



New DIMENSIONS

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A Publication of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth



A Historic Gathering

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 12 dioceses within the United States and El Salvador and Haiti. The Congregation currently numbers 164 vowed members. The Seton Associate relationship has 300 affiliated lay and religious women and men.

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Welcome

Dear Friends,

We certainly know it's summer! I just read that here in New Jersey we have experienced the hottest July on record! I trust that these summer months will hold some wonderful time for rest and relaxation with family and friends.



This issue of **NEW Dimensions** holds some wonderful stories about a variety of topics. In this issue you will read about the challenges that Haiti continues to face and about Sarah who had been part of our ministry in Haiti and her journey to resettle here in New Jersey. She has been a wonderful gift to us since she arrived.

We held a Joint General Assembly in April with the Sisters of Charity of New York. This was a unique experience and very positive in every way. In our joint sessions we determined that we would work collaboratively together on four issues: Immigration, Persons who are without an Address (persons experiencing homelessness), Climate Change, and the Charism of Charity. We also agreed to explore the feasibility of creating a structure that would enable our Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation ministries to continue into the future. There is a lot of work ahead of us but there is also an enthusiasm and desire to do the work both by our Sisters and our Associates. The planning for this began with the two Leadership Teams in July.

At the Assembly we elected the Leadership for the Congregation for the coming four years: Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, was elected general superior. Also elected were Cecilia McManus, SC, assistant general superior and councilor, and Maryanne Campeotto, SC, and Ellen Farrell, SC, councilors. Maryanne Campeotto, SC, also serves as the general secretary and Ellen Farrell, SC, is general treasurer. Their term began on July 1 and ends on June 30, 2027. Please keep us in your prayers.

Our two Spring fundraisers were successful and we share some highlights from both the Spring Lake Luncheon and the Golf Tournament.

We highlight in this issue our Physical Plant staff. We would not function without the competent and generous work of these great people. This campus is a complex one and each day there are challenges that our Physical Plant staff needs to face. They do it competently and graciously. As you may remember, we share the campus with Saint Elizabeth University and the Academy of Saint Elizabeth in addition to several residences for our Sisters and our Congregational Offices.

In December, we will be celebrating the 2023 Jubilarians at a Liturgy and Luncheon. As you view their photos, I ask you to think of the number of years of service to the Church and to the families and the communities in which they ministered as educators, health care professionals, social workers, or pastoral ministers. We are blessed.

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

On the Cover:

Sister Cecilia McManus, SCNJ, during a blessing ritual; Sister Eileen McGrory, SCNY, and Sister Noreen Holly, SCNJ; Sister Frances Demarest, SCNJ, enjoying the performance of the 'Jersey Tenors'; Opening prayer service honoring our founders; (center photo) Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth 2023-2027 Leadership Team - (from left) Sister Maryanne Campeotto, SC, Sister Cecilia McManus, SC, Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, and Sister Ellen Farrell, SC.



President of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York, Sister Donna Dodge, SC, and General Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC.

A HISTORIC GATHERING

by Donna Sartor-Halatin

More than 80 Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, joined by Seton Associates, participated in the Joint General Assembly held at the Madison Hotel in Convent Station from April 10-15. This was a historic gathering with the New York Sisters of Charity for a Joint Assembly. The Assembly was officially opened by Sister Donna Dodge, SC, president of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York, and Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, general superior of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth.

Sister Donna noted that this was the first time with the SC Federation that two separate Congregations have held a shared Assembly. The idea was sparked when the two leadership teams realized that they would both be planning for an Assembly in 2023.

Sister Maureen explained the theme of the Assembly, Together in Charity – Meeting our Graced Future, noting that the essential question is: “What can we do better together than we can do alone?”

The days were full with prayer services, liturgies, and open space sessions in which attendees discussed topics of importance that had been chosen ahead of time by the members

of both Congregations. In addition to collaborative sessions, there were times when each community met alone to consider matters specific to them. There was also plenty of social time and entertainment. One evening began with Karaoke and ended with a dance party. Another evening the “Jersey Tenors” delighted the audience with their songs, stories, humor, and interaction with the crowd. They are a must see!

On the Friday before the closing of the Assembly, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Leadership Team for 2023-2027 was elected. Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, was elected general superior. Also elected were Sister Cecilia McManus, SC, assistant general superior and councilor, and Sister Maryanne Campeotto, SC, and Sister Ellen Farrell, SC, councilors. Sister Maryanne Campeotto, SC, also serves as general secretary and Sister Ellen Farrell, SC, general treasurer.

The elections were also held for the new Leadership Team for the Sisters of Charity of New York. The Assembly also approved a number of proposals for joint collaboration and action by the two Congregations (see page 4). Everyone left the Assembly energized to meet our graced future with enthusiasm and hope.



On Saturday, April 15th, the last day of the joint Assembly of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and the Sisters of Charity of New York, the 115 voting delegates overwhelmingly passed the following proposals.

