

New DIMENSIONS

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A Publication of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth



"I am very grateful to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth for their sponsorship of and dedication to Bon Secours Charity Health System. Sister Mary Lou Moran, SC, was instrumental in supporting and mentoring me when I joined the organization in 2016 as the new Mission leader, for which I am most appreciative." – Sister Susan Evelyn, RSM, SVP Mission, Bon Secours Charity Health System



"My family has always been associated with the Sisters of Charity. As a child, I believed they were part of our family. I still do." – Kathleen Sweeney, 2022 Seton Associate Candidate

"The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth have touched our lives in so many different ways. It is an honor and a privilege to stand by them as Seton Associates and carry on their Charism of Charity." ~ Valerie Arrabito and Mary Fierro



"Thanks Sisters for the solid education I received at East Orange Catholic High School. I always remember fondly Sisters Eileen Maria and Thomas Anne" – Marta Garrido



Did you KNOW?

The Sisters of Charity traveled by boat to Puerto Rico, where they staffed two schools, the Colegio de San Antonio in Guayama and the Academia del Sagrado Corazon in Santurce from 1933 to 1948.



Sister Hildegard Marie Mahoney, receiving Communion from Pope Paul VI, was the first woman to participate in a Papal Mass, serving as lector at the Canonization Mass of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Fr. Terrence Moran, Director of the Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, gives a presentation to the faculty of Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, NJ, on the Laudato Si' Action Platform. Mother Seton, under the leadership of Sister Jacquelyn Balasia, SC, and Sister Mary Anne Katlack, SC (RIP) has already made great strides: solar panels, filtered water station to eliminate bottled water, and an organic garden.



Sisters of Charity and Seton Associates meet in a monthly SC Ecospirituality Reflection Group. At this meeting we reflected on food – one of the most important ecological decisions we make is what we put on our plate.

Celebrating Traditions

CHANGING THE WORLD

NEW Dimensions is a publication of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, a congregation founded by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, in the spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac, in Emmitsburg, Maryland in 1809. In 1859, Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan founded the New Jersey community known as the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Today the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth are engaged in education, health care, pastoral care, women's services, retreat and spiritual services and social service ministries in 13 dioceses within the United States and El Salvador and Haiti. The Congregation currently numbers 186 vowed members. The Seton Associate relationship has 295 affiliated lay and religious women and men.

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Welcome

Dear Friends,

According to the calendar, Spring has sprung, but the temperatures are still brisk here! However, there are signs of new life, the forsythia has bloomed and is now fading, daffodils and tulips abound and the flowering trees enhance the landscape with their beauty. I look forward to warmer weather and brighter days ahead. We have lived through some difficult months with the ongoing pandemic and with the world situation, especially the war in Ukraine. We have much to pray for each day.

This issue of **NEW Dimensions** holds some wonderful stories about a variety of topics. In terms of outreach you will read about the wonderful response to Catholic Sisters Week and the Giving Tuesday Project.

For two years we have been reflecting on, studying about and sharing on the reality of racism in our country and how we have been part of this history. We as a Congregation decided to take a Public Stand Against Racism. You will read more about this journey in this issue and we pray that you join us in working to eradicate racism in our society.

As you may know, there is an initiative underway to promote efforts to care for Mother Earth. It is the *Laudato Si Action Platform*. This initiative is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations, and "all men and women of good will". Our Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity is leading this for us.

On May 8th we celebrated the Feast of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC, whose Cause for Canonization continues. The new icon of Blessed Miriam is shared with you and I think you will agree it is inspiring.

We also share some highlights from the wonderful celebration we had with our Seton Associates to honor the 30 plus years we have been blessed to have them companioning us and living out the Charism of Charity in their homes and in their work.

We focus in this issue on the Administrative Services/IT Office and staff. We would not function without the competent and generous work of these wonderful women. You will also read about our Sisters of Charity Employee Retreat Days which were so special.

Margaret Sherlock, the chair of our Development Office Advisory Board, brings her talents and experience, along with our other board members, to further the mission through fundraising efforts. You can read more about Margaret in this issue as well.

