“A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart.”

~Author unknown
Dear Friends,

It is good to have the opportunity to share some ideas with you again. The Winter 2015 issue of NEW Dimensions focuses on Presence; the importance and impact of our lives on others. Presence, how one is or the nature of one’s being in any given situation, highlights the importance of how we live our lives, and the potential impact of our ideas, attention and our very beings on others both near and far.

In each issue of NEW Dimensions we seek to reflect on the works, ministries and lives of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and the Seton Associates as we live out the Mission of Charity. This sharing is also a part of our Mission. Sharing the story of Charity, the journey, the joys, the challenges and hopes of making God and God’s love known in the world continues and memorializes the Mission.

This month we hear about the far reaching influence of some elementary school teachers. Five sisters tell their stories and the stories of those who influenced them. We hear about the ancient tradition of making vows and promises to God. Two Seton Associates reflect on their call to the Mission. We meet our 2015 Jubilarians, learn the story of Sister Mary Ellen Mangan, and we celebrate again the awe-inspiring beatification mass for Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC.

We hope that you will find this NEW Dimensions issue interesting and inspiring. Please know that we are always grateful for your interest and your presence among us.

Many blessings,

Sister Rosemary Moynihan - General Superior

On the cover:
In the background -
St. Mary School, Dumont, N.J.
Left foreground – Sister Mary Jane Timmermans (Sister Alice Joseph).
Right foreground – Timothy Messick in third grade at St. Mary School in the late 1950’s.
See full story beginning on page 3.
By the time I was 9 or 10, my asthma had progressed to the point where I could not be on the playground during lunch recess at school. The cold air in the winter would bring on an asthma attack that would put me in bed for three days.

In the 4th grade (10 years old), I had to stand inside the door to the playground during the 40 minutes of lunch. I had to stand there so that the nuns who monitored the playground could look at the door and see my face in the window. This made for a very limited range of movement.

I actually didn’t mind much. There were no bullies in the hallway. It was warm. I could breathe. All of these plusses to being outside. Ceramic tiles (now called “sub-way tiles”) lined the walls, and in my pietistic obsessive-compulsive Catholicism, I would say a Hail Mary, Our Father, and Glory Be for each tile… perhaps 100 or so. It used up the time.

Then again, at 3:15, when the other kids left for home, I went to Sister Alice Joseph’s room to wait for my mother to come and get me about 5:00 PM. Sister Alice taught First Communion Preparation to the public-school first and second graders, so she did not mind having me sit there. In fact, I could help. Three or four of the kids did not know the Act of Contrition, and I could teach them.

I took them to an empty classroom, and had them pull desks up close to the chalk board. Then I wrote out the Act of Contrition: O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee. And I detest all my sins because of the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all, because they offend Thee, my God who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to confess my sins, do my penance and amend my life. Amen.

The fact that neither they nor I really understood words like “heartily,” “detest,” “resolve,” or “amend” didn’t matter. Feeling very much in charge, I stood in front of the board and used a long pointer to indicate the words as I read the prayer in parts.

Oh my God… Oh my God… Oh…my … God. Oh my God I am heartily sorry. Heartily sorry. Heartily. sorry. I am heartily sorry. Oh my God I am heartily sorry. Oh my God I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee. For having offended Thee. Offended. Thee. And so forth, for about half an hour, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from mid-February to late March.
It completely escaped me that, at 7 years old, in the first grade, none of them could read. They were repeating what I said, no more.

Late in March, Sister Maria Clare, the principal, came to Sister Alice’s classroom just before First Communion Class. They talked quietly, glancing as they did so at me. Sister Maria Clare said, aloud, “So this is Timothy Messick? Thank you, Sister. Timothy, come with me.”

I had no idea what I had done, but froze, stiff with fear. As I followed The Principal to her office I dreaded what would come when I got home. She had me sit opposite her desk. She folded her hands on her desk.

“What have you been doing with the First Communion students?”

“Nothing, Sister.”

“Sister Alice said she told you to teach them the Act of Contrition.”

“Yes, Sister. I was doing it.”

“How?”

I described my method, not sure what rule I had broken.

