NEW DIMENSIONS
www.SCNJ.org
A Publication of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

Boundless Charity:
Mission Moving Forward
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
160 Years

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH 160TH ANNIVERSARY
COLLEGE OF SAINT ELIZABETH 120TH ANNIVERSARY
HOLY FAMILY CHAPEL 110TH ANNIVERSARY
MARIS STELLA RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER 60TH ANNIVERSARY
SETON ASSOCIATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY
THE BEATIFICATION OF BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA DEMJANOVICH 5TH ANNIVERSARY
Dear Friends,

The year 2019-2020 is one full of marking milestones:

The Sisters of Charity are celebrating the 160th anniversary of our founding in Newark in September, 1859. We look back with gratitude for all the women, especially Mother Mary Xavier Meaghan, S.C. and Sister Mary Catherine Nevin, S.C. who guided the fledgling community. Our theme for the year is “Boundless Charity: Mission Moving Forward”.

The College of Saint Elizabeth is celebrating its 120th anniversary of its founding as the first college for women in the state of New Jersey. Now a co-ed College, it has both Master's and Doctorate Programs.

Maris Stella, our Conference and Retreat Center in Harvey Cedars is celebrating 60 years of providing a place for vacation, for retreat and for meeting. It has been a blessing for so many.

The Seton Associates will be celebrating 30 years in March, 2020 since the Congregation established a full time Office under Sister Julie Scanlan to develop this important work.

Five years ago in October, 2014 we gathered in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark for the Beatification Liturgy for Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich-a joyous day. We look forward to her canonization.

These milestones mark both very important parts of our history and also ongoing works of the Congregation.

In this issue of NEW Dimensions we find these stories and more - an update from the Office of Interns and Volunteers, stories of our Seton Associates and our Donors and photos highlighting key events throughout the year.

In March 2019, we elected new leadership for the Congregation and in June 2019, met in our Assembly of Affairs and issued a Public Statement on the Border and Immigration and asked for the Congregational leadership to act on the need to address the situations of so many people who are homeless. A Task Force consisting of Sisters and Seton Associates has been established and is already hard at work.

We do nothing alone. We are grateful to each of you for the support you give us not only financially but in prayer and in joining with us in so many ways.

Know that each day we remember our benefactors in a prayer that is very much part of our tradition:

Providence can provide, Providence did provide, Providence will provide. O gracious and merciful God hear our prayer and grant our petition.

Peace,

Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.
General Superior
One hundred-sixty years ago, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth were founded in New Jersey by Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan and the Mission moved forward. For these 160 years, we have answered God’s call to care for the poor, the uneducated, the sick, and all those who through shame would conceal their necessities.

Pioneering in the higher education of women, the College of Saint Elizabeth was founded 120 years ago and the Mission moved forward. Over these 120 years most of our sisters received their Bachelor’s degree from the College and numerous women and men have been educated and formed to be servant leaders in all areas of life.

Holy Family Chapel was consecrated 110 years ago and the Mission moved forward. Over these 110 years, we have made our vows there, and spent hundreds of hours in prayer and adoration. Here the College and Academy have begun and ended each year. It has been our house of prayer.

Sixty years ago, Maris Stella opened its doors to offer the sisters an opportunity to rest and re-energize themselves for the coming year and the Mission moved forward. Over these 60 years, hundreds of sisters and lay people have come to find renewal of body, mind and spirit.

The Seton Associate program was established 30 years ago to offer others an opportunity to join us and the Mission moved forward. Over these 30 years, we partnered with men and women to bring the Good News of God’s love through witness and good works.

Just five years ago one of our own, Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was beatified, and the Mission moved forward. Over these five years, we have continued to spread her message that everyone is called to holiness.

And today, as we celebrate our 160th anniversary, the Mission continues to move forward. The articles in this issue of NEW Dimensions will provide a wider scope of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth present day. Joined by all of our wonderful partners in mission, we continue to minister to those in need, and we will continue to do it together!
The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth recently celebrated the 160th anniversary of their founding. The theme for the anniversary year, Boundless Charity: Mission Moving Forward, was introduced by Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, General Superior. The Mother Xavier Award for Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity was bestowed on Sister Margaret Nulty, a long-time educator and advocate for immigrants. Following a festive luncheon, the delegates to the 2019 General Assembly signed the Acts of the Assembly en route to Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station. In the chapel all the sisters were blessed and missioned “to live the Gospel and choose Life so that others may live.” Seton Associates, friends, and partners from their sponsored ministries joined the Sisters in a Eucharistic liturgy celebrated by Joseph Cardinal Tobin, C.Ss.R., the Archbishop of Newark, which was followed by a celebratory reception.
College of Saint Elizabeth I20th Anniversary
by Sister Noreen Neary, Archivist

This autumn, as the College of Saint Elizabeth begins its 13th decade, its early alumnae, if they returned today, no doubt would be surprised at the presence of men throughout the campus and a lay President. One wonders what they would make of undergraduate majors like criminal justice, sport management and marketing, and allied health sciences. The flourishing graduate programs would puzzle them, too, as they would discover students working toward graduate degrees in data analytics, social media design and management, and the physician assistant program. But, at the heart of a 21st century education, the core values of CSE remain unchanged: care for poor people and those at the margins of society, leadership as service and social responsibility, and an unwavering commitment to the promotion of women as full partners in society.

