

New DIMENSIONS

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A Publication of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth



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 8 dioceses within the United States and El Salvador and Haiti. The Congregation currently numbers 131 vowed members. The Seton Associate relationship has 300 affiliated lay and religious women and men.

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Welcome

Dear Friends,

As I prepared for this issue of **NEW Dimensions**, the thought that came to my mind was "what a year this has been!" We opened our Anniversary Year with Congregation Day in September 2024 that ended with a Liturgy celebrated by Bishop Kevin Sweeney, Bishop of Paterson.



It has been a year of recalling a rich legacy that began with Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley and Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan, SC, establishing the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in Newark on Sept. 29, 1859. We celebrated the closing of our 165th Anniversary Year at Congregation Day on Sept. 27. It was a festive celebration for our Sisters, ending with a Liturgy celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C. Ss. R., Archbishop of Newark. Our Seton Associates, members of our Congregational staff and our Partners in Ministry were invited to that liturgy and to a reception afterwards. On Oct. 18, we hosted a Gala at the Hanover Marriott on Route 10 in Whippany, N.J. We have been so blessed.

This is also a Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church worldwide. Pope Francis announced that the theme of this year would be "Pilgrims of Hope" and he opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's on Dec. 24, 2024. The theme of Hope has been a consistent one for us over the last several years and an appropriate one for all of us as we face the many challenges of our time. In July, the Jubilee of Youth was celebrated and Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC, and Shannon Hoffman, Co-Director of the Office of Vocation & Ministry Outreach, were in Rome for those days because there was a request from the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) that we be there to take part in an event at St. Paul's Outside the Walls that honored young adults from the United States who were either already Saints or Blessed. We were privileged to have Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC, included in this event.

This September we also celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Canonization of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton who founded the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph in 1809 in Emmitsburg, M.D. We are one of the six congregations that stem from the Emmitsburg community. There was a celebratory weekend in Emmitsburg to honor this anniversary, and we were there! On Sept. 14, 1975, the canonization was held in Rome and Sister Hildegard Marie Mahoney, SC, General Superior of our Congregation, was the first woman to ever read at a papal Mass. Sister Hildegard at the time was the President of the Daughters of Elizabeth Seton Federation that had been working for many years to have Elizabeth Seton canonized.

There are many stories in this issue that are good news! – the entrance of Eucharia Ngozi Anyanwu as a Candidate for the Sisters of Charity, the 20th Anniversary of Centro Arte Para La Paz in Suchitoto, El Salvador, which Sister Peggy O'Neill, SC, has been the heart of since its beginning, the Vincentian Gathering in Rome in November 2024, our new Office of Legacy and Mission Advancement and our Ministry Grants.

We are blessed by your support and ask God daily to bless you and your loved ones.

Happy Fall!

S. Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.

S. Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.
General Superior

On the Cover: Students from a variety of schools came together in the spirit of St. Vincent to volunteer and to try to make a difference in the world.



Alessandra Merrite, Eva Harmsey and Sydney Geiger, 8th graders at Assumption School, Morristown, fill school bags. All echoed Saint Vincent, saying ministry day puts their gospel lessons into action.

Successful Saint Vincent Ministry Day Provides for Those in Need

by Rosemary Lalevée Carroll

A tireless troop of students, Sisters, Seton Associates, Josephine's Place ladies, volunteers, and others gathered in prayer in Holy Family Chapel on Sept. 24 to begin Saint Vincent de Paul Ministry Day 2025.

Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, General Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their Vincentian hearts and the service to others their ministry will help.

A short prayer service opened with a quote from Saint Vincent: "We should assist the poor in every way and do it both by ourselves and by enlisting the help of others...to do this is to preach the gospel by word and by work."

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, who always urges us to "go and meet your grace," reminds us: "To correspond to the grace of the moment means a wonderful union between you and God all day."

Off to meet their grace, attendees converted tee shirts into tote bags; filled SamBags with toiletries, socks, hats and gloves, and personal items for those who are homeless or struggling on the margins; filled breakfast bags with juice, protein bars and fruit to feed the hungry; stuffed backpacks with basic and necessary school supplies for students in need; and made hundreds of sandwiches for distribution to soup kitchens.

One group wrote cheerful greeting cards to Sisters and Seton Associates who live across the country, including Associates in



Seton Associate Dee Banicki, right, shows Joshua Hyppolite, 8th grader at Sacred Heart School, Jersey City, items for SamBags.

Mississippi and the Navajo Nation, while ladies from Josephine's Place in Elizabeth wrote and decorated happy cards to send to our Sisters in nursing homes. Another cadre of writers prepared missives to elected officials on matters of social justice.