“Didn’t you realize they couldn’t read?”

“No, Sister. I just pointed to the words and they repeated them.”

“They were repeating what you said, not what you had written. They couldn’t read what you had written. They couldn’t read, but now they can. And a lot more than that prayer!”

“I’m sorry, Sister. I didn’t try to do it. It just happened. Please, I am sorry. It really isn’t my fault.”

“Fault?” And this enormous woman, covered head to toe in black, got out of her chair, walked around the desk, and hovered over me. “Fault? It is wonderful! What a great gift to have given them!” And she reached down, hugged me, nearly suffocating me against her ample bosom.

When she let me go, it took me a few moments to realize that I had not done something wrong. She took a book from her bookshelf and handed it to me. St Joseph Daily Missal. (I still have it somewhere.)

Some years later, I realized that I wanted to be, should be, had been called to be a teacher. I didn't know it at the time, but it had begun in 1959 when I taught the Act of Contrition. “Oh my God...”

Sister Maria Clare Brosnahan, Principal, d. 1988. Sister Alice Joseph is Sister Mary Jane Timmermans, chaplain/pastoral care at St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center, Paterson, N.J. When sister was told about Timothy reaching out to the Sisters of Charity and including her in his retirement speech, Sister Mary Jane exclaimed, “Timmy . . . I remember Timmy, he sat right in the front row. I don’t remember too many students at this point in my life, but I remember him. He was such a wonderful boy!”
College of St. Elizabeth students Shannon Hoffman and Marissa Gioffre, and Sister Elise Gittrich traveled to New Orleans in January to help rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina nine years ago. They describe their five-day experience as: wonder, joy, surrender, sorrow, laughter, challenges, community, Charity Alive!

Fourteen college students and eight Sisters of Charity participated in the program sponsored by the Federation Company of Charity Formation Personnel. They worked with St. Bernard Project, an organization that has restored more than 550 homes with the hands and hearts of volunteers throughout the country. Their work involved putting up dry wall, removing mold, installing insulation, building shelves, sanding and painting. All were tasks they had never done before but they were determined to succeed. The highlight of their trip was laughter, joy and passion to be one with the poor. They left New Orleans on fire, ablaze with the charism of charity.
Sister Mary Ellen Mangan, a native of Co. Clare, Ireland, entered the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in 1868 at the age of 17— one of the pioneers of the nine-year-old congregation. In addition to teaching and serving as principal and superior in city schools in northern New Jersey, Sister Mary Ellen served as the Mistress of Novices from 1881 to 1890 and again from 1912 to 1928. Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was one of the hundreds of young sisters whom she helped to form.

One of her charges described Sister Mary Ellen’s dealings with the young sisters as “the devotion of a mother for children in her care.” Perhaps her patience and understanding for the foibles of youth stemmed from her recall of her own early years in community. In her retirement, Sister Mary Ellen was coaxed into writing about her first year at Convent Station:

> On July 29, 1868, 19 postulants made their Retreat of eight days. Full of joy, they willingly embraced all that was hard. When the bell rang at 4:30 a.m. in the summer and at 5 o’clock during the winter, we dressed promptly, and went to the cellar where a row of tin basins hung. Each took one and went to the pump for a little water to wash our faces. Then we went to the chapel for prayers, meditation and Mass. One of the postulants fell asleep. As she bent over the pew, the sisters concluded that she had fainted and carried her out and placed her on the lounge in the priest’s dining room where she rested till breakfast time. She thought she must remain there until called for!

> I was very much afraid of breaking dishes as the sisters had told me I would be sent home if I broke a dish, but I said I would not return home. I would stay in the woods and come up to the Convent for something to eat. The day came when I did break a dish; so, full of tears, I went to our dear Mother [Mother M. Xavier Mehegan, foundress and Mother from 1859 to 1915], dish in hand, dreading the sentence. To my surprise our dear Mother spoke kindly to me and told me to say a Hail Mary; that was all. Full of joy, I came out and really didn’t mind if I should chance to break another dish.