As always, we could not do anything without your support financially and spiritually as you join with us to move the Mission of Charity forward. We thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to us.

Peace,

Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.

Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.
General Superior





Sister Regina Bernard McCartney, SC and John DiMucci tune up to play 'Let there be Peace on Earth'!

Celebrating Our Sisters Throughout Catholic Sisters Week

by Donna Sartor-Halatin, Director of Communications

In preparation of Catholic Sisters Week (CSW), some of the Administrative Offices of the Sisters of Charity came together for a brainstorming session to decide how best we would celebrate our Sisters during the week of March 8-14. We collectively thought, "What would be better than reaching out to folks who know our Sisters to ask them for their comments, memories and stories about Sisters that have been a part of their lives?" Well, that is exactly what we did! It took a village to try to reach out to various groups of people, but a collaborative effort between the Communications Office, Development Office, Office of Vocation & Mission Engagement, Office of Sponsorship & Mission Services, Archives, and the Office of Peace, Justice & Ecological Integrity made this project a success.

Our focus group included Seton Associates, employees, alums, students, employees of our sponsored works, former members, donors, and board members with an invitation to

join us in thanking the Sisters of Charity through words or through a short video. Some of those wonderful responses are pictured on the cover of this issue.

Included with those posts were "Did you know..." facts about the Sisters of Charity, and to keep with the suggested theme of the week, Caring for Earth, Caring for You, posts highlighting some of the ways the Sisters of Charity continue to care for our earth.

On Thursday, March 10, the Sisters of Charity employees invited Sisters to the dining room in the Motherhouse where they shared a prayer of hope to thank them for their years of service. Cake and goodies were served and an attempt at singing, "Let There Be Peace on Earth" were highlights of the event. It is not every day that we get to thank our Sisters for their dedication and generosity, and to recognize how blessed we are to be a part of the Sister of Charity family.



The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Take a Public Stand Against Racism

by Fr. Terrence Moran, Director of Office of Peace, Justice & Ecological Integrity

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth of Convent Station, N.J., have voted to take a Congregation Public Stand Against Racism. In issues of major importance and concern, where the voice of the Congregation can effectively witness to Gospel values, the Congregation experiences a call to take a public stand. There is a special power when the Sisters of Charity speak, act, or advocate corporately. A public stand is taken after weighing seriously the pertinent facts as well as the multiple dimensions and implications of the stand. The Sisters of Charity and the Seton Associates have spent over a year in a process of reflection, prayer and study on racism. The process included using study modules on racism with articles, videos, and personal testimonies on the issue. They joined in reading groups and ZOOM panels, and had frank and challenging conversations in their Charity Alive small groups. After this process of reflection, the Sisters expressed their commitment in the following statement which was voted on and affirmed:

As Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, we strive to be deeply aware of the inherent value of the human person, the image of God. We acknowledge that, in what we have done and what we have failed to do, we have been complicit, as individuals and as a Congregation, in the sin of racism. We ask pardon of the God of Boundless Charity and of the people who have been harmed in any way by our racist attitudes and actions. As we move forward in mission, we commit ourselves

- to become an anti-racist Congregation and to promote anti-racism in our communities and ministries.
- to challenge the structural racism in our society and to educate and advocate for policies that redress this ongoing injustice.
- to enrich ourselves through contact with the marvelous diversity of human cultures.
- To bring an anti-racist lens to our work on other issues of justices, peace, and the integrity of creation.
- to pray that God's dream of a world where every person can flourish will be realized.

Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, General Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, remarked, "Like all people of good will, the Sisters of Charity are deeply concerned about the enduring legacy of racism in American culture. By this



Sister Donna Korba, IHM, designed a special logo inspired by the text of the Public Stand. The logo depicts ever expanding circles of diversity. The wave in the center is the journey from yellow (Courage) to blue (Healing) to Green (Hope).