Some took to the outdoors where they cleaned headstones in the congregation's cemetery, planted flowers around the Peace Pole and the Fatima Shrine across from the Chapel. A few washed and spiffed up walkers used by our Sisters in the Motherhouse.

Assisting the poor on ministry day were elementary students from Saint Vincent Martyr School, Madison (NJ), Assumption School in Morristown (NJ), Saint Joseph School and Sacred Heart School, both in Jersey City (NJ). High school students helped from DePaul High School, Wayne (NJ), Mother Seton Regional High



Josephine's Place ladies.



Sister Maureen Corcoran thanks Stephanie Farmer, middle, and Vanessa LeLoia, 8th graders at Assumption School, for their hard work.

School, Clark (NJ), Saint Vincent Academy, Newark (NJ), and the Academy of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station (NJ), along with students from Saint Elizabeth University, Convent Station (NJ).

By 1 p.m. the industrious Vincentians gathered in Caritas Center for a lunch, followed by lawn games outside and frequent visits to the ice cream trucks.

Donors who helped to underwrite the day's activities included the Knights of Columbus of Morristown (NJ), Saint Virgil Church of Morristown (NJ), Saint Joseph's University Medical Center, Paterson (NJ), Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Elizabeth (NJ), Maris Stella Retreat and Conference Center, Harvey Cedars (NJ), Josephine's Place, Elizabeth (NJ), Seton Associates and Sisters of Charity.



Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, General Superior, Eucharia Ngozi Anyanwu and Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Welcome Eucharia as a New Candidate

by Sister Ellen Dauwer, SC

On July 7, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth welcomed Eucharia Ngozi Anyanwu as a candidate in the congregation. This marked an important step in her personal journey of discernment; communally it spoke of hope and new life.

Born and raised in the town of Inyishi in the eastern part of Nigeria, Eucharia's first contact with the Sisters of Charity was in 2010 through Sister Prudentia Osuji, a member of the Vocations team, during a home visit. Getting to know Prudentia, hearing her story, and learning of her congregation led Eucharia to seek more. In 2013 she took the first of several journeys to New Jersey to meet the congregation; she met with Sister Maureen Corcoran to inquire about membership. Realizing that she would need to live and minister in the United States as well as work toward attaining a green card before applying to the congregation, Eucharia moved to New Jersey in 2016, following the death of her father. She lived initially at Assumption/All Saints Convent in Jersey City and then moved to St. Anthony Convent in Elizabeth where she assisted with cooking and volunteered in pastoral care at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. Sister Maryanne Tracey has accompanied her in the discernment process.

Eucharia traces her passion for medicine back to high school. Her dream for medical school, though, was impeded by a years-

long strike in Nigeria. Instead, she trained to be a high school teacher in education. At Trinitas, though, she has begun to realize her dream first as a pastoral care volunteer, then as a nursing assistant, and now as a telemetry technician. She complements this with part-time study at Union County College where she has taken courses in biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, psychology, and English. "Caring for the sick and harkening to their voices are my number one passion," she says.

Eucharia is attracted to the prayer and community life of the Sisters of Charity as well as the way in which they live the virtues of simplicity and charity. She brings the experience of living not only at Assumption/All Saints and St. Anthony Convents but also at Mother Seton Convent where she resides. She also lived with the Benedictine Sisters in Elizabeth for four years when the St. Anthony's community moved there.

Her 15-year journey to the United States, to New Jersey, and to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth has provided Eucharia with many opportunities to discern her call to religious life and to ministry within Catholic health care. As she took the next step on this journey at the July 7 ritual and celebration, those present promised their support and prayer as she formally begins the initial formation process of the Sisters of Charity.



Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC, and Shannon Hoffman at the Jubilee of Youth Pilgrimage in Rome.

The Jubilee of Youth Pilgrimage

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

This past July, I had the extraordinary blessing of traveling to Rome for the Jubilee of Youth, a pilgrimage that has left an indelible mark on my heart. It was my first time in the Eternal City, and what a profound introduction it was. Not only did I witness the breathtaking beauty of Rome's ancient streets and sacred spaces, but I experienced them through the radiant energy of thousands of young people from across the globe, united in faith, joy, and purpose.

From the moment we landed, the city pulsed with life. Music filled the piazzas, singing and dancing broke out amongst groups, and prayer rose like incense from every corner. The spirit of the youth in our Church was not just present, it was alive, vibrant, and unmistakably powerful.

I had the privilege of traveling with Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC, and together we were moved by what we saw and felt. From quiet moments of personal reflection to jubilant celebrations in the heart of the city, every experience deepened our appreciation for the hope and passion carried by this new generation of Catholics.

One moment stands out among them all being part of an audience with His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV. Listening to his catechesis on the importance of honest communication in our

world was inspiring. Watching him pass by, just ten feet away, was surreal and humbling. I knew this was a once-in-a-lifetime encounter. It filled me with immense gratitude and awe. His presence was a gentle yet powerful reminder of the unity and leadership at the heart of our global Church.

