HAPPY 103rd BIRTHDAY TO SISTER REGINA ROSE PALKOVICS

who celebrated her birthday on June 7th!

In addition to that, Sister Regina Rose is also celebrating her 85th Jubilee as a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth this year. To date, she has been a Sister of Charity longer than any Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in history! Congratulations Sister! Wishing you many more!
Sisters in Other Healthcare Ministries

Alenandra De Bonte, Choose Charity Volunteer

One of the aspects Sister Jean highlights about the Sisters of Charity is the dedication to the poor. She says “I appreciate our dedication to the poor, both economically, as well as to the people who need so much both spiritually and socially.” Because of this, Sister Jean has been able to help her patients improve their health and well-being, and has had a significant impact on all of their lives.

Sister Jean continues to work with as much passion as she did the day she first started. She says, “I am still passionate about providing the best help for the patients I deal with on a daily basis.” Not only does she help her patients with their medical needs, but their economic and personal ones as well, making sure that each patient is truly cared for. The Yale-New Haven Hospital staff inspires her with their dedication and caring for patients, as well as for each other. While she says that her greatest challenge is “continuing to work with, and encourage patients who have so many challenges, and who need us to find solutions and resources for them,” the work she is doing and the care she provides easily overcome that challenge as her passion and dedication are widely evident.

Sister Jean Ann Trainor

Sister Jean Ann Trainor, a dietitian and nutritionist at the Yale-New Haven Hospital, St. Raphael Campus, in Connecticut, celebrates 60 years as a Sister of Charity this September. As a dietitian of 52 years, Sister Jean has dedicated her life to the healthcare profession, helping new patients each day to get the medical care they need.

“As times and need change, the Sisters have the vision to identify and respond according to those needs, even with overwhelming changes.”

Sister Carol Hoban

Sister Carol Hoban is a family nurse practitioner in North Carolina, where she has practiced and lived for the past 30 years. She was first inspired to become a sister by sisters she met in her home parish. Although the reasons she first
became a Sister of Charity have evolved, her passion and dedication to the sisters and to the healthcare field are long lasting and widely evident.

Her ministry in nursing first took her to St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven, CT, then to graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania, to rural health clinics in West Virginia, to New York City, and lastly to another rural health clinic in North Carolina. While her environment has changed over the years, her commitment, passion, and dedication have only grown with time.

Sister Carol challenges others to go where people are in great need, and where many sisters have not been before. This stems from her own decision to move to the North Carolina Mountains to work at the rural health clinic. To her it has been a life-changing decision that has continued her love for the healthcare field. “I love that I am privileged to work with my patients as they deal with simple and complex manifestations in the processes of living and aging,” she states.

“The evolution of religious life and of the healthcare world are in the process of major change,” she states, ‘what may seem like a challenge to others, Sister Carol sees as an opportunity for progressive change. She dedicates herself to the changing healthcare profession, as she is continually inspired by the legacies of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Vincent de Paul and her commitment to the Sisters of Charity. “While words may come easy, the living of those words takes energy,” she says. It is this energy that she so clearly brings into the healthcare field and to every patient she cares for.

Sister Ann Matthew Lorusso

Sister Ann Matthew Lorusso works at the Yale-New Haven Hospital, St. Raphael Campus, CT, and has been working in the healthcare field ever since her acceptance into the Hospital of Saint Raphael School of Nursing. The education she received there was her first formal Catholic education, and it helped her get to know the sisters and their mission. After first considering becoming a sister during her junior and senior years of high school, it was her education at nursing school that helped her to mature and realize that she was destined to be a Sister of Charity; it was also there that she “grew to know and love the Sisters of Charity who taught and who lived the example of charity and service.”

Sister Ann is living the mission of the Sisters of Charity each day. She lives and follows a lifestyle lead by passion and compassion. “The Sisters have a solid commitment to the poor as exemplified in health care, education, and social services with its varied ministries,” she says, “As times and need change, the Sisters have the vision to identify and respond according to those needs, even with overwhelming changes.”

Demonstrating her own passion to make a difference and to care for others, Sister Ann works with patients on a daily basis providing health screens, readings, and counseling. Parish nursing is also part of her ministry; within it she works with a wellness team to identify the needs of parishioners. The Parish Nursing Program first began in 1992 at the Hospital of Saint Raphael and continues today at the Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Sister Ann Matthew explains a program to Maria Green.

“As times and need change, the Sisters have the vision to identify and respond according to those needs, even with overwhelming changes.”