Public Stand we commit ourselves and our ministries to joining with others in the antiracist transformation of our society." Sister Roberta Feil, SC, is a member of the Congregation Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity Committee. For Sister Roberta, "our discussions and self-examination have taught me that none of us escapes having some racist beliefs, feelings or actions as part of our history. I'm proud of our Congregation in choosing to make a Public Stand against Racism and our promise to continue to educate ourselves and advocate for equality among all peoples."

A statement is only another step in the long process of facing our complicity in racism that has been called "America's original sin." The Sisters of Charity, the Seton Associates, and their partners in mission, will use this statement to guide their ongoing efforts to educate about racism and to advocate for legislation and policies that will address racial inequity in our social, cultural, and political institutions.

Some of Our Most Liked #TBT Posts

In March, to honor Women's History Month, Sister Noreen Neary, SC, Archivist, choose to highlight five women who were fine Sisters of Charity but received little recognition during their lifetimes. Thank you Sister Noreen for bringing these Sisters to our attention during this celebratory month.



Having emigrated from Ireland, Susan Hone met our sisters in Massachusetts and entered the Congregation in 1905 at the age of 23, receiving the name Sister Margaret Cleophas. With little formal education, Sister Margaret Cleophas served as a housekeeper in several convents, at the orphanages in Paterson and Newark, and at the baby hospital in Montclair. She was the sacristan at the hospital chapels in Morristown and Passaic, before being assigned to our prep school for teenage aspirants at Convent. Her cousin Mark, several generations removed, visited Convent in late 2021 and related that his Granny met Sister Margaret Cleophas on her only trip home to Ireland in 1955. Granny recalls that Sister Margaret Cleophas was great fun, playing jokes and entertaining the neighbors at local seisons (parties with music, song and dance) by playing the accordion. Sister Margaret Cleophas died in December 1963 at the age of 81.

Born in Massachusetts to an English father and Irish mother, Margaret Robinson worked in the mills in Lawrence where she befriended a Protestant woman who had emigrated from England. The co-worker had fallen in love with a Catholic man, an Irish immigrant, and, according to their grandson, Margaret helped to convert the young woman to Catholicism, so the couple could be married in the Church. Having entered the Sisters of Charity in 1910 Sister Margaret Louise spent the next 57 years teaching. From 1923 to her death in 1968 she taught at St. Peter School in Belleville, N.J.. At her funeral Mass Bishop Joseph A. Costello, the pastor of St. Peter Parish, noted that "Sister Margaret Louise loved humanity - and generations of boys and girls who sat in her classroom testified to this by loving her in return." Bishop Costello was often reminded of the poem, "Lovely lady dressed in blue, teach me how to pray," when Sister remained after Mass, kneeling in prayer.



Upon her graduation from St. Augustine High School in South Boston, seventeen-year-old Agnes McKeon joined the Sisters of Charity in 1925 and, as Sister Ursulina, spent the next half-century in school, as teacher of fifth through eighth grades, Vice Principal and Principal and, often, as the superior in the convent. During her twenty-eight years as principal of St. Margaret of Scotland School in Morristown, N.J., Sister Ursulina "left a profound and indelible mark on generations of Catholic school children" and "was a constant source of spiritual encouragement to countless parishioners," according to Father Victor J. Mazza. As the newly appointed principal of neighboring Bayley-Ellard High School, in 1987 Father Mazza established a full four-year scholarship in Sister Ursulina's memory to be awarded to a graduate of St. Margaret School.

When fourteen-year-old Anna Turro, having left her home in Vico Equence, Italy, disembarked in New York in 1914, she already possessed the skills which would benefit thousands of Sisters of Charity - cooking, gardening and, especially, sewing. From her entrance into the Community on September 8, 1927 (the Nativity of the Blessed Mother), Sister Gemma Gabriel spent her first six years at Convent, sewing the habits of the novices and junior professed sisters. Sister Gemma then spent two decades as seamstress and house mother in the nurses' residences in our hospitals. Sister Gemma returned to Convent Station as the seamstress at Seton Commissary, again assisting her sisters. She enjoyed an active retirement at Convent as a gardener, cook and seamstress, always busy as she worked to create a happy home for her sisters, reminiscent of Martha of Bethany.