Another unforgettable moment came during a special prayer service for American pilgrims, sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Held at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, the evening brought us together in worship, adoration, and reflection. We heard moving witness talks, prayed before the Blessed Sacrament, and lifted up the lives of the American Blesseds—including our own Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. The spirit of communion and reverence was palpable.

As I reflect on this incredible journey, I am filled with renewed faith, hope, and confidence in the future of the Church. What I witnessed in Rome was more than a gathering—it was a movement. A living, breathing testament that our Church is not only surviving; it is thriving, growing, and shining brightly with God's love. Rome reminded me of something timeless: that we are part of a global family, rooted in faith and called to radiate God's goodness wherever we go. After this pilgrimage, I believe more than ever—the future of our Church is in good hands.

Celebrating Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's Anniversary in Emmitsburg, M.D.



Our Sisters and friends who attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration in Emmitsburg.

On the weekend of Sept. 12-14, some of our Sisters had the joyful opportunity to join in the 50th anniversary celebration of the canonization of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton at her Shrine in Emmitsburg, M.D.

Together with Sisters from the other 13 Congregations of the Sisters of Charity Federation, our Sisters took part in a rich and inspiring weekend. Highlights included an outdoor candlelight concert, special presentations in the Shrine Museum and Historic Homes, a Vincentian Family Mass, and the Anniversary Celebration Mass with Archbishop William E. Lori.

The weekend also featured a variety of engaging exhibits, speakers, and activities held throughout the Shrine's beautiful and historic grounds.

What was a monumental moment in 1975 was honored with deep gratitude and renewed spirit in 2025. We give thanks for Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's enduring legacy and the vibrant community that continues to walk in her footsteps.



Standing - Sister Jerry Brady, SC, Sister Barbara Gnecco, SC.
Seated - Sister Dolores Lew, SC, and Sister Maureen Sullivan, SC.

Sister Jerry Brady is Ready for Winter!

Sister Jerry Brady, SC, really enjoys knitting! In fact, for the past six months she has been knitting winter mittens and recently completed 50 pairs.

Sister Jerry started knitting mittens years ago when she was missioned in Arizona (yes, it gets cold in Arizona in the evenings). This most recent batch of mittens will be going to Catholic Charities in Paterson and to people in need in Elizabeth. She even made extras for some of the children and grandchildren of the employees at the Motherhouse. All the yarn used to make these gloves was donated.

Thank you, Sister Jerry. Because of your warm heart, there will be many warm hands this winter.



Mass at the Vincentian Convocation in Rome.

Vincentian Gathering in Rome

by Sister Noreen Neary, SC, Archivist

The ministries of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth were fully present at the second Vincentian Convocation, "Keeping the Fire Burning: Vincentian Synodality in Action," which took place in Rome from Nov.14 to 17, 2024. Leaders of our sponsored ministries (Academy of Saint Elizabeth, St. Joseph's Health, Saint Vincent Academy, Saint Elizabeth University, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Bon Secours Charity Health System, and Josephine's Place) joined the leaders of the congregation and other Sisters of Charity to reflect on our service to people through our educational, health care, and social service ministries, as we follow in the footsteps of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The keynote presentations and subsequent dialogues, the workshops and beautifully prepared liturgies all prompted the participants to consider how we answer the ever-challenging Vincentian question: What must be done? And, while there is always more to be done, the film "Charity Alive: The Many Faces of the Vincentian Charism in the World" not only showed the good that members of the Vincentian family are doing all over

the world, but helped us to see how our ministries, too, address the needs of people we serve.

Our gathering allowed the leaders of our ministries to meet each other and to interact with one another and with the leadership of the congregation informally. On Saturday evening, we all enjoyed "Arise," a concert by Gen Verde, an international performing arts group comprised of women from around the world.

The highlight of the trip to Rome was our attendance at Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday morning. The Mass for the World Day of the Poor was presided over by Pope Francis. In his homily, Pope Francis spoke of the deep feelings of anguish that arise today from famine, war, inequality and the indifference that follows. He urged the faithful to look for hope, reminding us that "where there seems to be only injustice, pain, and poverty, the Lord draws near to free us." As disciples of Christ each of us can become "signs of the Lord's presence" through acts of justice, solidarity and charity, showing that Christ is close to all who suffer.

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.



May is the month when we recognize the contributions of oncology nurses. After twenty-three years in the classroom Sister Madeline Fahey returned to school and earned a B.S.N. from Willam Paterson College in 1984. She then spent the next 33 years of her life ministering at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson as an oncology nurse, meeting its challenges with competence and compassion. Following her death her colleagues at St. Joe's remembered her as "an excellent nurse ... always the teacher ... gave 150% for all her patients, especially those undergoing bone marrow transplants." May she rest in peace!