Proposal for Acts of Assembly 2023 Pertaining to a Collaborative Venture in Justice and Peace

In the spirit of this collaborative Assembly 2023, wherein we are discerning mutual matters of great importance for the Sisters of Charity of New York and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, we recommend that a committee comprised of representatives from both Congregations be convened to explore the feasibility of establishing and funding a collaborative structure that will support our works for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. This committee would be tasked with developing its mission, purpose, and scope in an effort to establish a long-term legacy for our shared charism and its joint expression moving into the future.

Charism

Together in Charity, meeting our graced future, we commit to continuing our legacy of Charity by forming a group of Sisters and Associates from each Congregation to create and/or share ongoing formation programs and resources for social media and various communication modes to foster a deeper understanding of the charism of Charity for members, partners in mission and the wider public in order to foster our mission.

Climate Change

Together in Charity, meeting our graced future, we commit to continuing our legacy of Charity by living into the vision of *Laudato Si'*. We ask both our Congregations, Sisters and Associates, and invite others to reduce our carbon footprint with a focus on our food print.

Homelessness

Together in Charity, meeting our graced future, we commit to continuing our legacy of Charity by creating a joint task force to continue sharing best practices and to explore other collaborative strategies to advocate for and minister to persons without an address.

Immigration

Together in Charity, meeting our graced future, we commit to continuing our legacy of Charity by forming a core committee on immigration, with representatives from New York, New Jersey, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and other areas where we minister, to expand our understanding of immigration and to challenge ourselves to increase advocacy on systemic and direct service levels.

Having passed all five proposals the members of the joint Assembly were asked to read together with one voice: *Together in Charity, meeting our graced future, we commit to continuing our legacy of Charity!*



Sister Mary Morley, SCNJ, and Sister Carol De Angelo, SCNY, present the proposal from the Climate Change Group.

Fr. Terrence J. Moran

Director, Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity

At our historic joint Assembly, the Sisters of Charity of New York and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth pledged to continue and expand our commitment to peace, justice, and the integrity of creation.

The very name "Charity" is synonymous with direct, hands-on service to those in need. The history of both Congregations is full of stories of educating immigrants, nursing the sick, and providing social services of many kinds. After the Second Vatican Council the focus began to shift. We responded to the call of the 1971 Synod of Bishops, "Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation."

The Assembly delegates, after research, discussion and prayer, voted that "a committee comprised of representatives from both Congregations be convened to explore the feasibility of establishing and funding a collaborative structure that will support our works for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation." While the details of this collaboration continue to unfold, both Congregations are resolved to join their corporate energies and voices in more effective ways for action on behalf of justice.

The Assembly put special focus on two crucial justice issues of our time, both of which have been highlighted again and again in the teaching and example of Pope Francis – immigration and climate change. One new focus is the involvement of both Congregations in the Root Causes Initiative of Faith in Action International. Both Congregations have a presence in Central America: The Sisters of Charity of New York in Guatemala and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in El Salvador. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth have a presence in Haiti as well. In addition to our ongoing tradition of serving the needs of new immigrants to the United States, with

the Root Causes Initiative we are investigating the reasons people migrate in the first place and how United States economic and political policies are often the reason for this dislocation of peoples from their homes.

The Assembly delegates unanimously voted, "Together in Charity, meeting our graced future, we commit to continuing our legacy of Charity by living into the vision of Laudato Si'. We ask both our Congregations, Sisters and Associates, and invite others to reduce our carbon footprint with a focus on our food print."

Fr. Terrence Moran (New Jersey) and Sister Carol De Angelo, SC (New York) have planned a series of ZOOM webinars for the Fall that will focus on various aspects of food justice. One of the most important ways in which humans interact with the rest of Earth is by what we put on our plates every day.

Both Congregations renewed their focus on people experiencing homelessness: "Together in Charity, meeting our graced future, we commit to continuing our legacy of Charity by creating a joint task force to continue sharing best practices and to explore other collaborative strategies to advocate for and minister to persons without an address."

After all the final voting on the Assembly proposals, the sisters affirmed them all in the words, "Together in Charity, meeting our graced future, we commit to continuing our legacy of Charity!"

Sometimes prognostications on the future of religious life can look bleak, focusing on diminishing numbers, limited resources, and rising median ages. Our joint Assembly chose to focus on the hope filled words of St. Elizabeth Anne Seton who reminds us that we meet a future that is as graced as our past. With confidence in the Spirit of Charity who beckons us on, we commit ourselves to participation in the transformation of the world.



Denise Ericksson, Kevin Bremer, Luis Cetina and (seated) Paul Guida

The Physical Plant Office

by Donna Sartor-Halatin

The Physical Plant is the hub for meeting with all trades to discuss various new and on-going projects on campus. The Plant team includes Paul Guida, director; Kevin Bremer, assistant director; Denise Ericksson, office manager/administrative assistant; Luis Cetina, grounds supervisor; Luis Santos, painter; Joe Isgro, carpenter, and Ralph Petrock, mail/shipping and receiving. Outsourced positions also fall under the management of the Physical Plant, such as housekeeping and plumbing.