Sister M. Delphine Hammil, having graduated from St. Bridget's Elementary School in Jersey City, Lillian Hammill worked as a telephone operator before entering the Sisters of Charity in 1926. When Sister Delphine completed her education, she spent more than four decades teaching in Catholic schools in northern New Jersey. In 1972 she joined the staff at Xavier Center, a retreat and conference center at Convent, and welcomed joyfully all who came there to find God. Sister Delphine was the first person the guests would meet, putting first-timers at ease and making old-timers glad to be back. Because she had trouble sleeping, Sister Delphine would go through the building at night, keeping her eyes on things. There was no need to worry about guests who might wander through the halls, a little lost, or whether the doors were closed, or if lights were still burning brightly after all had turned in, or whether coffee pots were plugged in and burning dry. Sister Delphine was the self-appointed nighttime guardian angel, praying the rosary for the intentions of so many, as she moved through the halls at night.



From left, Susan LeVan, Donna Fico, Sister Maureen Mahan, SC, Maryellen Whritenour and Louise Pechello.

THE HUB OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

by Donna Sartor-Halatin, Director of Communications

As in most offices, the Administrative Services/IT office at the Sisters of Charity is the center hub that makes our wheel turn smoothly. Headed by Susan LeVan, director, this office includes four administrative assistants who are the support staff for the leadership team as well as the majority of the department heads.

Susan has been director of administrative services/IT for 17 years with three years prior experience as the director of program arrangements at Xavier Center. Susan's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, keeping statistics/demographics for our Sisters, ordering office supplies, maintaining office equipment contracts, organizing physical mailings and coordinating electronic communications, processing the deaths of our deceased sisters and tending to all of the Congregations networking and technology needs. Growing up in Madison, N.J., her family attended Saint Vincent Martyr Church in

Madison and Saint Thomas More Church in Convent Station. In 2006, Susan became a Seton Associate of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. She is the proud mother of her son Luke, who is planning to be married in June.

Donna Fico, the newest member of the team, joined us in January as Administrative Assistant to Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, General Superior; Sister Cecilia McManus, Asst. General Superior, and Sister Judith Mertz, Councilor. Among the many daily tasks in her office, Donna finds that her organizational skills help her most in anticipating the needs of the Sisters. She is finding out that there really isn't a typical workday as each one calls on her for different projects. Her previous career included social services and teaching. Some of that teaching was in the theater department at Bayley Ellard High School and Morris Catholic High School. A native New Yorker, Donna's family moved to Denville, N.J. when she was

5. She has two younger sisters. She and her husband, Dom, have two daughters, Christina and Rachel. Donna's passion is singing. You can hear her beautiful voice if you attend a service at Corpus Christi in Chatham, N.J.

Maryellen Whritenour joined the staff about one-and-a-half years ago. Along with her Administrative Assistant duties, she also assists with the livestreaming of Sisters of Charity events. She can be found taking minutes for a meeting, creating a newsletters, assisting with the upkeep of mailing lists, setting up technology for Zoom hybrid meetings or livestreaming events and Masses from Holy Family Chapel. Maryellen, originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., lives in Livingston, N.J. with her husband Bill. They have two adult children, Jennifer and Thomas, who live in Hoboken. In her spare time, she volunteers as a docent at Turtleback Zoo in West Orange and loves going to the beach.

Louise Pechello is a Jack of all trades. If you need something done, Louise is there to do it and she does it well. She usually always has a list of tasks on hand, but will never refuse to provide assistance to anyone who asks. Louise began with the Sisters of Charity as a secretary at Xavier Center in 1996 and, when the doors closed at Xavier in 2011, she moved to the Administrative offices in the Motherhouse. She grew up in Hoboken, N.J. with two sisters and a brother and now lives in South Orange, N.J. with her husband. Louise loves to spend most of her spare time with her daughter Jennifer, squeezing in some time for gardening and counted cross stitch.