In April 1984 Eva's Kitchen, located in Paterson, celebrated its first anniversary with a liturgy and luncheon. Sister Cathy Rowe, Director of Eva's Kitchen, pitched in to assist the cooks as the Most Rev. Frank J. Rodimer, Bishop of the Diocese of Paterson, chatted with them. At the beginning, Eva's Kitchen served simple meals of franks and beans to 30 hungry guests. Today the Community Kitchen at Eva's Village serves close to 1,000 meals a day and serves as a pathway to social services and behavioral health programs, addressing hunger, homelessness, poverty, addiction and mental health issues, helping thousands of men, women and children each year.



On Holy Thursday we recall the Last Supper when ordinary bread and wine were transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus the Christ. In 1974 four women were making bread to take to the prisoners in Saint Peter's Prison, otherwise known as La Granja (the farm), in La Paz, Bolivia. Pictured in this sacramental work are Vicky and Carmen, two Bolivian women, Sister Antonia Vero, and Joan McManus, Sister Ceil's sister. The Sisters of Charity wish a blessed Easter to our friends, our families, and our benefactors.

From 1947 to 1968 the Sisters of Charity conducted a Summer Bazaar Day at Convent to raise money for our missions, the erection of new buildings, restoration projects, etc. Each mission devised and staffed a booth with a game to win prizes or the sale of food or items made by the Sisters. From left to right Sister Catherine Virginia, Sister Anne Philip and Sister Rose Maurice were trying their luck at the College of Saint Elizabeth booth sometime in the 1950s.



The Sisters living at the Motherhouse welcomed Sister Blanche Marie McEniry home from Iraq in August 1966. Sister Blanche Marie had been a visiting professor at Al-Hikma University in Baghdad during the 1965-1966 academic year. Her experience in the Middle East included extensive travel throughout Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel. A few years later she directed a two-part lecture series, "Arab-Israeli Conflict '48 - '73," at the College of Saint Elizabeth. Beginning in 1931 Sister Blanche Marie, who held a Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America, served as a professor of history, the chairperson of the history department, and finally the archivist of the College of Saint Elizabeth prior to her death in 2001.



2024/2025 J

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, 1000 Saint Elizabeth Avenue, Saint Elizabeth, PA 15780. If you would like to make a donation in honor of a Sister, please e-mail it to escharity@scnj.org.

2024

80 YEARS



Sister Lawrence Mahon, SC



Sister Anita William O'Neill, SC



Sister Dorothy Sheahan, SC



Sister Mary Jo Ward, SC



Sister Mary E. Farrell, SC



Sister Margaret Killough, SC



Sister Mary Morley, SC



Sister Mary Ellen Verdon, SC

65 YEARS



Sister Diane Dillon, SC



Sister Cecilia Charles Flanagan, SC



Sister Beatrice Guider, SC



Sister Judy Mertz, SC



Sister Marie Russo, SC



Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC



Sister Jeanne Agans, SC



Sister Roseanne Caiazzo, SC

60 YEARS



Sister Mary Patricia Hooper, SC



Sister Roseann Mazzeo, SC



Sister Cecilia McManus, SC



Sister Dianne Moore, SC



Sister Maryanne Campeotto, SC



Sister Cheryl France, SC



Sister Dolores Lew, SC



Sister Mary Teresa Orbegoza, SC

50 YEARS

45 YEARS

UBILARIANS

We celebrate these 46 faithful women for continuing the mission of Christ in the world for 3,165 cumulative years. Parity of Saint Elizabeth, Office of Legacy & Mission Advancement, P.O. Box 476, Convent Station, NJ 07961-0476 or contact the Office of Legacy & Mission Advancement at **973-290-5454** or visit **SCNJ.org**.

2025

75 YEARS



Sister Patricia
Bray, SC



Sister Mary Jane
O'Hare, SC



Sister Marie
Charitina Frabizio,
SC



Sister Elizabeth
Holler, SC



Sister Beverly
Ornes, SC



Sister Barbara
Aires, SC



Sister Jo Ann
Bromley, SC



Sister Patricia
Reynolds, SC

70 YEARS



Sister Anita
Thompson, SC



Sister Maryanne
Van Note, SC



Sister Joyce
Vincent, SC



Sister Geraldine
Brady, SC



Sister Janet
McLoughlin, SC



Sister Catherine
M. Morrisett, SC



Sister Frances
Salemi, SC

65 YEARS



Sister Margaret
Conlon, SC



Sister Elizabeth
Kremp, SC



Sister Rosemary
Moynihan, SC



Sister Mary
Dolores Spano, SC



Sister Maryanne
Tracey, SC



Sister Carol Ann
Lockwood, SC



Sister Margaret
McCann, SC

60 YEARS

40 YEARS

35 YEARS



A New Name. A Continued Mission

by Donna Sartor, Director of the Office of Legacy & Mission Advancement

We're excited to share that the Development Office and the Communication Office is now the Office of Legacy and Mission Advancement—with a new name, a new director, new team members, and a renewed commitment to serving the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Our mission remains to support the Sisters of Charity through generosity, engagement, and lasting partnerships.