Shortly after this, Sister Mary Ellen abruptly put an end to her reminiscences because she found that “I was using ‘I’ too much.” That was unfortunate, for her humility closed a rare peek into our early history.
Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC

by Sister Mary Canavan

No amount of rain could dampen the spirits of more than 2,000 people who came to witness the beatification of Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich on Oct. 4, 2014. The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark provided a fitting site for the historic ceremony, rich in the beauty of pageantry and music. The Church raised this young Sister of Charity to the altar, proclaiming her, in the words of Angelo Cardinal Amato, “Beata” (Blessed) as thunderous applause greeted his declaration.

The occasion was a wondrous celebration of the Universal Church as women and men, religious and lay came together from East and West to worship God in joyful praise in honor of a woman whose life was spent responding to the catechism question “Why did God make you? God made us to know, love and serve God in this world and to be happy with God forever in Heaven.” Sister Miriam Teresa fulfilled this mandate to a heroic degree. The Church recognized this and declared her Venerable. Then, God allowed the miraculous cure of a young boy, Michael Mencer, to become known and thus placed the Pope’s seal of approval on her designation as Blessed.

This was a remarkable experience of Church, the people of God, joined together as worshipping community in thanksgiving for God’s wondrous deeds among us all. Let us all say: Amen. Alleluia.

For further information about Blessed Miriam Teresa, visit www.SCNJ.org or like us on Facebook at Blessed Miriam Teresa League of Prayer. To order publications or to visit the crypt, call 973-290-5467.
In 1859, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth was established at the request of Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley, nephew of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and first bishop of the Diocese of Newark. Thanks to his efforts, we were a religious institute of diocesan right. Canon law – the law of the Roman Catholic Church – notes that, as such, the institute is committed to the special care of the bishop. For 90 years every Sister of Charity took simple vows of poverty, chastity and obedience that were renewed annually.

When the Diocese of Paterson was established in 1937, the community came under its authority because our Motherhouse is located within its borders. In 1949, a decree of the Sacred Congregation for Religious gave Thomas A. Boland, first Bishop of Paterson, authority to allow the Sisters of Charity to make perpetual vows. The first perpetual profession of vows was made on Dec. 8– the Feast of the Immaculate Conception – at Saint Anne Villa by Mother Mary Benita Kane, her Council and other sisters.

By the mid-1950s, the community had grown from the first five young women to 1500 members who served in the three dioceses of New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We staffed 105 schools, a college, three orphanages, two residences and seven hospitals. It was time to request a change in status within the church and in 1957 Pope Pius XII issued a Decree of Praise, making the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth a pontifical institute.

While today a woman in formation takes temporary vows of poverty, chastity and obedience at the completion of her novitiate, each Sister of Charity makes a public profession of perpetual vows with the approval of the General Superior and her Council.

In 1988, Sister Mary Canavan, then General Superior, announced that the Feast of the Immaculate Conception once again would be an occasion for the devotional renewal of our vows. She noted that “this time spent together in prayer and festivity will provide an opportunity to celebrate the meaning of our lives together as Sisters of Charity.” That tradition continues today as we gather each Dec. 8th to celebrate liturgy, renew our vows and honor our jubilarians at a festive luncheon.
Our Newest Members of the Seton Associate Program

Marialaina Nissenbaum attended Mother Seton Regional High School and was part of the pilot program Through Boundless Charity, which brought the idea of Seton Associates to the high school level. A few of her teachers at MSR were Associates. She decided to join the Seton Associates at the end of her senior year with Sister Jacquelyn Balasia as her sponsor.

“Becoming a Seton Associate has honestly strengthened my faith significantly. I love that my graduation didn’t end my relationship with the Sisters and MSR: I can remain close to both through the Associate Program. I always leave meetings and events feeling very peaceful and happy, and I try to spread that energy around afterward,” said Marialaina.

She is entering her second semester at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Florham Park, where she is an undeclared major. She would like to pursue a career somewhere in the medical field, because she wants to help others and make a difference.

“As an Associate, I want to attend everything I can and meet more of the Associates along the way, because it is always an uplifting experience to spend time with them. I want to volunteer as much as I can.”

We are so honored to have Marialaina in our Seton Associate program. At 18, she is the youngest member to date.