Sister Maureen Mahan, SC, was born and raised in Jersey City, N.J., in a loving home with her parents and her four

siblings. She attended All Saints Grammar School and Saint Michael's High School in Jersey City and enjoyed activities like bike riding, jumping rope, basketball, bowling and cheerleading. In her senior year of high school she felt God call her to be a Sister of Charity. One year after high school, on Sept. 6, 1962, she entered the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth with 46 other young ladies. Sister Maureen received her Bachelor Degree from the College of Saint Elizabeth and her Master's Degree from Seton Hall University. Sister had a variety of ministries through the years. She was a teacher, a principal, involved in parish activities, a member of a several boards, and the list goes on! In September 2008, Sister Maureen took on a secretarial position in the administrative offices for the Congregation. She is the recording secretary for the Council and Corporation meetings, the Coordinating Council, and Governance Task Force , and also schedules weddings at Holy Family Chapel In addition she assists the Education Fund, and our resident Notary Public, just to name a few. In her spare time, Sister Maureen loves to cheer for her favorite team: the NY METS!

A wonderful addition to the Sisters of Charity has been the ability to livestream Masses and Congregational events. This project was initiated because of the necessity during the pandemic, but thrives as a communication tool today. Through the persistence and expertise of Susan, and with Maryellen assisting, the system is now operating with a professional quality system that allows our Sisters who are unable to attend events and Masses, to remain connected to the community through virtual technology. This truly has been a blessing!



Susan LeVan and Maryellen Whritenour livestream a Mass in Holy Family Chapel.



Visiting the beach (from left) Sister Roberta Feil, Julia Williams, Sister Elizabeth Kremp, Sister Maryanne Tracey and Fr. Terry Moran.

Recently It Hasn't Been All Work and No Play for the Sister of Charity Employees

by Donna Sartor-Halatin, Director of Communications

The 16th of November began with the sun shining bright as we boarded the bus headed to Long Beach Island. We were on our way to our first employee retreat day held at Maris Stella Retreat & Conference Center in Harvey Cedars, NJ.

Greeted by Sister Mary Morley, SC, and Sister Pattie Dotzauer, SC, as we exited the bus, we were led to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel that stands on the bayside and allowed for a spectacular view as our prayer service unfolded. Icebreaker questions started the workshop held in the conference center following the prayer service. John DiMucci, director of Sponsorship and Mission Services, presented a PowerPoint presentation titled *Mission Moving Forward*, giving an overview of the history, the present and the future of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth.

It was amazing to find how many of our employees have never visited this sacred place. That being said, after a delicious lunch, we were able to tour the grounds, visit each house, walk along the boardwalk by the bay and even take a hike up the steep sandy hill to catch a view of the ocean. Needless to say, it was difficult to encourage people to board the bus when it was time to head back to Convent Station!

In February we gathered again, this time in the study hall of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth, a little closer to home. Maris Stella was going to be hard to top, but to our surprise, this retreat day was just as fulfilling as the one held in November. Beginning with an interactive prayer service, then a glimpse into the history of the Sisters of Charity, a presentation given by Sister Noreen Neary, SC, and Archivist, followed by a presentation by DiMucci on Sponsorship, opened up interesting conversations at each table about what we had learned throughout the day.

After lunch, a trivia game concluded the agenda with lots of laughter and the realization that we have lots more to learn about the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth!

Thank you to our leadership team for allowing us to take the time to experience these retreat days and to spend time together outside of our daily work environment. Also, thank you to DiMucci who spent days planning for the content and logistics to make this time together so wonderful. Can't wait to see what he has in store for us in the fall!