Thanks to your support, initiatives like the 165th Anniversary Gala, Giving Tuesday, Spring Lake Luncheon, Golf Outing, CARE Project, Caritas Center, and Friends of the Sisters of Charity, to name a few, continue to grow and bless lives.

We would like to introduce you to our team and invite you to visit us or reach out to us if we could be of any assistance in the future.

Donna Sartor, Office Director

Sister Judy Mertz, SC, Donor Relations Coordinator

Karen Soto, Office Support Coordinator

Stacy Post, Program & Marketing Coordinator

Jessica Wright, Social Media & Marketing Coordinator

Sister Charitina Fabrizio, SC, Volunteer

Dennis Cupido, Volunteer

Carol Thompson, Part-time Office Assistant

These Efforts are Making a DIFFERENCE

by Dawn Colapietro, Seton Associate

On Sept. 25, Sisters and Associates from the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, School Sisters of Notre Dame, and Dominican Sisters of Sparkill and Hope, left for Washington, D.C., from the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse. They joined more than 100 other individuals in lobbying on Capitol Hill in support of legislation that addresses the guns flowing from the U.S. into Haiti that are arming gangs committing acts of unimaginable violence, torture, and carnage. Together, they visited the offices of 25 Senators whose staff listened to their stories of the pain and suffering of Haitian brothers and sisters that each of them serves through their different ministries around the country. These legislators asked



Sisters and Associates on Capitol Hill.

everyone to keep up their advocacy work and told them that people in Washington were listening and paying attention to the lobbying efforts of their coalition.

Sister Dianne Moore, SC, and I would also like to give a special thanks to all the Sisters and Associates for their support "at home" in our campaign to stop the illegal flow of guns into Haiti. They joined Sisters, Associates, and staff from 45 other religious communities and peace & justice organizations around the country who, collectively, sent more than 5,000 letters to Congress and made more than 1,000 phone calls to their legislators.



Such a wonderful outlet for children to express themselves.

Centro Arte Para La Paz Celebrates 20 Years of Existence

The Center for Peace and Art was established on Jan. 16, 2005, with the purpose of promoting a culture of peace. The Center was born from the desire to heal wounds and rebuild hope in Suchitoto, a community marked by the difficult years of armed conflict.

In the 1980s, El Salvador experienced moments of great sorrow, and many communities lost spaces for encounter and education, such as the former Colegio Beata Imelda, founded in 1914 by the Dominican Sisters. With the arrival of the war, the school closed its doors and remained silent for more than 25 years. In 1986, a group of American nuns arrived to accompany the affected families. Among them were Sister Margaret Ann O'Neill, SC (better known as Sister Peggy) and Sister Patricia Farrell, who came to Suchitoto to provide close support, listening to and supporting those returning to their homeland.

Following the signing of the 1992 Peace Accords, in 2005, Sister Peggy, Sister Patricia, and artists Salvador Acosta and Minako Close initiated the restoration of the former school to transform it into a space for art, community, and learning. Thus, the Center for Peace and Art was officially established, a symbol of unity, creativity, and opportunity for all ages.

Since then, thousands of children, young people, and adults have filled their classrooms with music, painting, workshops, and activities that strengthen coexistence and keep the local culture alive. Today, more than 80 people —members, artists, teachers, and volunteers—keep this flame that gives life and meaning to Suchitoto alive.



Centro Arte Para La Paz - Suchitoto, El Salvador.

In 2008, the Centro Arte obtained legal status as a non-profit Local Development Association, which has allowed it to grow, be sustainable, and continue opening doors to those who dream of a better future through art, education, and solidarity.

The story of the Center for Peace and Art is the story of a community that, united, decided to transform abandonment into a place of hope and learning for all.

Sister Peggy has been ministering in El Salvador for more than 40 years. You can honor and support this wonderful ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth on this special anniversary by visiting the donate page on SCNJ.org. To learn more about Sister Peggy's ministry, visit capsuchitoto.org.



Sisters Thomas Mary Salerno, SC, Catherine Drury, SC, Beverly Ornes, SC, and Elizabeth Holler, SC, celebrate the beginning of our 165th year at 2024 Congregation Day.