After leaving St. Mary’s Orphanage, Newark, in the 1950’s, Dolores Banicki didn’t think she would ever see Sister Mary Celine Laskey again. Dee was a resident of St. Mary’s Orphanage from the age of 7 until she was 14. On the day Dee left the orphanage, Sister Celine gave her a token of her affection so that Dee would remember that there was someone who would always care about her. The token was a tiny porcelain baby that Sister Celine had given to her own mother as a gift years earlier. When she gave Dee the trinket, Sister Celine told her, “I am sorry you are leaving and if I ever had a little girl of my own, I’d want her to be just like you.”

In the following years, Dee and Sister Celine communicated through letters and phone calls, but at some point the communications ended. Dee never stopped trying to locate Sister Celine.

In 2014, Sister Celine and Dee reconnected. At the Seton Associate Commitment Mass in January of this year, Dee became a Seton Associate with Sister Celine as her sponsor. Dee says, “The best years of my life were the ones I spent with Sister Celine,” and Sister Celine responds, “I owe who I am to the children.”

Dee has carried the porcelain baby with her every day since she has left the orphanage. “Because of Sister Celine, I am the person that I am today.”
Congratulations to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth who have celebrated milestones in their religious life. We celebrate these faithful women for continuing the mission of Christ in the world.

If you recognize one of the Sisters and would like to send a correspondence to her, please mail it to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Communications Office, P.O. Box 476, Convent Station, NJ 07961-0476 or e-mail it to escharity@scnj.org. If you would like to make a donation in their honor, contact the Development Office at srcharity@scnj.org or 973-290-5480.

**80 YEARS**

- Sister Anita Agnes Whalen
- Sister Joseph Marie McManus
- Sister Georgianna Mary Berry
- Sister Agnes Lucy Robinson
- Sister Rose Mary Barrood
- Sister Marie Claudia Rink
- Sister Lawrence Mahon

**75 YEARS**

- Sister Joan Woods
- Sister Leo Veronica Cassotta
- Sister Margaret Mary Fitzgibbon
- Sister Mary Cullen
- Sister Mary Emmanuel Hauck
- Sister Mary George Senderak
- Sister Mary Georgette Lingle

**60 YEARS**

- Sister Margaret Killough
- Sister Mary E. Farrell
- Sister Mary Ellen Gleason
- Sister Mary Ellen Verdon
- Sister Mary Morley
- Sister Maureen Joseph Kirwan
- Sister Beatrice Guider

**65 YEARS**

- Sister Marilyn Zaino
- Sister Maureen Matthews
- Sister Maureen Shaughnessy
- Sister Maureen Swarts
- Sister Robert Clare Swarts
- Sister Catherine Vincent
- Sister Cecilia McManus
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**50 YEARS**

- Sister Dianne Moore
- Sister Jeanne Agans
- Sister Mary Patricia Hooper
- Sister Rosanne Caiazzo
- Sister Roseann Mazzeo
- Sister Marcella Nolan

**55 YEARS**

- Sister Carol Hoban
- Sister Cecilia Charles Flanagan
- Sister Diane Dillon
- Sister Elizabeth Cahill
- Sister Gloria O’Brien
- Sister Judith Mertz
- Sister Marie Russo

**60 YEARS**

- Sister Dianne Moore
- Sister Jeanne Agans
- Sister Mary Patricia Hooper
- Sister Rosanne Caiazzo
- Sister Roseann Mazzeo
- Sister Marcella Nolan

**65 YEARS**

- Sister Helen Gregory Cotter
- Sister Anne Claytor
- Sister Anita William O’Neill
- Sister Agnes Vincent Rueshoff
- Sister Anita Marcellis
- Sister Clare Mary Roden
- Sister Dorothy Sheahan

- Sister Mary Jo Ward
- Sister Mary Lou Hayden
- Sister Mary Michele Croghan
- Sister Ursula Carr
- Sister Eileen Chamberlain
- Sister Eileen Shaw
- Sister Grace Reape
Three years ago, Sister Anne Moroney learned that the Catholic high school where she had been teaching was closing. Sister Anne had served 47 years in the ministry of education, both in the classroom and as a principal. With the closing of St. Mary High School, Jersey City, Sister Anne was forced to start a new chapter in her life and ministry. She initially thought that “the one place I didn’t want to work was in a hospital.” However, when she learned that Sister Marion Scranton was looking for someone to head the Community Outreach Program at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, she decided to give it a try. Today, Sister Anne is enjoying what she calls the happiest years of her life, serving people in need as the Director of the Community Outreach Program at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, N.J.