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO THE

Laudato Si' Action Platform

by Fr. Terrence Moran, Director of Office of Peace, Justice & Ecological Integrity

On the feast of St. Francis, Oct. 4, 2021, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth joined other religious congregations and Catholic organizations in making a public commitment to the *Laudato Si' Action Platform*. Promoted by Pope Francis and under the direction of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the LSAP calls all Catholics to a seven-year journey to integral ecology and environmental sustainability. The LSAP will focus on seven sectors: families, parishes, schools, hospitals, businesses, organizations, and religious orders. The LSAP also has seven goals: the response to the cry of the earth, the response to the cry of the poor, ecological economics, adoption of simple lifestyles, ecological education, ecological spirituality, and community involvement. In launching this signature initiative of his pontificate, Pope Francis said, "Our selfishness, our indifference and our irresponsible ways are threatening the future of our children...I therefore renew my appeal: let us take care of our mother Earth ... let us overcome the temptation of selfishness that makes us predators of resources, let us cultivate respect for the gifts of the Earth and creation, let us inaugurate a lifestyle and a society that is finally eco-sustainable."

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth express their commitment in these words: Our Foundress Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan, S.C. and our early sisters met the needs of their age with creativity and zeal. In faithfulness to our charism of moving toward Boundless Charity, we hear the urgent call to respond to the cry of Earth, called by Pope Francis, "the

poorest of the poor." Therefore we commit ourselves as a Congregation to the *Laudato Si' Action Platform* and join in its seven-year journey towards integral ecology. In collaboration with the Seton Associates, our partners in mission, and others, we commit ourselves to deepen our reverence for the presence of God in creation, to ecological education and advocacy, and to promote sustainable lifestyles.

The Sisters of Charity Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity Committee has developed goals for the first year of our participation in the LSAP. They include a seven-month educational series on the LSAP that drew hundreds of participants from across the US and several other countries. Care for Creation is intentionally integrated in community prayer. Ecological "best practices" are being shared with our ministries and individual sisters and Seton Associates.

Resources on the *Laudato Si' Action Platform*

- We Are All Part of God's Plan(et): The US site of the LSAP <https://godsplanet.us/>
- At this link you can access all the videos in the SC LSAP educational series <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCImrLRD1M>
- Learn more about *Laudato Si'* using the SC Six Weeks with *Laudato Si'* Calendar https://www.scnj.org/_files/ugd/a2bb32_6395e038741246f38c6552fb8ab5d634.pdf



A banner with photos of the four seasons at Sisters of Charity properties proclaims our commitment to the *Laudato Si' Action Platform* in the reception area of the Motherhouse.

The Sisters of Charity, Seton Associates and friends have a monthly Ecospirituality Group that meets to pray and reflect on our call to care for creation as people of faith. If you would like to join, send your request to tmoran@scnj.org All are welcome!



Focus group participants Michael Rivera, Shannon Hoffman, Spencer Horn and Peter Jacob.

Moving the Mission of the Sisters of Charity **FORWARD**

by Wendy Relation, Director of Development

The expression “It takes a village” certainly applies to the work of generating financial support for the Sisters’ Mission of Charity. That work is invaluable advanced by the dedicated and enthusiastic contributions of the Development Advisory Board, whose members collaborate with the Director of Development, Wendy Relation. The Board brings a broad array of talents and experiences with nonprofits to further the mission and raise funding.

Beginning in the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Development Advisory Board is chaired by Margaret Sherlock. Margaret recently retired after a 35-year career in law as a litigator and

leader of three law offices in New Jersey. She is a graduate of LeMoyne College and Fordham University School of Law. Currently, Margaret is a member of the second cohort of Ignatian Legacy Fellows, a year-long program sponsored by Loyola University. Previously, Margaret has served on the Advisory Board of Josephine’s Place, assisting in fundraising events for this sponsored ministry.

“To me, the Sisters of Charity are a trusted and inspirational partner in the delivery of boundless charity, with all that that means, to those in need. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to serve in support of their stated mission,” she said.



Margaret Sherlock



CONTINUE THE LEGACY OF CHARITY

Have the Sisters of Charity made a difference in your life?

Would you like to help ensure that the mission of charity will continue for many years to come?

Make a Planned Gift Today

Include the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in your estate plan.