The Sisters of Charity, Saint Elizabeth University, and the Academy of Saint Elizabeth are all supported by the Physical Plant staff. This support includes utility operations, like water, gas, electricity, and sewer. The Plant complies with the local, state, and federal guidelines when it involves safe drinking water, asbestos abatement, soil conservation and environmental regulations. In addition, the department takes an active role in the improvement of the campus concerning roadways, landscaping, and construction projects. It is almost like running a small city seven days a week, 24 hours a day!

Director Paul Guida has been a Sisters of Charity employee for the past 33 years. He oversees all the above-mentioned entities of the department. Mostly every day presents a situation that requires an immediate response. Paul admits that he finds that

a challenge, but at the same time, it is the most satisfying part of his job. Presently, Paul is overseeing the newest campus project, the construction of a security booth at the main entrance to the campus. This state-of-the-art facility allows for a constant security presence and has a new fresh look for those entering the campus. Recently, Paul and his wife celebrated their 43rd anniversary with their three children and beautiful granddaughter. Paul loves to freshwater fish, play the guitar and travel.

Kevin Bremer will be celebrating his 24th anniversary with the Sisters of Charity in September. Kevin is responsible for the safety and security of those who reside on campus. He coordinates all approved work requests and follows through with the projects in a timely manner and offers his experience and expertise when brainstorming with departments on how to achieve their goals. Kevin sees his biggest challenge when trying to address everyone's needs and concerns with the limited size of the staff. That is where patience and organization is required on everyone's part. On the flip side, his greatest satisfaction is knowing that what they do in the Physical Plant truly affects the Sisters in a direct and positive way and makes their daily lives better. Kevin's wife of 29 years, his two daughters, and his pup Layla love to spend time together. When he is not at the Knights of Columbus, the Ramapo Valley Council, or volunteering for the Board of Oakland, you can find him whipping



Grounds crew planting a tree on Earth Day.



From left - Luis Santos, Ralph Petrock and Joe Isgro

up a culinary delight to share with family and friends.

Luis Cetina has been an employee of the Sisters of Charity for 34 years. His top responsibilities include preparing for the burials of our Sisters, removing snow, and maintaining the grounds on the entire campus. Luis is most proud of keeping the grounds clean and safe. He works with a crew that does an amazing job keeping the grounds pristine, but he says he could always use a few more members to help. Luis is always available to offer his services to anyone who requests his assistance. Outside of work, he shares his life with his wife, Carina, his three children, and his two grandchildren. When he has some spare time, he loves to fish, camp and grill.

Denise Ericksson began her career in the Physical Plant as a receptionist. A typical day for Denise includes day-to-day-operations of the office, dealing with DEP/EPA regarding water, wastewater, and air quality regulations for the campus, and purchasing the necessary items needed for several employees. Denise enjoys the daily challenges that keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes, like heat, water, house service, grounds, electric issues, all the components that fall under the responsibility of the Physical Plant. She commented that even with the loss of many Sisters, she is in awe of the resiliency of our Sisters always moving forward in their mission. She enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, Kevin, and caring for her 94-year-old mother. Denise is a Viking re-enactor at the annual NY Renaissance Festival, a die-hard NY Mets fan, a crafter, a reader, and a gardener.

The Physical Plant staff all agree that they keep the Mission alive in their daily routines by providing help to those who need it, always responding with a positive attitude, and resolving issues with amicable solutions. Their commitment to the environment is demonstrated on campus in numerous ways.



Uliana Leshchuk and Sister Anita Thompson, SC



Sister Carol Williams, SC, and Sarah fill the goodie bags with Easter items and school supplies

SO MUCH FABRIC, SO LITTLE TIME

The most recent project that was completed by Sister Patricia Reynolds, SC, and her quilting volunteers were the beautiful quilts and quilted bags filled with goodies for children that were sent to the Ukraine. With the help of volunteers at the American/Ukraine Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany, the items arrived safely and were distributed to families in the Ukraine. Uliana Leshchuk, a recent Academy of Saint Elizabeth graduate, and her family helped to make the connection with the Center.

Sister Pat is so grateful for all the volunteers who give their time and talents to assist with these projects, whether it be sewing, ironing, distributing, or whatever needs to be done.



Sheila Casey



Nancy M. DiLiegro



Beth Azar

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Welcomes New Leaders for Three of our Sponsored Ministries

by John DiMucci, Director of Sponsorship and Mission Services

Josephine's Place welcomed Sheila Casey as executive director in March. Continuing the vision of Sister Judy Mertz, SC and predecessor Gail Driscoll, Sheila will lead Josephine's Place as we enter the 21st year of mission, to empower women by offering classes, workshops and programs that enable them to grow in confidence, develop competencies and life skills, realize their potential, and uplift their families, communities, and future generations. Sheila knows the City of Elizabeth community and joins Josephine's Place after having served as agency administrator for the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless.