Sister Ann sees experiences with her many diverse patients and coworkers as inspiration to do the work she does, stating that “new people often come into my life... which is exciting and often includes new experience.” These types of new experiences, and the people Sister Ann meets and works with have become an inspiration to her, as she strives to learn something new from each person she meets. She says that the ever-changing health care profession can be difficult to keep up with, but adapting the motto “do more with less,” helps her to meet the needs of patients she encounters. Her role has helped her to establish relationships and to create experiences that truly follow the mission of the Sisters of Charity.
Although today’s world is different from the one in which Saint Augustine School opened its doors 125 years ago, two constants are clear: Saint Augustine School effectively serves a diverse community with respect, empathy and enthusiasm, and the Sisters of Charity continue to staff the school as they have since its inception.

According to Council Minutes of the Sisters of Charity dated Aug. 4, 1893, “Rev. A. Brady ... wished two sisters to board at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Hoboken, and come daily to teach in his school. Sister Donata and Sister Mary Jovita were accordingly sent to take charge of his school.” The school was opened from 1891 until 1893, then closed and reopened in 1897. At that time the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Stafford, who succeeded Father Brady as pastor, requested that Sisters of Charity administer Saint Augustine School.

The Sisters of Charity Council Minutes dated Sept. 6, 1897, noted, “Sisters Marie Augustine, Maria Cecelia, Francis Regis, and Mary Bernard were sent to open the Mission at Saint Augustine’s, Union Hill, N. J.” The Sisters of Charity were asked to staff the school and Sister Mary Lucina Boylan was the first principal. There was a faculty of five teachers and 100 students. Sixty-nine years later, in a letter to Mother Josephine Marie on October 11, 1966, Monsignor Healy stated, “For some time now we have been losing our old-line families to the suburbs. They have been replaced by Cuban refugees whose presence has accentuated the departure of American families. We now have 1,000 Cuban families and 1,800 American families (in the parish) ... and 230 Cuban children out of 620 in the school. Twice in recent years we have faced financial crises, both times fended off by a new Bingo.” Saint Augustine’s parish and school rose to the challenge of welcoming and serving its changing local community and continues to do so today.

Many sisters are credited for the wonderful progress Saint Augustine’s has made throughout the years, but one can’t help to especially remember Sister Roberta O’Hea. Sister Roberta went to Saint Augustine’s in 1959 and served the children and
families of Saint Augustine School for 50 years, 30 of those as Principal (1978 to 2009). Sister Roberta’s contributions to the school and parish are legendary. Through her leadership, the school in 1992 became the first Catholic school in Hudson County to achieve Middle States Accreditation, and has maintained its accreditation since that time. Sister Roberta also was responsible for the implementation of the Theory of Multiple Intelligences espoused by Howard Gardner of Harvard University. This method of teaching builds on an individual’s strength and holds that the more ways a person learns something, the more he or she really learns it, remembers it and understands it. Its focus is to begin with the recognition of the child’s strong points, thereby giving the child a sense of accomplishment. This program is especially helpful to the increased Latino communities living in Union City.

Sister Lillian Sharrock was appointed Principal in 2010 upon the death of Sister Roberta O’Hea. Working as a team, Sister Lillian along with Sister Johanna Quinto, Vice-Principal and Development Director, and Sister Joan Walters, Academic Director, have provided support and encouragement to the academic achievement of Saint Augustine’s teachers and students. With the support of the faculty, the Theory of Multiple Intelligences remains the foundation of Saint Augustine’s educational principles.

Sisters Lillian, Johanna, and Joan continue their mission of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth as stated in the 2015 Direction Statement of the Sisters of Charity “…with deep faith and trust in Divine Providence, we seek healing for our world through the transforming love of God. Impelled by Boundless Charity, the Sisters strive to collaborate with others to promote right relationships and the common good of all creation. Energized by the fire of Charity, the Sisters as bearers of hope, accompany people in need while advocating for systemic change.”

Happy 125th Anniversary to Saint Augustine School children, faculty, staff and families.
Choose Charity Volunteers (CCV) is a new program that is still taking shape under the leadership of Sheila Tracy. Sheila states she is encouraged by the young people who have responded to the call to be on the front lines of social change by partnering with organizations that have a relationship with the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. The volunteers provide much needed support to non-profits and, in doing this, get to experience the charism and the mission of the Sisters of Charity up close. Hopefully this experience will sustain them as they move on.