OUR LEGACY CONTINUES

1859-2025

by Sister Mary Morley, SC

This year the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth have been celebrating a milestone – the 165th anniversary of their founding. Mother Mary Xavier founded the Congregation on Sept. 29, 1859, in Newark and in 1860 relocated to the former site of Seton Hall College and Seminary in Madison (now Convent Station).

Throughout our history the Sisters have been actively engaged in education, health care, social service, pastoral and parish activities. Beginning in the 1880's, the ministry of the Sisters of Charity extended beyond New Jersey to other states and more distant areas, such as China, Bolivia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and, in more recent times, to El Salvador, Mexico and Haiti. We share our history with gratitude and a renewed insight into our identity and purpose.

Throughout this year we have been celebrating in a variety of ways. On Sept. 28, 2024, Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, General Superior, officially opened our anniversary year at our annual Congregation Day, and Sister Peggy O'Neill, SC, was our keynote speaker. At the end of the day, Bishop Kevin Sweeney, Diocese of Paterson, celebrated our closing liturgy.

Each event held during the year commemorated the 165th anniversary. At the Harvest Festival last October, the Sisters of Charity were honored by the Township of Morris in recognition of and congratulations on celebrating the 165th Anniversary. The borough of Florham Park also recognized the anniversary at the blessing of the new Caritas Center. On Oct. 4, the Congregation marked the 10th Anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Miriam Teresa with a special prayer service. This event was also celebrated at Saint John Byzantine Catholic church in Bayonne.

In November, the annual Memorial Mass for our Sisters and Associates was held and in December the renewal of vows and celebration of jubilees were held. Our Christmas Concert with Father Alphonse Stevenson took place in Holy Family Chapel and honored the Congregation.

Saint Elizabeth Seton was canonized a saint in 1975 and this year we commemorated the 50th anniversary of this event at the Mass in January. Celebrations were held in Emmitsburg in September to mark this special event.

On Feb. 16 we celebrated the 200th birthday of Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan, the foundress of the Congregation. Sisters and Associates gathered for breakfast in Caritas Center for tea. Sisters and Associates baked loaves of Irish bread and scones in honor of Mother Xavier's Irish heritage, and a good time was had by all.

In the following months we had a presentation on the life of Elizabeth Seton given by Sister Betty Ann McNeil, DC, an archivist and scholar noted for her in-depth knowledge of the writings and life of Elizabeth Seton. In April, a bus trip to Emmitsburg, MD was taken to visit the Basilica and museum of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Twenty-five Sisters and Associates were given a guided tour of the Seton Heritage Museum and the interactive display that highlights the ministries of the Sisters of Charity Federation congregations throughout the United States and abroad.

One of the activities of the 165th committee was the publication of a cookbook: *Legacy of Love – 165 years of nourishing hearts and spirits*. The recipes were contributed by Sisters, Associates, family members, and friends. We are delighted to share that the cookbooks were popular, and we are grateful to all who participated in this project.

We thank God for all the Sisters who have gone before us as we look forward to a future filled with both gifts and challenges from the Spirit as we continue to respond to the needs of our world.

Throughout the year, we have been saying a special prayer, and we ask you to join us as.



Sister Ellen Dauwer, SC, carried the flag that represented the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in the procession at the Elizabeth Ann Seton Saturday Mass in Emmitsburg.



Sister Eleanor Kliminski, SC, and Fr. Jim Worth thrilled with the 165th Anniversary cookbook.



O Gracious God,
We come before You with hearts grateful
for all Your gifts to us, especially the call
to charity...love through action.
We praise you for all the women who embraced
our charism wholeheartedly with their lives.
Their accomplishments are an enduring
testament of faith and trust in You.

Bless all those who share our charism:
our partners in ministry, volunteers, generous
people who contribute to the mission, those
whose lives have touched ours and those whose
lives we have touched. Guide us, as once again
we set out to respond to the needs of our world
with confidence in Your continuing presence
and guidance.

We entrust to You our legacy built by strong
faith, hard work and tender compassion.
Amen

Sister Patricia Beaumont, SC
Sister Ethel Beneville, SC

SCNJ.org

Sister of Charity Ministry Grants Impact Ministries Domestically and Internationally

by John DiMucci, Director of Sponsorship and Mission Services

Throughout our 165-year history and long before the terms “micro-grant” and “seed funding” existed, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth were supporting local organizations in the communities where Sisters served, and in places beyond, with small - and not so small grants. As far back as 1977 we have had official programs in place to award grants to organizations for the “The Furtherance of the Mission.”

The most recent incarnation of this kind of grassroots giving is simply called “The Ministry Grant Program.” Following the examples of Saints Vincent de Paul and Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Sisters, Seton Associates, collaborators and community partners move the Mission of Charity forward. Each year, Sisters and Seton Associates are invited to recommend organizations and projects that address and aim to improve education and health, and support human needs, “by bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to captives and giving new sight to the blind, setting the downtrodden free, and proclaiming the Lord’s year of favor.” (Luke 4).