Also in March Nancy M. DiLiegro, Ph.D., was named president and chief executive officer of Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth and succeeds Gary Horan, who served more than 21 years as the hospital's leader. Nancy joined Trinitas in April 2002 and has served in several positions, most recently as the hospital's chief clinical officer, vice president of Clinical Operations and Physician Services. We are happy that she

will continue to lead the Trinitas community in the mission of providing quality health care to the people of Elizabeth and the surrounding area.

On July 1, Dr. Elizabeth G. Azar joined the Academy of Saint Elizabeth community as its 13th principal. Dr. Azar succeeds Mrs. Lynn Burek, after eight outstanding years at the Academy. Beth is no stranger to the mission of the Sisters of Charity, growing up with two great-aunts who were Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. Beth received her Ph.D. from Saint Elizabeth University – a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Beth comes to the Academy with 25 years of educational experience, 15 of which were as Principal. at Wildwood School in Mountain Lakes, N.J.

The Sisters of Charity are happy that these three talented leaders will continue the Mission of Charity in these sponsored ministries.

Some of Our Most Liked #TBT Posts

We are grateful to Sister Noreen Neary, SC, Archivist, who creates these posts for every #TBT (Throw Back Thursday) to share on our Facebook and Instagram pages.



In 1990 the inevitable post-Christmas slump was alleviated for the students at Saint John School in Orange, NJ when nearby Saint Mary's Ambulatory Care Center invited them to participate in "Ottis Anderson Day" on January 17th. Jay-Paul H, Frank P. and Oriento B. presented a picture drawn by one of the Saint John's teachers to Ottis, then a running back with the New York Giants.

As we approach Teacher Appreciation Week (May 8-12) we recognize Sister Marie Charitina Frabizio, SC, who spent her life as a teacher and administrator in Catholic elementary schools in New Jersey. Her last mission as an educator was at Saint Anthony School in Elizabeth, where she served as its principal. In 2008 Sister Charitina was honored by the Delbarton School with the Distinguished Educator Award. In accepting the award Sister Charitina noted that Catholic educators have a challenging task, as it is "a struggle for young people to grow up in today's world, and for us to guide them." We congratulate and thank all those women and men who share in the ministry of Jesus, the Teacher.



Following their expulsion from China in April/May 1951 the nine Sisters of Charity who held Irish or American passports sailed to San Francisco and then traveled by train to Grand Central Station in NYC where they were met by several hundred Sisters, family members and friends. On board the S.S. President Wilson Sister M. Carita Pendergast, SC, won the shuffleboard tournament and is shown accepting the winner's trophy from the ship's captain.

For some time Mother Xavier had looked into the possibility of a summer home at the Jersey Shore for our Sisters. It wasn't until June 1920, five years after her death, that her hope was realized. Stella Maris, formerly the Tremont Hotel in Sea Girt, was purchased as a vacation home for the Sisters who wished to enjoy salt-water bathing. However, it was sold in 1927, as Sea Girt was judged "too public a summer settlement for Religious women." The "Regulations for Stella Maris" issued by Mother M. Alexandrine included Immediately after bathing, the Sisters will return to Stella Maris, not delaying on the beach in their bathing suits...The Sisters must not converse on the beach with seculars...The use of cameras at Sea Girt is absolutely forbidden. Not surprisingly we have no photographs of the Sisters enjoying this vacation spot.



In 1939 the Sisters of Charity opened Saint Joseph School in Pensacola, FL, the site of a large naval air station. In February 1942 the Pensacola sisters wrote home to Convent: "Here in Pensacola, war and the rumor of war is everywhere in evidence. Daily, we have our inside air raid drills, which at best are only mere form. For, if an actual raid should come, only God could protect us. But each day we use the most powerful weapon of all, Prayer ... From time to time we see boys from up north. How young and brave they look! May God protect them." A few months later, the sisters were doing their part in the war program, tending their victory garden outside the convent.

2023 JUBILEE

Congratulations to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth who have celebrated milestones in their religious life. 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, 1000 North Main Street, Saint Elizabeth, PA 15780. If you would like to make a donation in their honor, contact the Development Office at (724) 385-2200.

85 YEARS

80 YEARS

75 YEARS



Sister Emily Marie Walsh, SC



Sister Jean Marie Stabile, SC



Sister Dorothy Vespia, SC



Sister Eleanor Kliminski, SC



Sister John Mary Tierney, SC



Sister Mary Bernadette Murphy, SC



Sister Miriam Anne Evanoff, SC



Sister Rosemary Beaumont, SC

65 YEARS



Sister Angela Marie Colaneri, SC



Sister Catherine Drury, SC



Sister Eileen M. Clifford, SC



Sister Ellen Farrell, SC



Sister Helen Moores, SC



Sister Jane Frances Brady, SC



Sister Lorena Reilly, SC



Sister Mary Scranon, SC

60 YEARS

55 YEARS



Sister Kathleen Quigley, SC



Sister Margaret Tierney, SC



Sister Mary Pauline Hogan, SC



Sister Maureen Sullivan, SC



Sister Roberta Marguerite Feil, SC



Sister Constance Tanski, SC



Sister Elena Colicelli, SC



Sister Rosemary Clemons, SC

ILARIANS

We celebrate these 45 faithful women for continuing the mission of Christ in the world for 2,830 cumulative years.
 of Saint Elizabeth, Communications Office, P.O. Box 476, Convent Station, NJ 07961-0476 or e-mail it to escharity@scnj.org.
 ment Office at srcharity@scnj.org or **973-290-5454** or visit **SCNJ.org**.