Sister Anne is thriving in a ministry that is a whirlwind of activity. Her ministry takes her out in the community more than she is in the office. She interacts with a broad array of agencies and regularly visits schools and nursing homes. She is constantly on the go, giving talks, distributing information, visiting people in their homes and working to get them the help that they need. One of her current initiatives is a program called Vial of Life, in which she helps senior citizens record their pertinent medical histories in packets easily accessible to EMTs. Another ongoing program is Madre a Madre, taught by Luz Flores, a Seton Associate. The purpose of the program is to provide direct outreach and education regarding accessing and understanding health care services through a series of community workshops facilitated by a bilingual health educator. Sister Anne frequently visits the Madres to get to know them on a one-to-one basis. Within the hospital, Sister Anne works with young mothers and mothers-to-be who participate in a women's program. She uses her network of contacts to collect and distribute clothes, diapers and other supplies for the women and their children.

“If we don’t have it, we try to find it for them,” she says. The people around Sister Anne seem to energize her, and her positive, indomitable spirit gives joy and hope to others. Sister Anne loves her work, which she finds exciting and rewarding, and she appreciates the opportunity to meet “so many nice, nice people.” She reflects that “these have been the happiest years of my life, being able to make a difference to people who need help, sometimes helping people get themselves out of a hole.”

“God has given me the grace to do this. I’m so fortunate.”

Presence

Some people enter our lives like deer slipping in and out of the woods.

They touch our earth and as we stop to look at them they disappear as quietly as they came

But you feel blessed for having experienced their gentle presence

And you give thanks that the world is a better place because of the joy they brought.

“Keeping in Touch with Mary” by Sister Joan Metzner, MM. Copyright: 2002 Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Maryknoll, NY. Used with Permission.
Sister Dolores Lew

Dolores Lew was born in Bayonne, N.J. (a birthplace she shares with Blessed Miriam Teresa). Her parents were both 100% Chinese and were matched in a traditional arranged marriage. When Dolores was 10, she became a Roman Catholic.

Sister Dolores had come to know the Sisters of Charity who worked with her at St. Joseph's Hospital. These sisters encouraged her to join the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth.

As a Sister of Charity, Sister Dolores worked as a medical technologist at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Elizabeth, N.J. before studying to become a Physician’s Assistant in 1995. For almost 20 years, she has served in the Emergency Room of St. Joseph Hospital in Paterson. She works long hours, often staying past the end of her scheduled shift, and she gives all that she has to minister to her patients with competence and compassion.

She explains, “Working for the poor and the underserved is what we are called to do. The message we always carry is one of God, to love you, you are our sisters and brothers. We’re supposed to preach the good news.”

Sister Dolores says that prayer is what sustains her through her long days ministering to the needs of others.

“Sometimes I come home dog tired, and I say, God, are you with me? But I know that God gives me everything I need.”

Sister Dolores says that her philosophy in a nutshell is, “Give of yourself and your resources. Love everyone.” She reminds us that the true value of a life is not found in wealth, titles, or educational degrees, but in answer to the question, “How much have you loved?”

Being Present

The theme of this issue of NEW Dimensions is Presence or Being Present. One goal of a Sister of Charity is to bring the transforming love of God to others...to be the transforming power of love to all as she encounters in a particular ministry or just by her presence with people. It is our presence, who we are as Sisters of Charity, that challenges us to be the transforming power of love.

Some quotes from our Constitution, Toward Boundless Charity, inspiration from our founders, and from Scripture inspire, encourage and impel us.

...In communion with other disciples, we participate in the mission of the Church as it works to transform the world in charity, justice and peace.  
(Toward Boundless Charity, p. 4)

...the love of Christ urges us on...