Since 2004, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Ministry Grant Program has given over \$1.6 million to support a variety of projects with grants between \$2,000 and \$10,000. It’s likely that many of these projects would not have been eligible for funding from other sources.

One project designed and implemented by our Seton Associates in Amory, Mississippi sews washable sanitary pads for young women and girls in Limaru, Kenya. The pads are added to a kit that includes a drawstring cloth bag, a bar of soap, disposable pads, as well as new undergarments. The kits are delivered to Kenya by partnering with a local non-profit by Seton Associates each summer. Each girl is also provided with Christian-centered education about sex and their health. Since 2017 the “Mad Padders” have made more than 15,000 pads and reached more than 7,500 girls and young women. This program improves health and allows young women and girls to attend school.

From north Jersey to Arizona, Haiti and El Salvador to Kenya, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth continue to support projects that moves the Mission of Charity forward.



Mad Padders Sewing Ministry of Seton Associates
in Amory, Mississippi.



The young women in Limaru, Kenya finally receive their
Mad Padder kits.

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY'S 17TH ANNUAL

GOLF OUTING

A Heartfelt Thank You!

We are thrilled to share that the 17th Annual Golf Outing was a tremendous success!

Blessed with beautiful weather, a spirited day of golf, and—most importantly—the presence of our generous and kind-hearted supporters, the day was truly memorable.

The participation and contributions of the attendees directly supported the ongoing mission and ministries of the Sisters of Charity. We are deeply grateful for their continued commitment and compassion.



St. Joseph's Health Foursome.



Danny Bader, Dawn Sherman, and Donna Sartor.



(From left) Anne O'Neill-Kellers, Anne Butler, David Moran and Lorena Tyson.

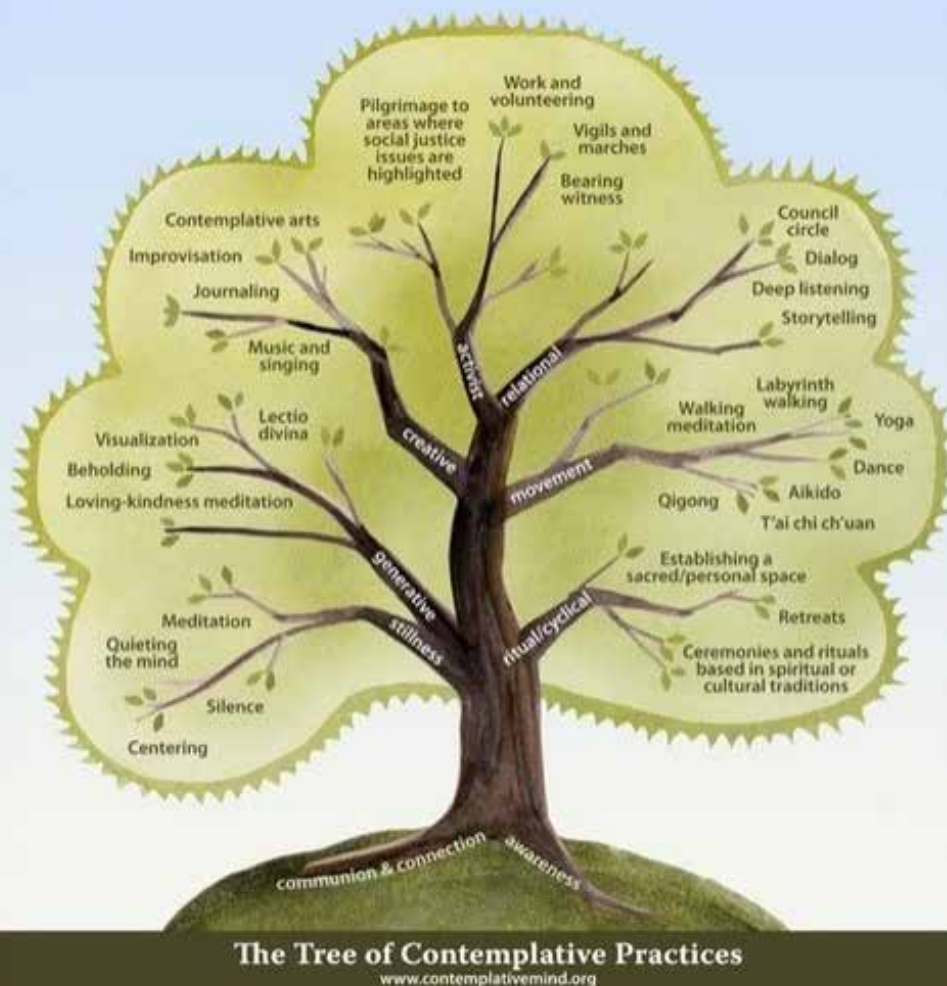
THANK YOU FOR A BEAUTIFUL DAY AT THE

Spring Lake Luncheon!