70 YEARS



Sister Patricia
Mont, SC



Sister Patricia
Mayer, SC



Sister Jean
Ruppel, SC



Sister Margaret
Nulty, SC



Sister Maria
Christina
Hartman, SC



Sister Mary Elizabeth
Davies, SC



Sister Mary Jane
Timmermans, SC



Sister Maureen
Dunne, SC

60 YEARS



Sister Marion
on, SC



Sister Mary
Fallon, SC



Sister Patricia
Butler, SC



Sister Regis
Keane, SC



Sister Alice
Neef, SC



Sister Anita
Constance, SC



Sister Frances
Demarest, SC



Sister Johanna
Quinto, SC

50 YEARS



Sister Kathryn
Lentz, SC



Sister Patricia
Dotzauer, SC



Sister Teresa A.
Bruno, SC



Sister Ellen
Dauwer, SC



Sister Noreen
Neary, SC



Sister Patricia
Codey, SC



Sister Michelle
Lukenda, SC



Sister Elise
Gittrich, SC

45 YEARS

40 YEARS

25 YEARS



From left Dawn Colapietro, Raoul, Sister Dianne Moore, SC, and Nadia

Update on our Haiti Ministry

by Dawn Colapietro, Seton Associate

Sister Dianne Moore and I have ministered in Haiti together for the last 12 years, living most of them within 20 miles of the capital of Port-au-Prince. During those years, we developed nine different programs: small loans for women to start their own business, “pay it forward” goat project, water purification, agronomy and land cultivation, road and home repairs following hurricanes and earthquakes, free medical clinic, food distribution, grammar school, and emergency assistance and support to the deaf community. Most of those programs were duplicated in five areas around the capital. Now, that gangs are in control of 80% of the capital, we have been forced to close many of them.

Not just by our account, but by any Haitian you talk to, the country now is nearly unrecognizable. Most will say it is not the same country they remember from their childhood or the same country in which their parents and grandparents grew up. In fact, this is one of most tragic times in Haiti’s history.

Though a country historically plagued with many challenges, the current ones seem almost insurmountable. There is not one elected official, either on a state or federal level, since country-wide elections were cancelled three years ago, and the president was

assassinated in 2021. As a result, no one is running Haiti. It is in chaos. Fraught with corruption on every level including the judicial system, there is no fair or real justice anywhere in the country. The economy is in tatters. What little foreign investment there was is long gone. The majority of NGOs, which kept the economy creaking along, have pulled out, with the Sisters of Charity being one of the few remaining that have ongoing programs. Double-digit inflation, along with shortages of food, clean water, and gasoline, have resulted in skyrocketing commodity prices that only a very small percentage of the population can afford. Today, nearly five million people, or half of the population, are experiencing food scarcity; parts of the country are on the verge of famine.

The only thing that is flourishing in Haiti is violence. In the absence of a functional government and economy, gangs are now running most of the country. They are in control of the roads, ports, politicians, police, and military. At will, they force schools, hospitals, and businesses to close, charging exorbitant “fees” for them to remain open. Incidences of kidnapping and extortion have risen to epidemic proportions.

It is no longer safe for people to leave their homes for any reason,

whether it is to shop in the market, see a doctor, go to work, or even attend church services. As a local pastor said, "You take a coffin with you when you leave your house." In an NBC report on June 1, "Haiti Faces Gang Violence, Growing Humanitarian Crisis," it was noted that, in the first four months of 2023, more civilians were killed in Haiti than in the Ukraine. In our own ministry, we have had one teacher shot and a student killed in crossfires between two warring gangs. Our last two school principals and our medical director have been kidnapped. Two of them were released. One escaped after being captured. He was told there was a kill order out on him. He will never be able to return home.



Sarah arriving in the U.S.

For reasons like these, President Biden released a new immigration program in January for Haitians seeking asylum in the United States. With hope dimming of any possible future for Haiti and its people, and with all peace accords failing to bring stability in the country, Patti Desmond and I, as Seton Associates, along with the financial support of friends, families, donors, other Seton Associates, and grantors like the Sisters of Charity and the Felician Sisters, are sponsoring 10 individuals to come to this country. All these folks are members of the Sisters of Charity team on the ground in Haiti; five have been kidnapped in the past year while two of them now live in safe houses in undisclosed locations.