(2 Corinthians 5:14)

...As Sisters of Charity we are called to a life of giving of our talents, our resources, our selves, without condition and without reservation. We are called to give not just from our surplus, but from our substance. The ideal of boundless charity is at the heart of the charism and tradition of the Congregation.

(Toward Boundless Charity, C13, p.10)

You have a vocation which obliges you to help, without any discrimination, all sorts of persons, men, women, children, and in general all poor persons who need your assistance...”

(Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul, conference 92, January 6, 1658)

We strive to respond to the great human needs existing within our complex society by being responsible members of the world community, collaborating with all who work to make life more human.

Toward Boundless Charity, D2, p.36)
Elizabeth grew up near Boston as the second oldest of five children. She attended public school and was enrolled in Sunday school to receive her religious education. She immediately loved it and her Sunday school teacher, who was a Sister of Charity.

Not long after she started going to Sunday school, 6-year-old Elizabeth had an experience that profoundly affected the course of her life. She was out on the street, jumping rope with friends, when a neighbor clapped her hands from her third floor window to get the girls’ attention. The neighbor asked if someone could go shopping for her and Elizabeth volunteered to come up. Inside the neighbor’s apartment, Elizabeth was amazed to find a bookcase full of books.

“I asked, ‘Could I look at your books?’ and when she said yes, I started taking out the books and looking at them all. I pulled out a First Communion book that had belonged to one of her children and I saw a picture of Jesus walking with his disciples. Underneath the picture there was one line in large type and it said, ‘And Jesus went about doing good.’ I kept going back to that picture, and that picture stayed with me the rest of my life.”

Sister Elizabeth, or Sister Bernadette Maria as she was known then, was sent to teach in schools in Jersey City and later in Newark. She taught for 30 years, including six years when she volunteered as part of a special program to integrate blind students into her classroom. Sister Elizabeth then returned to the Boston area. Over the next 40 years, she served in a variety of ministries. Sister Elizabeth remained active in the Boston area until a fall in 2009 brought her back to New Jersey to recuperate at Saint Anne Villa, where she resides today.

Sister Elizabeth still centers her life on the picture and the words that made such an impression on her when she was 6: And Jesus went about doing good.

“I don’t get out like I used to, but I still try my darnedest to do good where I am. I have so much to be thankful for!”

Sister Catherine has had three careers as a Sister of Charity: educator, pastoral minister, and psychotherapist. In each role, she has given of herself without reserve, developed and employed the highest level of professional skills, and grounded her ministry in the charism of charity.

She believes that the charism of charity impels her to work to meet people’s needs in cases where others might hesitate. She is acutely aware of her calling “to really listen to the heart of the matter.” People trust her and open up to her, and as they share their struggles or grief, she brings hope and healing.

“I never know where I’m going to be. Whenever people ask, I try to say yes, because you never know where the Spirit will take you.”

Sister Catherine reflects that her work of freeing people from emotional bondage follows the call of Luke 4:18 “to bring good news to the poor... , to proclaim liberty to captives... , (and) to let the oppressed go free.” She recognizes that as the ministries of the Sisters of Charity continue to evolve, they remain rooted in the foundations of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. “They worked to meet the needs of whomever they met,” she says. “That’s exactly what the Sisters of Charity do today.”

Today she faces the future with abundant hope and good humor. “I never know where I’m going to be. Whenever people ask, I try to say yes, because you never know where the Spirit will take you.” She is so thankful for all the opportunities and blessings that she has received as a Sister of Charity.

“To think how I have been educated and enriched by the community! I am surrounded with a lot of love.... I have been richly blessed.”

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.

(2011 General Assembly Direction Statement)
Sister Noreen Neary

Noreen grew up as the oldest of four children in an Irish immigrant family in Elizabeth, N.J. She attended Catholic elementary school in Elizabeth and then went on to study at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark, where she first met Sisters of Charity.

“The Sisters were all young and energetic, and they gave me a whole new view of what religious life could be.”

Sister Noreen had a desire to work in the inner city and accepted a position in the science department at St. Vincent Academy in Newark.

“Though I don’t know exactly what the future will look like, I know that the mission of the Sisters of Charity and the work of Seton Associates will go forward.”