General Bequest

Residuary Bequest

Contingency Bequest

Give from your 401K or IRA Retirement Plan

Make a Gift of Life Insurance

Make a Gift of Stock or other Appreciated Assets

Make a Gift through your Donor Advised Fund

To learn more about planned giving, please visit
SCNJ.plannedgiving.org

Contact Wendy Relation, Director of Development
(973)290-5480 wrelation@scnj.org

Be sure to consult with your own attorney, accountant or financial advisor before making any major financial decisions.



The Development Advisory Board recently adopted a three-year Strategic Plan to move the Mission of the Sisters of Charity forward. A primary goal of the Strategic Plan is to identify, cultivate and solicit those of younger generations to engage them in the mission and development.

Margaret is particularly excited about a Board initiative to hold focus groups with young professionals as a step to connect more young people with the mission of charity. The first focus group, facilitated by Board members Loraine Kasprzak and Jane Flynn, recently met in the Motherhouse. Participants enjoyed a light supper as they shared ideas and insights.

When asked what one word describes Sisters of Charity, the responses included "holy," "devoted," "loving," "hard-working," "inspirational," and "fierce" – all apt words for the Sisters who continue to dedicate their lives to meeting needs wherever they are found.

Margaret observed, "The focus group enabled those with like-minded values to come together and build community around the mission and ministries of the Sisters. We hope that we will grow this small community of young professionals who show such an exciting willingness to help move the mission forward."



A New Blessed Miriam Teresa ICON

by Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC

Before your eyes is a new icon of Blessed Miriam Teresa painted by Peter Dziouba. This type of painting is well-recognized by our sisters and brothers of the Eastern Catholic Churches as a person to be venerated. Her face portrays the spiritual countenance of Christlikeness shining on and through human visage. As depicted in icons, Blessed Miriam Teresa's five senses are transfigured by sapiritual light perceivable here on the face of the earth. Her eyes sparkle with brightness and reveal the presence of God within her soul. This is an invitation to prayer before the icon and experiences heavenly insights experienced by the holy person.

In this icon she is holding an open book of her spiritual writings, *Greater Perfection*, which contains 26 talks that she gave to the other novices through the person of Father Benedict Bradley, her confessor and spiritual director. They were later published and translated into many languages.

Above her left shoulder is a crucifix and below it is the emblem of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, a pelican feeding her young. In early Christian art the pelican feeds her young with her own flesh and blood when food is unavailable. This parallels the reality of Christ who feeds us with His own Precious Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

The icon is framed by Trinitarian groups of violets based on Blessed Miriam's own watercolor. In Christian art iconography the violet indicates the Holy Trinity; its simplicity and beauty are reflective of God.

May she open our minds to the deeper meanings of the spiritual life in the Holy Trinity and intercede for us as we place our prayer requests into her hands and respond by sharing our faith with all whom we encounter.

(This information is based on Father Joseph Bertha's article in the February 2022 Blessed Miriam Teresa's bulletin.)



One of the 20 recipients of the funds collected was the Father English Food Pantry, located in the heart of Paterson, N.J.. The food pantry serves those most in need and also supports local food pantries in parishes and diocesan affiliates by filling in gaps where there are needs that are not filled. Here the check is being presented to Carlos Roldan, Director of the Food Pantry (right) and Sister Maureen Sullivan, SC, director of Pastoral Services and Volunteers for the Catholic Family and Community Services (2nd from left). Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC, and Shannon Hoffman, co-directors of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Office of Vocation and Mission Engagement, were excited to present the check to this deserving ministry.

GIVING TUESDAY 2021

The Offices of Vocation and Mission Engagement, Communications and Development are delighted to report the success of the Nov. 30, 2021, GIVING TUESDAY campaign. The campaign was targeted to reach out and meet critical needs of people in our communities.

The virtual campaign was propelled by social media posts featuring Sisters and employees using a giving platform that offered an option of text-to-give. Nearly \$27,000 was raised to provide food, shelter and needed home repairs. Funds were distributed to 20 different agencies.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to #GIVINGTUESDAY and who came together to make the SCENGAGE campaign a great success. Know that your caring and generosity made a real difference in the lives of people in need.