Sarah, who lived with Sister Dianne and Dawn in Haiti, was the first to arrive in the U.S. She has her degree in law and certificates in journalism and politics. Sarah coordinated the ministry's women's programs. In the short period of time she has been in the U.S., she has secured a job, enrolled in ESL classes, and will begin taking CNA classes in the fall. Her goal is to eventually go to nursing school and become a traveling nurse serving in different parts of the world needing medical care.

We are awaiting "not so" patiently for the other nine sponsees to arrive in the U.S. The Haiti Refugee Resettlement Program is the newest part of the Sisters of Charity Haiti Ministry and is being coordinated by Patti and me. Through all of our collective efforts, we are truly saving lives and giving young, talented individuals and their children the kind of future they deserve.

Good News & AWARDS



Congratulations Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC, (on left) who was honored at the 6th Gala for The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless on May 24, 2023. She received the "Founders Award for a Lifetime of Service."



Congratulations to Sister Maryanne Campeotto, SC, who will be honored by the East Orange Catholic High School Alumnae Association and presented with the 2023 Eoch Sister Eileen Bradshaw Caritas Award at the Alumnae Association's 23rd All-Class reunion on October 1, 2023. Sister Maryanne graduated from Eoch in 1970.



Congratulations, Sister Elise Gittrich, SC, who was recently elected to the Opportunity Center Board of Directors. Sister Elise has been ministering full-time as the Elderly Homeless Program Coordinator at the Opportunity Center for the Homeless in El Paso, TX.



Sister Anita William O'Neill, SC, has a great-grandniece, Gianna, who graduated recently from Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Chestnut Hill, PA. This happens to be the same school that Sister Anita graduated from in 1943.

When the school's president, Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, discovered this news, she immediately invited Sister Anita to be an honored guest at the graduation ceremony. During the ceremony, Sister Charlene introduced Sister Anita as the Distinguished Graduate of the Class of 1943. She was presented with a medallion of the school's crest and a bouquet of flowers in the school colors. As she did 80 years ago, Sister Anita walked with the Class of 2023 in the procession at the end of the ceremony.



The Charism of Charity Meets the Future: **CHALLENGES AND HOPES**

by Sister Mary Canavan, SC

In 1859, when Mother Xavier crossed the Hudson River from New York, she brought with her these words, "The principal end which God has called and assembled the Sisters of Charity is to honor Jesus Christ, Our Lord, the source and model of all charity by rendering Him every temporal and spiritual service in their power in the persons of the poor, either sick, prisoners, insane or those who through shame would conceal their necessities." For nearly 164 years, we have lived out these words in ever widening circles of ministry from New York to Newark to Convent Station to greater New Jersey and beyond. In every decade we have observed

and served the contemporary needs of God's people. With each successive chapter, we have broadened our vision to include a multiplicity of diverse challenges from personal to planetary. Today we are addressing the evil of racism in our personal lives and in national systems and the threat of climate change on a global level.

In my long years as a Sister of Charity, I have felt the Holy Spirit alive among us, constantly guiding us to move the Mission forward and outward to meet our grace in the changing times. I have no reason to think the future will be different.

We often see the action of the Holy Spirit better through a rear-view mirror revealing pivotal moments in our past that led us in new directions, to new beginnings. For instance, when Vatican II called us to adapt to a changing world through renewal of religious life, the Holy Spirit inspired and energized us to engage in more diverse ministries, to embrace a more contemplative spirit, to develop more world-inclusive prayer, and to become more responsive to our call to be present, to be a leaven, in a world sorely longing for peace, justice and equality. Do you hear an echo here? Do you hear the response of Saint Vincent de Paul to the question, "What more needs to be done?" and he answered simply, "More."

I lived in the former Northern Provincial House in Jersey City. The steep, stone steps leading to the front door were somewhat symbolic of the challenges presented to us today and into the future. Each day the steps seemed to get steeper and more difficult to climb — but climb them we did, step-by-step, holding on tightly to the guard rails for safety and support. So too, as we move into the future, we take each step, holding on tightly to the guard rails of our history and traditions, grounded in the Gospel and in our charism of charity, in tandem with our companions on the journey. We women, well-seasoned in religious life, also go down those steps to engage with the world and to serve its needs — a far more risky venture.

What the future holds is unknown to us. As we become fewer in number, I trust our founding principles will continue to guide, sustain and energize us to find new ways to promote boundless Charity with persons who are poor, sick, marginalized or otherwise needy in our increasingly complex cosmos. Intentional efforts at collaboration with our Seton Associates, other religious congregations, the Vincentian Federation and lay people like the NONES will likely produce partners in mission to address the spiritual, physical and social needs as they emerge. These other committed groups or individuals can learn a lot from us and we can learn a lot from them. Together we can accomplish much more for our world. Now, we get up each morning to be about life — to meet our grace in serving the needs of those we meet, to provide healing skills and to speak words of comfort to those who suffer, to educate and pursue remedies for unjust situations, to companion one another on our spiritual journey and to work towards a more just and inclusive Church.