“Teaching at St. Vincent was reaching out to among the poorest of the poor. Many of these students—the young, urban women—came from very difficult situations. Some were homeless while they were students.”

Sister Noreen is adamant about the transformative impact of education. “I strongly believe that the ultimate act of social justice is education. When I see some of my former students now, it’s clear that their own children will have better lives because of the academic preparation and support these women received at St. Vincent’s.”

After 30 years at St. Vincent’s, Sister Noreen decided to take on a new challenge as the Director of Archives for the Sisters of Charity. In this work, she applies her logical mind to the puzzles of history, piecing together stories of the sisters and their ministries.

The more that Sister Noreen learns about the Sisters of Charity and their history, the more she appreciates how much good the sisters have done in service to others.

“What our sisters have done is awe inspiring. It touches me deeply.” She believes that “serving poor people has clearly been the common thread throughout the whole history of the Sisters of Charity. Even the sisters who didn’t work directly with poor people always tried to educate those they worked with, whether students or adults, about the needs of poor people and then helped others to respond to those needs.”

Her deep appreciation for the history of the Sisters of Charity has also given Sister Noreen confidence about the future. “Though I don’t know exactly what the future will look like, I know that the mission of the Sisters of Charity and the work of Seton Associates will go forward.”
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

Development Office Financial Report
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Donations by the Numbers
- Total number of donors 2013-14: 4205
- Total number of gifts 2013-14: 9841
- Average gift amount (not including bequests): $161.00
- Number of donors who contributed $5000 and above: 41
- Number of donors who contributed $1000 - $4999: 164
- Number of donors who contributed $500 - $999: 246
- Number of donors who contributed $100 - $499: 1844
- Number of donors who contributed $1 - $99: 2192
- Number of members in the Mother Seton Monthly Donor Society: 284
- Number of members in the St. Vincent de Paul Heritage Society, including deceased members: 258

Sources of Income

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<tr>
<td>Other Restricted Gifts</td>
<td>$199,612.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$2,224,382.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When you give to the Sisters of Charity,
Where Does the Money Go?

Ministries in Education
Your gifts support the educational ministries of the many Sisters of Charity who currently serve as teachers, administrators, and volunteers in education to children, youth and adults. Sisters serve in over 30 different educational ministries at parish elementary schools, high schools, colleges, and centers for community and adult education.

Ministries in Healthcare
Your gifts support the healthcare ministries of the many Sisters of Charity who currently serve as physicians, psychotherapists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, therapists, and patient advocates in 20 different healthcare facilities.

Ministries in Pastoral and Social Services
Your gifts support the work of the many Sisters of Charity who are counselors, social workers, chaplains, pastoral associates, immigration specialists and who provide direct care to people in need not only in the United States but also in El Salvador and Haiti.
Saint Anne Villa

Saint Anne Villa has the capacity to accommodate 21 sisters in assisted living and 80 sisters in skilled care nursing beds. Because Medicare and Medicaid provide only a fraction of the cost of care for sisters at Saint Anne Villa, your gifts provide vital support to the elderly and infirm sisters who have dedicated their lives to the mission of charity.

Why I Support Saint Anne Villa

“Where there is Charity and Love, there is God!”

Thank you for the love and care you provided to my Aunt Pat, Sr. Patrice Marie Moran, during her stay at Saint Anne Villa.

Thank you for all the very special love and care you continue to provide for the Sisters of Charity in Saint Anne Villa.

~ David Moran

What is the Mother Seton Monthly Donor Society?

Members of the Mother Seton Monthly Donor Society are dedicated partners with the Sisters of Charity. Their monthly gifts provide vital help to continue the mission of charity to those in need. Benefits of membership include:

- Monthly Mass offered for members of the Mother Seton Monthly Donor Society
- A daily remembrance in the retired sisters’ prayers before the Blessed Sacrament
- Listing in the Archives of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

Monthly self-addressed envelopes are provided for members’ use.

Why I am a member of the Mother Seton Monthly Donor Society

Pat and I have been supporting the Sisters of Charity for over 20 years by making donations to the Mother Seton Monthly Donor Society.