(from left) Sister Maryanne Campeotto, SC, with Seton Associates Valerie Arrabito, Mary Fierro and Patti D'Esmond.



Dave Thelen, Jean Semler, and Rosemary Lalevée Carroll.



(from left) Seton Associates Anne Marie Civinskas, Rieda Breakey Piatti, Nancy Smith, Joseph Hagen, and Mary Ann Burgess Motiuk with Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC.

Seton Associates CELEBRATE 30 YEARS

by Shannon Hoffman, Seton Associate and Co-Director of the Office of Vocation & Mission Engagement

The Seton Associates celebrated their 30th anniversary on April 3. Mass was celebrated in Holy Family Chapel and led by Seton Associate, Father James Manos. A luncheon at the Madison Hotel followed the Mass.

This celebration was postponed for two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was apparent that it was long overdue, by the excitement surrounding the celebration of this milestone. Rosemary Lalevée Carroll, Seton Associate and former director of the Seton Associates, was honored during the luncheon to mark her retirement and give thanks for her years of dedicated service to the Seton Associates. A donation of \$1,000 was given

in Rosemary's name to ChangeALife Uganda. Co-Founder and Seton Associate Jean Semler and her husband, Dave Thelen, were present to accept the donation. The Sisters of Charity and Seton Associates continue to support ChangeALife Uganda's mission to improve the lives of orphaned and disadvantaged children and their families in Uganda.

Thank you to all the Seton Associates who helped make this anniversary celebration possible. A very special thank you to the 30th Anniversary planning committee for its time and dedication in planning such a wonderful and memorable day.

IN MEMORIAM

Please visit In Loving Memory on SCNJ.org for obituaries, reflections and links to funeral Masses.



Sister Barbara Ginther, SC
(Sister Mary Immaculate)
NOV. 2, 2021



Sister Anita
Charles Marcellis, SC
NOV. 12, 2021



Sister Leo Veronica
Cassotta, SC
NOV. 19, 2021



Sister Agnes
Gregory Craig, SC
DEC. 18, 2021



Sister Mary Anne Katlack, SC
(Sister Thomas Anne)
FEB. 20, 2022



Sister Madeline Fahey, SC
(Sister Corrine Elizabeth)
MARCH 4, 2022



Sister M. Angelica
Doris, SC
MARCH 18, 2022



Sister Mary Patricia Moroney, SC
(Sister Helen Richard)
MARCH 20, 2022



Sister Maria
Brigita Fitzsimmons, SC
MARCH 22, 2022



Sister Marian
Therese Boudreau, SC
APRIL 26, 2022

SETON ASSOCIATES:

Margaret Ridgway (Lifetime Commitment) – Feb. 8, 2022

SCNJ ONLINE SHOP PRICE LIST

Charity Notes - Gratitude Cards

Notecards (Variety Pack Of 6) \$8.00 Each

Notecards (Pack Of 18) \$22.00

Charity Notes - Hope Cards

Notecards (Variety Pack Of 7) \$10.00 Each

Notecards (Pack Of 21) \$28.00

Stemless Wine Glass (15 Oz.) \$8.00

Wooden Keepsake By Cat's Meow \$30.00

Commemorative Throw \$60.00

Coffee Mug (16 Oz.) \$10.00

Face Masks \$2.00 Or 3/\$5.00

Grocery Tote Bag \$5.00

Insulated Cooler With

Two Wine Tumblers \$45.00

Can Coosies \$6.00 Or 2/\$10.00

Car Coaster \$6.00 Or 2/\$10.00

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*For all upcoming events
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Saint Elizabeth Development Office
P.O. Box 476, Convent Station, N.J. 07961-0476
973-290-5454/5409 • srcharity@scnj.org
www.SCNJ.org



Summer 50/50 Raffle

July 28, 2022



Harvest Festival

Park Avenue Club, Florham Park, NJ

October 20, 2022

Honoring Nadine Brechner and Ron Robbins



Fall 50/50 Raffle

November 22, 2022