We are so grateful to everyone who joined us for this special gathering—our wonderful guests, generous sponsors, inspiring speaker Danny Bader, and all those who worked behind the scenes to make the day so memorable.

From heartfelt moments to picture-perfect weather, the luncheon was filled with connection, joy, and a shared sense of purpose.

**Thank you for being part of such a meaningful day—
we are truly blessed by your support!**



Spirituality and the Contemplative Arts

by Kimberly Ann Borin, Ed.D., S.A.

There are so many ways for us to be present to God. We can find God in moments of contemplation in church, in quiet times of prayer, in walking in the woods, or just being with those we love. Being present to God in moments of contemplation helps us to remember that God is always available to us, with us, and attending to us in all that we do, each moment.

The Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation writes, "Stated simply, the classical traditions understand contemplation as a loving quality of presence in which one is open to things just as they are in the present moment. In Christianity and other traditions that understand God to be present everywhere, contemplation includes a reverence for the Divine Mystery, 'finding God in all things,' or 'being open to God's presence, however it may appear.'"

The contemplative arts can help us to find a sense of peace within. In this space we can hear more of what we need and what might be the next best step. This process can involve the arts like writing, painting, doing collage, walking, doing yoga, simply breathing, praying and more. I consider all of these contemplative prayer techniques that I also think of as the Contemplative Arts. The arts grant us a way to explore, a peaceful process for expressing, and a way to share what we need. The graphic above of the Contemplative Practices Tree also offers many of the avenues that can be explored to move into a more contemplative space.

You may want to take a moment to explore the tree, to see which of the avenues of contemplation speak to you and help you to be present to God. Choose a path that is nourishing to you as well, trusting that God will reach you where you are, in a way that is enjoyable and will make sense to you.

IN MEMORIAM

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



Sister Barbara Conroy, SC
(Sister Agnes Marion)
May 9, 2024



Sister Anne Marie Moroney, SC
(Sister Maura Joseph)
May 23, 2024



Sister Carol Williams, SC
(Sister Carol Christopher)
June 21, 2024



Sister Margaret Nulty, SC
(Sister Vincent Eileen)
June 24, 2024



Sister Jane Teresa
Culligan, SC
June 26, 2024



Sister Mary Fallon, SC
(Sister Francis Alice)
August 9, 2024



Sister Teresa Regina
Confroy, SC
August 12, 2024



Sister Patricia Beaumont, SC
(Sister Daniel Margaret)
August 17, 2024



Sister Clare Mary
Roden, SC
August 19, 2024



Sister Marilyn Zaino, SC
(Sister Irene Maria)
October 31, 2024



Sister Deborah
Humphreys, SC
December 3, 2024



Sister Mary Kathleen Flanagan, SC
(Sister Christopher Mary)
January 6, 2025



Sister Carol Hoban, SC
(Sister Kathleen Teresa)
January 12, 2025



Sister Ethel Beneville, SC
(Sister Ann Pauline)
January 30, 2025



Sister Ann Stango, SC
(Sister Helen Cordis)
February 5, 2025



Sister Mary Lou Hayden, SC
(Sister Joseph Marita)
February 14, 2025



Sister John Mary
Tierney, SC
February 20, 2025



Sister Regis Keane, SC
(Sister John Regis)
March 22, 2025



Sister Bernadette
Murphy, SC
April 10, 2025



Sister Lillian
Silkowski, SC
July 1, 2025



Sister Beverly
Bligh, SC
August 18, 2025

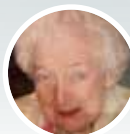


Sister Mary Canavan, SC
(Sister Assumpta Mary)
September 1, 2025



Sister June Favata, SC
(Sister Ellen Jude)
September 8, 2025

**SETON
ASSOCIATES**



Nancy Anne Kilcullen
October 8, 2024



Aileen M. Vassar
May 13, 2025

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
Office of Legacy & Mission Advancement
P.O. Box 476, Convent Station, N.J. 07961-0476
973.290.5454/5409 • escharity@scnj.org
www.SCNJ.org

Christmas Concert

featuring

**FATHER ALPHONSE STEPHENSON
CONDUCTING THE ORCHESTRA OF
ST. PETER BY THE SEA**

**Saturday, December 20, 2025
2 PM**

**Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, NJ
TICKETS AVAILABLE EARLY NOVEMBER
PLEASE CONTACT spost@scnj.org
TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH**