



Vocation and Mission Engagement

Volume 1 #5 – Nov. 2021

E-NEWSLETTER OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH
OFFICE OF VOCATION AND MISSION ENGAGEMENT

Seton Associate Retreat

Seventeen Seton Associates and Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC enjoyed a wonderful retreat on a perfectly beautiful weekend from October 15th through the 17th at Maris Stella Retreat and Conference Center in Harvey Cedars, New Jersey.

Read below to hear what one Seton Associate had to say about it. What a wonderful weekend! In the beauty of Maris Stella sunshine, we gathered in our circle, old friends and new, celebrating our founders, our charism, and our love of this community. We shared stories that came from the richness of our past and also our visions of the promise of our future. But it was that *present* moment ... that time together ... where the spirit was truly alive. As we ate our meals, listened, and laughed, we found that simple joy of just being with each other. I think we were all reminded of what a privilege it is to walk together, as Associates, striving to be *Good News* in our world.

Written by Seton Associate Patti D'Esmond



Mary Fierro, Valerie Arrabito, Patti D'Esmond, Maryann Lynch, and John Cutola relax after dinner at the Seton Associate Fall Retreat.



Jolynn Krempecki reviews her notes in preparation for her presentation.



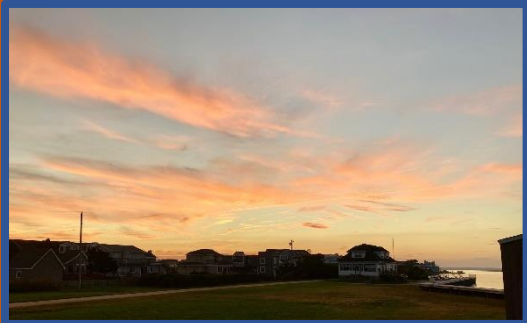
John, Maryann, and Anette Heath enjoy some time on the bayside, before attending Mass.



Jacqueline Crane looks like she is playing games on her iPad as John looks on.



Evy Jarzabek and Judy Rosenberg love working the dish washer at Maris Stella.



A beautiful sunset was enjoyed by all at Maris Stella.

Vincentian Family Gathering, Atlanta Georgia – October 22nd – 24th

Racial Equity: A Personal Call to Love as Christ Loves

The Sisters of Charity were proud to sponsor four young women to participate in the Vincentian Family Gathering in Atlanta. Seton Associates Shannon Hoffman and Theresa Nolan were joined by Mihalka Joseph, and Lauren Greismeyer, students at Saint Elizabeth University. Participants learned how to strengthen the collective impact of the Vincentian Charism in the face of inequity and injustice. They engaged in meaningful dialogue concerning their individual and collective experiences of race, diversity, and inclusion in the Vincentian Family and beyond. Creative, practical ways in which the Vincentian Charism can impact racial injustices through direct service and working toward systemic change were surfaced. A wonderful Vincentian spirit filled their days as they deepened their sense of belonging to the North American Family.



Shannon Hoffman, SA; Lauren Greismeyer; and Theresa Nolan, SA were delighted to meet the Most Reverend Fernand J. Cheri III, O.F.M, the Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans.



Shannon Hoffman, SA; Theresa Nolan, SA; Lauren Greismeyer; and Mihalka Joseph visit the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.

First Advisory Board Meeting and Giving Tuesday Initiative

Shannon Hoffman and Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC facilitated the first meeting of the Office of Vocation and Mission Engagement's Advisory Board on October 12, 2021. Fourteen women and men with diverse backgrounds met to discuss the needs of those less fortunate and the various ways that we can help them.

One of the ideas was for us to launch an Alternative Giving campaign on November 30, 2021, which is "Giving Tuesday." This type of giving is often used as an alternative to consumerism, while also helping those less fortunate. The recipients of the "Giving Tuesday" campaign will be organizations that assist those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. Any size donation is appreciated, and we hope that you will be able to join our mission to help others this holiday season. Giving Tuesday link below:

Text SCENGAGE to 41444 Event page

link: https://app.mobilecause.com/e/_UW_sg?vid=n6qor



Office of Vocation and Mission Engagement Advisory Board members: (Front row from left) Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC; Michael Rivera; Sister Judy Mertz, SC; JoLynn Krempeki, SA; Margaret Roman, SA; Maria Cappazolli, SA; Shannon Hoffman, SA; (Second row) Sister Jeanne Agans, SC; Sister Michelle Lukenda, SC; Jim Cavanaugh; Sister Patricia Stringer, OP; Erich Sekel; (Not pictured) Marissa Gioffre, SA and Jayne Murphy-Morris

Sandwich Ministry – Great News!

The Sandwich Ministry committee is delighted to be able to share with you some good news: First, we have reached 87.3% of our goal of providing 3,300 sandwiches to those with food insecurity and have already surpassed our goal for fruit and snacks. We are confident, with two months to go that we will be able to surpass our goal for sandwiches as well. Thank you to all of those who participated. Secondly, we have expanded our sandwich outreach by partnering with *Operation Chillout*, a veteran's outreach organization. This organization will be handing out the sandwiches and additional toiletries that we will provide, to those who are experiencing homeless, including veterans in Newark Penn Station. Should you wish to participate in this ministry please contact Shannon Hoffman at shoffman@scnj.org.

Food Insecurity – A Response in Jersey City – Campus Kitchen

One in every six people in the United States goes hungry each day while approximately 40% of the food is thrown away. In 2014 Campus Kitchen was formed at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City to address this urgent need. This program takes food that would otherwise be discarded and turns it into nourishing meals for those facing food insecurity. Area dining halls, cafeterias, and supermarkets donate unused food, which the volunteers cook and distribute to shelters and neighbors in need, making this program important both from the standpoint of helping others and in keeping food from being wasted. This student-led program, which is supervised by Erich Sekel, Associate Director of Campus Ministry for Community Service has served over 100,000 meals to those in need. Erich has joined the Office of Vocation and Mission Engagement Advisory Board and we look forward to hearing more about his accomplishments and ideas for us going forward.



Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC and Shannon Hoffman visited Campus Kitchen, where they enjoyed a tour of the building and then were promptly put to work cutting up chicken, followed by