This summer the program welcomed six interns. Some focused on program development by researching grants, creating marketing materials, and by helping establish more social media presence in those organizations where the Sisters of Charity work. Many of the sisters were helped directly with one-on-one instructions to strengthen their computer skills. Organizing an occasional game of Bingo in the Motherhouse was also a fun addition.

Shelia has adopted a motto: "Be superhuman, by being really human." When one considers her previous experiences of living and working at a homeless shelter in the Bronx (which she says totally changed her life), and by working in service organizations that supported people with disabilities, she not only coordinated volunteers, but realized how important volunteers were in making a huge difference in doing great things!
Remains of Blessed Miriam Teresa Transferred to New Shrine

Sister Mary Canavan

On Friday, July 1, at 1 p.m. in Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, New Jersey, Sister Rosemary Moynihan, General Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth greeted the congregation assembled for the transfer of the relics of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. The relics were to be transferred from the crypt where they had been placed and sealed on May 9, 1979, to a new shrine being constructed in the chapel proper. The congregation present included Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop of Paterson; Eparch Kurt Burnette of the Eparchy of Passaic, local clergy, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Seton Associates and members of the Advisory Board of the Blessed Miriam Teresa League.

The ceremony began with the singing of the hymn “All Hail Adored Trinity” in honor of the Blessed Trinity to Whom Blessed Miriam Teresa had a life-long devotion. Following was the prayer for her canonization. After the opening prayer Bishop Serratelli; Father Kevin Corcoran, the Bishop’s Secretary; Sister Rosemary Moynihan, General Superior; Sister Joan Repka, General Secretary; Sister Noreen Neary, Archivist, Sister Mary Canavan, Vice-Postulator of the Cause of Blessed Miriam Teresa; Stephen Priola, Funeral Director, and Nicholas Sisto, his assistant, proceeded to the crypt located in a vestibule of the chapel. The coffin, containing a metal Ziegler box that held the remains of Blessed Miriam, was opened and the remains viewed. The coffin was moved to the chapel in front of the new shrine site. Dr. Amer Akmal, M.D. Chair of the Department of Pathology at Saint Joseph Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson, N.J., and Dr. Mary Mazzarella M.D., Medical Consultant of the Cause of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, examined the bones.

The physicians determined that the bones were essentially those that had been sealed in the coffin in 1979, though they had deteriorated considerably. Bishop Serratelli, Sister Rosemary Moynihan, Sister Joan Repka, Sister Noreen Neary, and Sister Mary Canavan also examined the bones and attested to their authenticity in a notarized statement. A procession around the chapel took place with the coffin containing the relics so that all present might venerate them. Upon returning to the transept in front of the new shrine, Sister Rosemary Moynihan and Sister Marilyn Thie, Assistant General Superior, assisted by Dr. Amer Akmal, transferred the bones from the Ziegler box to a tray designed to be placed within the new reliquary. The bones were covered with a sheer white silk cloth. Sister Rosemary Moynihan and the Council then placed the cover on the reliquary.

The reliquary is a 42-inch X 18-inch octagonal wooden box with a glass containing strands of hair of Blessed Miriam Teresa, inserted in the front panel, and LED lights around the base of the interior. This design allows for viewing of the remains by visitors to the shrine.

At this time the shrine is only partially complete. The Ziegler box containing any remnants of the bones as well as soil surrounding them has been resealed and will be placed under the base table for the reliquary. Two other Ziegler boxes that have been in the original crypt containing soil taken from the gravesite of Blessed Miriam Teresa will also form a part of the base of the new shrine designed by Willy Malarcher and executed under his direction. It is expected that the new shrine will be completed by the end of July. The transfer ceremony took place in order that the Ziegler boxes could be prepared for removal and placed at the base of the new shrine. The relics have been sealed in the reliquary under an acrylic cover and will not be disturbed. When all parts of the shrine have been completed the reliquary will be placed on the new base and suitably secured. On Oct. 16, Bishop Serratelli will return to celebrate a Eucharistic Liturgy and to bless and dedicate the new shrine.
In Memoriam

Please visit “Remember Our Deceased Sisters in Your Prayers” at www.SCNJ.org for reflections on the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth who died between February 15, 2016 and September 1, 2016. May our sisters enjoy the fruits of their labor as well as peace with their God.