Why will we get up in the future? I believe that we, as many or few as we will be, will find the energy and the will to face each day with faith in God present and active among us, with hope fueled by our history and tradition to be about expanding the work of boundless Charity in whatever ways required by the needs of the time.

In our revised Constitutions, in 2003, we said, "We review our history with gratitude and with renewed insight into our identity and purpose. We look forward to a future filled with gifts and challenges from the Spirit who calls us to an ever closer identification with Christ and His mission." (C9)



Sister Mary Canavan, SC

As we look up at the star-laden sky tonight, we'll see the "man in the moon." In the decades to come we're likely to see the "nuns on the moon" as we Sisters of Charity follow the footprints of the space travelers there to "honor Jesus Christ, our Lord, the source and model of all charity, by rendering Him every temporal and spiritual service in their power in the persons of the poor, either sick, prisoners, insane or those who through shame would conceal their necessities."

Ours is a timeless story rooted in the rich heritage of the past, lived fully in the NOW moment and planning for an unknown future in the company of God and one another. Indeed, the joy is in the journey.



From left - Sr. Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC-Vinh; Sr. Mary Duong Tran, MQP; Sr. Stehen Phiri, OSB; Sr. Maureen Corcoran, SC; Sr. Theresa Le Nguyen LHC-Vinh; Sr. Marivone Buse Kang, SST; Sr. Violerte Lemla, SST.

REFLECTIONS ON A VISIT TO THE CRYPT OF BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA

by Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC, Vice Postulator

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, president of Assumption College for Sisters, has faithfully introduced the international sister-students to Blessed Miriam Teresa. The most recent visitors each describe what the visit to our Motherhouse Chapel, the crypt, and Legacy Room meant to them.

Sister Stehen Phiri, OSB - Blessed Miriam lived a brief religious life. She completed the work of God in an abbreviated time. Her life was a sacrifice and she surrendered herself completely to God. I think about the cross she was bearing. Her short life for me is a mystery; after her death the truth came out. She was a woman of silent prayer. Blessed Miriam Teresa pray for us!

Sister Theresa Le Nguyen, LHC - Life and virtues of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich have given me a valuable example to follow Jesus Christ. Although she was of the Ruthenian Church, she chose to be a Sister of Charity in the Roman Catholic Church. She impressed me with her love for Jesus, especially by prostrating herself when she prayed. She taught me that no matter what you do, the most important thing is to engage in an authentic relationship with God. It is true love, and she displayed it throughout her life. She has been beatified by the Catholic Church: "Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich".

Sister Marivone Buse Kang, SST - Blessed Miriam Teresa was an American religious sister born on March 26, 1901. She entered the religious life of the Sisters of Charity in 1925. She became a

teacher, but her life was cut short when she died at the age of 26 in 1927. Despite her short life, Miriam Teresa left behind a legacy of spiritual writings, including a series of spiritual conferences that were later published. In these writings she emphasized the importance of prayer and spiritual growth as a means of achieving greater union with God. She was beatified in 2014.

Sister Violerte Lemla, SST - I was impressed by the life of Blessed Miriam Teresa, that is her holiness, despite the fact that her life here on earth was short-lived. She lived it to the fullest. One of the things that was quite impressive to me was that she painted violet flowers for her friend and these flowers represent the "Blessed Trinity" which was her lifelong devotion. This has helped me to reflect more on the work of the Blessed Trinity in my life as a religious woman, especially since I bear the name of the flower Blessed Miriam Teresa painted. I felt so happy when I learned about this.

Sister Mary Duong Tran, MQP - I remember Blessed Miriam Teresa. I had read her biography. Teresa's life was filled with much work and suffering of both body and soul. She made many friends all over the world. This was very interesting. I am grateful that I was able to visit her shrine in the chapel that has such a sacred value.

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC-Vinh - I now have a better understanding of Blessed Miriam Teresa. I love how she lived as she set a beautiful example.

GOLF OUTING 2023

What a difference a day makes!

After a rainout on our initial date of May 1, June 19 was a perfect day for golf. One hundred golfers enjoyed camaraderie on the links and superb food on the beautiful patio at Cedar Hill Golf & Country Club. Skill prizes were awarded for golfing excellence (as well as for "most honest" scorekeeping!) Guests outbid one another in the silent and live auctions to take home a great gift item or sports or entertainment package, all while helping the Sisters and the mission of charity.

Thanks to everyone who made our 15th Annual Golf Outing a day to remember!



Spring Lake LUNCHEON

On May 24, an enthusiastic sellout crowd of friends and supporters enjoyed a delightful luncheon at the Spring Lake Golf Club. This year's guest speaker was New York Times bestselling author J. Courtney Sullivan. Courtney captivated the audience with her talk, "Faith, Family and Fiction." Guests could readily relate to her observations on family and the ordinary or sometimes quirky experiences that found their way into her writing.

Great gift baskets and prizes added to the festivities. Thanks to all who donated gift items and all who came out to celebrate a perfect afternoon with the Sisters of Charity!



Sister Joan Repka, SC, reunites with her former student.