The good sisters that were my professors had a lasting influence on my life and I was honored to receive the Mother Xavier Award from the college in 2002 at the College of Saint Elizabeth.

My husband’s uncle, Fr. Eugene Romano, is the founder and Desert Father of the Hermits of Bethlehem and the Sisters of Charity have been faithful friends of Bethlehem for many years. Our monthly donation is just a small way to give thanks for the many blessings that the sisters have brought into our lives.

~ LuAnn Romano

What is the St. Vincent de Paul Heritage Society?

By remembering the Sisters of Charity in bequests or through other planned giving vehicles, members of the St. Vincent de Paul Heritage Society perpetuate the life and ministries of the Sisters of Charity and help to ensure that aging sisters will receive needed care. Legacy gifts serve as a profound expression of gratitude and support. Benefits of membership include:

- Monthly Mass celebrated for the intentions of the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Heritage Society
- Daily remembrance in the prayers of the sisters
- Members’ names engraved on the St. Vincent de Paul Heritage Society Plaque located in the Motherhouse
- Lasting remembrance noted in the Archives of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

Why I am a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Heritage Society

My experience with the Sisters of Charity began at the Academy of Saint Elizabeth in 1959.

I continued my experience with Sisters of Charity through the College of Saint Elizabeth, graduating in 1967. We were taught to reach for the stars and to extend ourselves to reach our highest potential.

Remembering the Sisters of Charity in my will is a way to say thank you to all who went before us and to help provide them a means to continue their good works for all who follow.

~ Alix Ann Arlinghaus

Alix Ann Arlinghaus

The Romano Family

David Moran with his aunt, Sister Patrice Marie Moran

~ David Moran

The Romano Family

~ LuAnn Romano

Alix Ann Arlinghaus
The Sisters of Charity celebrated a wonderful Harvest Festival at The Madison Hotel on Oct. 23. Guests were treated to cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, followed by an elegant dinner. For the first time, Harvest Festival guests were also offered the opportunity to participate in a drawing for some lovely gift baskets. And, as always, guests enjoyed getting out on the dance floor to some great music.

The Sisters of Charity were honored to present the Caritas Award to Mary Mazzarella DeMayo in recognition of her invaluable service as Medical Director for the Cause of the Beatification of Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. Tim McLoone received the Mehegan Award for his extraordinary philanthropy and personal commitment to the mission of charity.

Congratulations!
We invite you to partner with us in any of the following ways:

Consider becoming a Sister of Charity
Contact our Vocations Office
vocations@scnj.org • 973-290-5331

Consider becoming a Seton Associate
These are our lay affiliates who live a life of charity in ministry to others.
setonassociates@scnj.org • 973-290-5336

Participate with financial support
Gifts may be designated for Ministry/General Support, Retired/Infirm Sisters or for specific ministries.
For more information, please contact the Development Office at 973-290-5409/5454 or srcharity@scnj.org.
Online donations may be made through www.SCNJ.org.

Request prayer support
Send a request online by selecting Prayer Requests from our website home page menu.

Learn more about the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth at www.SCNJ.org.

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 September 1, 2014 and March 1, 2015. May our sisters enjoy the fruits of their labor as well as peace with their God.

Sister Marianne Sullivan
September 3

Sister Marjorie Crean
September 14

Sister John Louise Mc Cann
October 11

Sister Elizabeth Mc Loughlin
October 16

Sister Therese Dorothy Leland
November 9

Sister Maria Michael Garner
December 17

Sister Cecilia Burns
December 20

Sister Madeline Kennedy
January 2

Sister Regina Coll
January 21

Sister Therese Francis Lorenz
February 12
Upcoming Events

Spring 50/50 Raffle
Drawing takes place on
Wednesday, April 29, 2015
There will be 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners!

Spring Lake Luncheon
Spring Lake Bath & Tennis Club
Tuesday, June 2, 2015
With guest speaker Siobhan Fallon Hogan,
Film and Television Actor. Siobhan brings a unique
blend of humor and faith that is sure to delight
luncheon goers!

8th Annual Golf Outing
Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, N.J.
Monday, June 22, 2015