Sister Eileen Ann Chamberlain
March 11

Sister Dorothy Mastrian
June 11

Sister Mary Donna Crocco
March 29

Sister Joan Anne Gallagher
June 18

Sister Joan Moore
March 31

Sister Anne Claytor
August 2

Sister Mary Rosarii Downes
April 10

Sister Mary Cullen
August 6

Sister Thomas Aquinas Regan
June 2

Sister Therese Christine Amero
August 14

On July 29, the Las Heroinas mural, celebrating the accomplishments of five Puerto Rican women of the 19th and 20th centuries, was unveiled on Broadway in Newark, N.J. Yesenia Mendez, Project Archivist for the Puerto Rican Community Archives of the New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center at the Newark Public Library, acknowledged the generous donations of the materials to the Archives by three women: the late Hilda Hidalgo, Ph. D., community activist and scholar; Maria Vizcarroando De Soto, the first woman and Latina to serve as President and CEO of the United Way of Essex and West Hudson, and Deborah Humphreys, SC. Sister Deborah contributed to the Puerto Rican Archives papers and photographs detailing her work with Puerto Rican migrant farm workers in South Jersey and as co-founder and activist at El Club del Barrio in the South Ward of Newark. She also contributed a copy of Conventional Wisdom, a collection of her poetry which captures the lives of women and children living in Newark.

Awards and Recognitions

Sister Jeanne Agans was honored by the Tri-County Scholarship Program for her commitment and dedication to Catholic Education at an Awards Luncheon on April 9, 2016.

Sister Ellen Dauwer received an award from Thomas Edison University for Outstanding Service to the Undergraduate Council. Sister Ellen served on this group from 1999-2016. She served as President of this Council from 2006-2010.

Sister Peggy Nulty was named Teacher of the Year by the N. J. Association of Lifelong Learning at its annual conference at Brookdale College in April.

The Executive Women of New Jersey recognized Sister Patricia Codey, a member of St. Joseph’s Healthcare board of trustees, at the organization’s Salute to the Policy Makers gala. Sister Pat was honored as an outstanding woman leader for her ongoing contributions to improving life in New Jersey.
A Thank You to Sister Marie Charitina Frabizio, after reading NEW Dimensions!

Sister Marie Charitina---a 65-year Jubilarian!

Sister Charitina taught me in the third grade during the 1952-53 school year at The Academy of Saint Aloysius in Jersey City. You can do the math! Sister wasn’t too much older than some of the high school girls, and she wasn’t too much taller than some of my classmates. She had the sweetest voice; and she never, ever raised it! She would raise one eyebrow, and that called the class to immediate attention!!!

Four wonderful gifts that Sister Charitina gave to our class are still a part of my life.

First....enjoying Multiplication and Division! Older friends had told us that 3rd Grade Arithmetic was so tough that it could make you cry! I was scared, but Sister Charitina must have made it easy. I was waiting for the day that it became too hard, but that never happened. By spring, we had conquered every times table and math problem, so Sister Charitina gave us a head start on 4th Grade LONG Division! It actually seemed like fun!

Second....learning “Oh Come, All Ye Faithful” in Latin. Every time I see a choir, on a Christmas Special, singing “Adeste Fidelis” from a magnificent Cathedral, I still picture our class, looking out at Lincoln Park on a snowy day, and singing “Adeste Fidelis” led by Sister Charitina’s beautiful voice.

Third....making a real effort to stand tall during the reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday. I can still remember her telling us how long the Gospel would be, and asking us to stand reverently and think about the Crucifixion, with “no fidgeting.” I have shared this with my children and with CCD classes I have taught.

Last, and still bringing a smile...the gift of reading. Sister Charitina used to say that I was “a chatterbox.” In today’s world, I would probably be put on ADHD medication. But Sister Charitina introduced us to a wonderful large, (it seemed) chapter book, about a girl, our age, who was sent from England by her parents, to live with relatives in America, during World War II. If we were good, Sister Charitina would read from Primrose Day, by Carolyn Haywood, for the last 15 minutes of the day. Oh, it was so hard for me not to talk or giggle during the day, but I really wanted to hear what happened to Merry Primrose. Even though Sister Charitina looked like a nun doll, I knew that she would not read the next chapter, if I misbehaved.....so I didn’t! I really loved it when she stopped to explain something we might have missed about the character, vocabulary, or setting. She seemed to care about that little girl as if she were her own! She shared her empathy, and her love of a good book, with us!

Thank you, Sister Charitina! I always thought it was the most perfect name for that petite Sister of Charity, who made a very big impact!

With gratitude and admiration,

Geraldine “Chickie Swiney” Metzger

Letter to the Editor

I just received the much anticipated copy of NEW Dimensions. You see, my Band – Band of March 1955, is featured and I was so happy to see my old friends (we still keep in touch). I love the magazine and many interesting articles. Some bring back many memories. Thank you so much.