Courtney shares a moment with Sister Anita William O'Neill, SC.



Edward Casey helps Sister students improve their writing and grammar skills

Zeal to Serve Continues at the Motherhouse

by **Maryellen Whritenour, Sisters of Charity
Administrative Services**

On July 17, 2023, three service projects took place simultaneously in the Motherhouse. Volunteers from the youngest to some of the more experienced helped to make blankets, cloth bags for food distribution, and sandwiches. Additionally, another group sought to advance their language skills as they met with a tutor of English as a Second Language.

Junior high students attending Fiat Adventures at the Church of Christ the King in New Vernon, New Jersey joined Shannon Hoffman and Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC, to learn about how God calls you to serve Him in the world through Vocations. These young people then made fleece blankets for people experiencing homelessness as well as cloth bags for food distribution. These items will be given to the Father English Community Center in Paterson. The group also visited Holy Family Chapel and Blessed Miriam Teresa Shrine. They completed their visit with lunch with the Sisters in the dining room.

Sisters met in the dining room to make sandwiches. The sandwiches made, which total over 100 each month, are donated to organizations helping those with food insecurity. This month the sandwiches will feed the people served by Operation Chill Out, an organization geared towards helping United States veterans.

In a separate room, Student Sisters who are visiting the Sisters of Charity for the summer met with volunteer Edward Casey to improve their English writing and grammar skills.

These projects are an example of the Vincentian quote from Saint Vincent de Paul: "Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another."



Sisters making sandwiches at the Motherhouse



Student making a fleece blanket that will be distributed to people experiencing homelessness



Students making cloth bags for food distribution

IN MEMORIAM

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



Sister Audrey R. Moloughney, SC
(Sister Maria Madonna)
11/21/2022



Sister Irma Marie Kessler, SC
11/24/2022



Sister Joan Eileen Butler, SC
12/10/2022



Sister Maria Magdalena Studer, SC
12/17/2022



Sister Maureen Joseph Kirwan, SC
12/6/2023



Sister Claire Donnelly, SC
(Sister Claire Marita)
2/19/2023



Sister Kathleen Koerner, SC
(Sister Leo Joseph)
4/21/2023



Sister Barbara Brown, SC
(Sister Michael Rose)
5/3/2023



Sister Rosemarie Di Censo, SC
(Sister Robert Diane)
6/2/2023



Sister Anne Cunningham, SC
(Sister Anne Kevin)
6/3/2023

SETON ASSOCIATES

2021
Mary G. Clark
Maria Bruguetas

2022
Annice Reape
Sarah Brady

2023: Patricia Rosenbaum - 1/2023 | Doris Kempton - 4/2023
Joseph Arminio - 3/2023 | Peggy Smith - 5/2023 | Patricia O' Brien - 6/2023
Lisa Guerrieri - 6/2023 | Diane Nibile Osnato - 7/2023

WHAT ARE SOME SMART WAYS TO GIVE TO THE SISTERS OF CHARITY?

Have you considered a Donor-Advised Fund?

A donor-advised fund, or DAF, is a kind of charitable giving account. The donor deposits cash, stock, or other assets into the account and can claim an immediate tax deduction in the year that the assets were put into the DAF. The assets in the account are then invested and grow tax-free until funds are disbursed as directed to charity. Choosing to support charities through a DAF potentially reduces both capital gains taxes and estate taxes. Some donors direct disbursements from their DAFs to the Sisters of Charity every month and others make contributions from their DAFs at selected times.

Are you age 70 ½ or above? Have you considered using your IRA to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

As you plan your required minimum distributions from your IRA, consider making a gift to the Sisters of Charity directly from your IRA. The gift will count toward your required minimum distribution for the year in which you make the gift. You may give up to \$100,000 per year in distributions to charities without having to count the distributions as income for federal tax purposes. In other words, you get to offer your support to the Sisters of Charity and receive a great tax benefit in return.

Talk to your financial advisor about these options and other smart ways to give to the Sisters of Charity!

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH
P.O. Box 476
Convent Station, N.J. 07961-0476

www.SCNJ.org



SistersofCharityofSaintElizabeth



sisters_of_charity

Upcoming EVENTS

For all upcoming events
please contact:

The Sisters of Charity of
Saint Elizabeth Development Office
P.O. Box 476, Convent Station, N.J. 07961-0476
973-290-5454/5409 • srcharity@scnj.org

www.SCNJ.org



Fall 50/50
Drawing
Tuesday
November 21, 2023



Christmas
Concert
Saturday,
December 16, 2023

Holy Family Chapel,
Convent Station, NJ
Featuring Father Alphonse
Stevenson Conducting the
Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea

SAVE THE DATE

October 19, 2023

*Sisters of Charity
of Saint Elizabeth
Harvest Festival*

Please join us for an evening
of dining and celebration
as we honor

*Mary P. Leahy, MD, CEO
and
Stephen J. Priola*

The Park Avenue Club
Florham Park, New Jersey

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