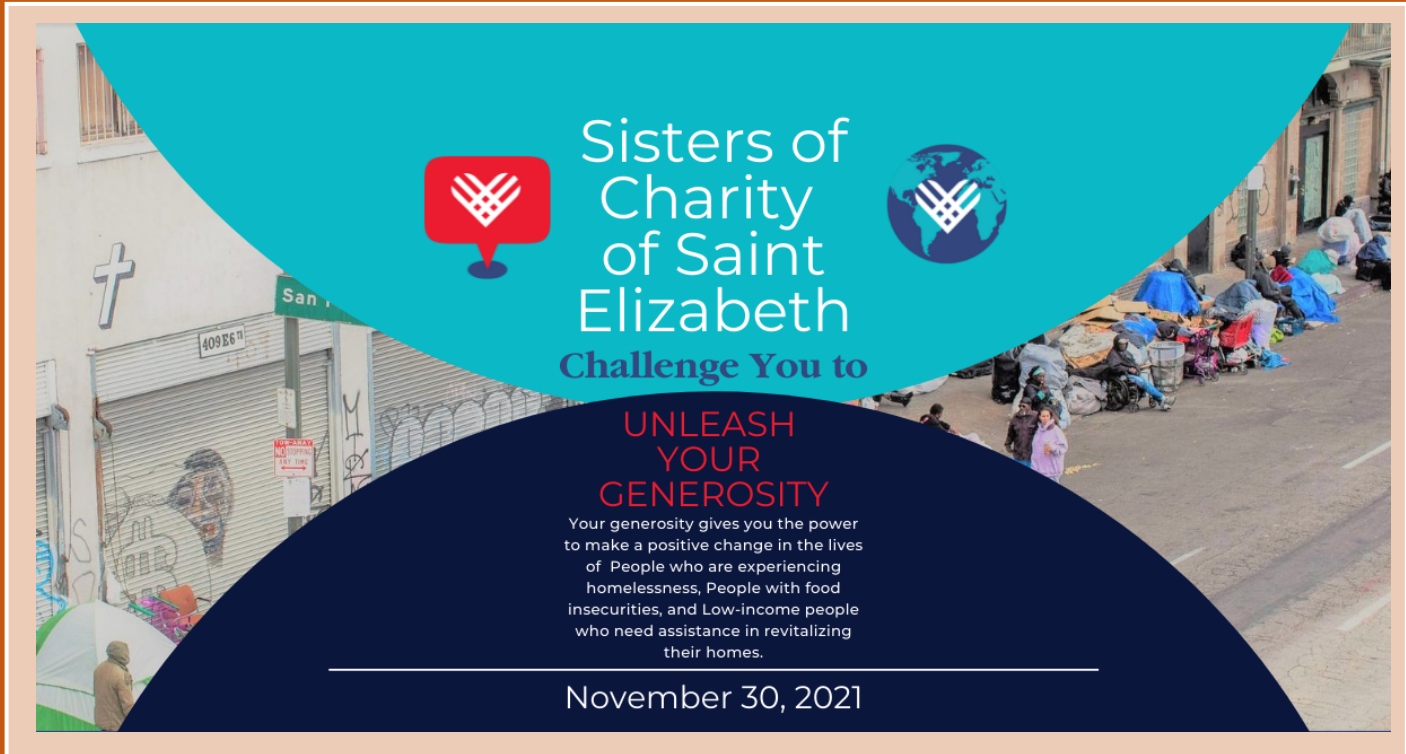




...washing pots with Sandy, a Saint Peter's University senior, and Campus Kitchen volunteer.



Shannon Hoffman and Erich Sekel take a short break, but not for too long because there's lots to be done at Campus Kitchen!

Golden Opportunities . . .



 Sisters of
Charity
of Saint
Elizabeth 

Challenge You to

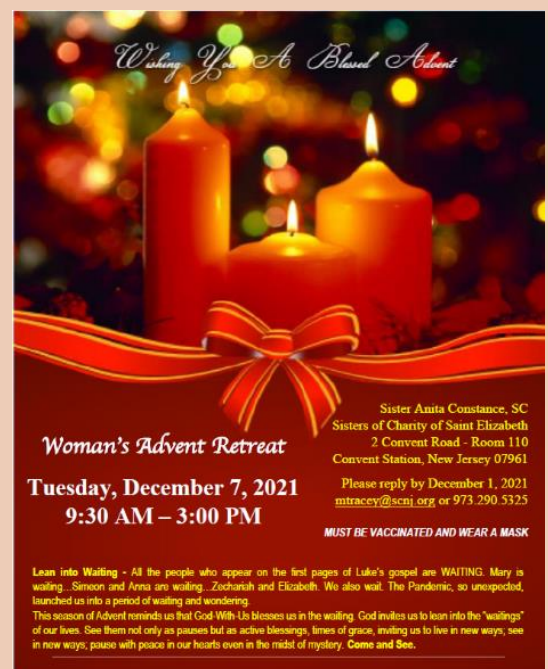
**UNLEASH
YOUR
GENEROSITY**

Your generosity gives you the power to make a positive change in the lives of People who are experiencing homelessness, People with food insecurities, and Low-income people who need assistance in revitalizing their homes.

November 30, 2021

Seton Associates:

If you have been a Seton Associate for more than three years and you feel called to make a lifetime commitment to this calling and beautiful way of life of loving and serving God in the Vincentian-Setonian tradition, please let Shannon Hoffman shoffman@scnj.org or Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC mtracey@scnj.org know by November 19, 2021.



Wishing You A Blessed Advent

Sister Anita Constance, SC
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
2 Convent Road - Room 110
Convent Station, New Jersey 07961

Woman's Advent Retreat

Tuesday, December 7, 2021
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Please reply by December 1, 2021
mtracey@scnj.org or 973.290.5325

MUST BE VACCINATED AND WEAR A MASK

Lean into Waiting - All the people who appear on the first pages of Luke's gospel are WAITING. Mary is waiting. Simeon and Anna are waiting. Zechariah and Elizabeth. We also wait. The Pandemic, so unexpected, launched us into a period of waiting and wondering. This season of Advent reminds us that God With-Us blesses us in the waiting. God invites us to lean into the "waitings" of our lives. See them not only as pauses but as active blessings, times of grace, inviting us to live in new ways, see in new ways, pause with peace in our hearts even in the midst of mystery. **Come and See.**

To learn more visit www.SCNJ.org

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mtracey@scnj.org * shoffman@scnj.org