~ Jean Egan, Florida
Why I Support the Sisters of Charity

by Kathie Beggans

I support the Sisters of Charity because they are so selfless and they do such good works for others. The Sisters of Charity taught me in Saint Aloysius High School in Jersey City, where I met my husband, Joseph Aloysius Beggans. The Sisters of Charity were the best teachers in the world because they were truly devoted to their students and really cared if we learned. I became an English teacher, getting a B.A. from St. Peter’s College in Jersey City. The lessons taught by the Sisters prepared us so well for all of our future endeavors.

My husband and I feel indebted to the Sisters for the education we received and for their positive influence in our lives. Our Catholic faith means the world to us. Our faith has guided our lives, so that we might be an example to our children as the Sisters were an example to us.

My friends love to come to events sponsored by the Sisters of Charity because the events are always a lot of fun, well-organized and reasonably priced. My friends have become familiar with the Sisters and now look forward to seeing them at the Spring Lake Luncheon and the Golf Outing. The Spring Lake Luncheon at the Spring Lake Bath and Tennis Club always has a great guest speaker and the food is consistently good. The Golf Outing is at a great course, Echo Lake, in Westfield. Our group always seems to win something, too! We have many wonderful memories from these events.

Supporting the Sisters makes me feel good and knowing that my support helps makes me happy. When my friends become aware of all the sacrifices the Sisters have made, they want to help me in my efforts to support them. Bragging about the Sisters has become a pastime of mine and I love it!

Spring Lake Luncheon 2016

Signs of spring filled the Spring Lake Tennis and Bath Club as new and long time friends gathered for the Sisters of Charity Annual Spring Lake Luncheon.

There was a feeling of warm camaraderie as guests exchanged greetings and eagerly made their way to view the gift baskets, beach bikes and elegant crystal soon to be raffled. What a pleasant way to support the needs of the Sisters of Charity!

Viewing the gifts was a prelude to the delicious luncheon and the much anticipated presentation by the guest speaker, Mary Lou Quinlan. Mary Lou is the author of the New York Times best seller, “The God Box, Sharing my mother’s gift of faith, love and letting go.”

Mary Lou graciously mingled with guests before the luncheon, which increased their eagerness to hear her speak. There was a special glow on Mary Lou’s face when she acted out passages in her book and shared her mother’s words of heartfelt and everyday prayer: for an ill neighbor, for her daughter’s challenges at work, and for the hopes and needs of friends, relatives, and strangers. So many guests were inspired and later told how they had identified with their own mothers as Mary Lou spoke.

An added feature to the event was the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of “The God Box.” Mary Lou welcomed each person on the long line with a personal greeting and a winning smile.

Thank you to all for another successful fund and friend raiser!
How great it is to be playing a game you love and at the same time supporting the needs of the Sisters of Charity! It was a real treat to meet and greet the sisters’ loyal friends as they gathered at Echo Lake Country Club for the Ninth Annual Golf Outing.

The sight of golf carts on the trail, the occasional cheer for an unexpected good shot and the regrettable sighs for the bad shots gave real meaning to the quote from golf legend, Bobby Jones:

*Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots — but you have to play the ball where it lies.*

And so they did; a good time was had by all.

The cocktail hour on the patio provided an inviting atmosphere for recalling the good old days with the sisters. Golfer and guests shared old classroom memories of long lasting impressions made on a young teen, or a kind word spoken at exactly the right moment or even a scolding that resulted in a change of heart as well as behavior.

A delicious dinner, awarding of prizes and a live auction completed the full day of fun. It was a great feeling amid the goodbyes to see the tired but happy golfers walk off with a heartfelt promise, "See you next year, Sister!" What a happy ending to our Ninth Annual Golf Outing.

We are grateful to God for the beautiful weather and for all the great golfers and friends who supported the event.
Upcoming Events

Harvest Festival
The Madison Hotel
Thursday, October 27, 2016
This year's honorees will be
Gary and Arlene Horan – Caritas Award
Evlynn T. Jarzabek – Mehegan Award

Cathedral Sounds
Annual Christmas Concert
Holy Family Chapel
Sunday, December 4, 2016
Featuring The Masterwork Chorus
under the Direction of Chris Shepard

Fall 50/50 Raffle
Drawing takes place on Wednesday, December 7, 2016
There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners

For all upcoming events please contact:
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