Holy Family Chapel I10th Anniversary
by Sister Noreen Neary, Archivist

This year the Sisters of Charity celebrate the 110th anniversary of our beautiful Holy Family Chapel. Mother Mary Xavier recognized the need for a large worship space for our Congregation, numbering 1100+ sisters, the students of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth and the College of Saint Elizabeth. On Dec. 30, 1909, within the Congregation’s 50th anniversary year, almost the entire religious community, hundreds of friends, benefactors and family, clergy from the Newark and Trenton dioceses, and representatives of every branch of the Sisters of Charity in the United States and Canada came together to praise and thank God in the celebration of a solemn High Mass.

Over the past century, Holy Family Chapel has been well-maintained and yet altered in ways that meet today’s needs. In recent years renovations provide access to persons with mobility issues, the vestibule is more open and welcoming, and the shrine of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich is located within the left transept of the chapel. In addition to use by the Congregation and the students on campus, the chapel is the site of the weddings of alumnae of the Academy and the College. Our neighbors worship with us at daily and Sunday Masses and we are especially happy to have family, friends and neighbors join us for services during the Easter triduum and on Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

Left: Holy Family Chapel circa. 1934. Right: Holy Family Chapel present day.
Maris Stella Retreat and Conference Center in Harvey Cedars has been providing a ministry of hospitality for 60 years. In 1959, Mother Ellen Marie McCauley purchased the property on the bay and ocean sides from the estate sale of Frederich Small, the former CEO of American Express. Mother Ellen Marie was looking for a vacation spot for the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Most of the buildings are original and date back to 1926 when Mr. Small built his estate. There are eight buildings on 11 acres. The chapel was the original boathouse and St. Vincent’s dormitory style housing was the former garage! In the great storm of 1962, the two grand beach houses were washed out to sea, and from time to time their pilings are revealed at the water’s edge.

After Vatican II, 1962-65, Maris Stella welcomed sisters of other congregations and their families to liturgy and vacation. In the early 2000s programs began to expand. Sunday Mass was offered for vacationers on the island with an inspirational view of the bay. Originally, Maris Stella was closed from October to May, but a capital campaign provided for the building of a conference center, a renovated chapel, and heat and air conditioning in St. Vincent’s. A grant from the Littoral Society allowed for part of Mr. Small’s original gardens to be transformed into the Bayscape Butterfly Garden. Sister Patricia Dotzauer, program director, feels, “People are fed here spiritually, emotionally and physically. People who are going through extremely difficult times come to our offerings. Their burdens are evident when they arrive, and by the time they depart, their demeanor and body language have changed. People say over and over again that they find peace here.”

Today Maris Stella is open all year long. Retreats once reserved for sisters are now open to lay women. Additional retreats for parish, high school, college and university groups abound. Stepping on to Maris Stella grounds, one may encounter AA meetings, women writers’ workshops, or even, Celtic teas. Family Promise, conducted by St. Francis Church volunteers, has found a home at Maris Stella as well as Coastal Camps for young people in the summer. Sister Mary Morley, director of Maris Stella, maintains, “Mother Ellen Marie would be happy we’re still here. The spirit of hospitality, which is inherent in the charism of the Sisters of Charity, is evident here. We are able to pray with everyone. Hospitality is our hallmark!”

The Sisters don’t operate alone. Over Memorial Day weekend,
40-50 people come to clean up and get the place ready for the summer. Nearly 30 volunteers staff the complex during peak season. Sister Mary estimates, “These volunteers are saving the Sisters thousands of dollars that can go instead into the mission of Maris Stella.” The benefactors who attend summer masses are greatly appreciated. They have become a supportive community who help Maris Stella financially maintain its mission. The presiders who offer daily mass during the summer months complete this network of support.

Maris Stella is a sanctuary on and off season. There are solitary figures who come to pray at Our Lady’s shrine by the bay. It could be the man with the backpack or the woman who periodically drives up, parks and goes into the chapel. She tells Sister Mary she comes because “so many churches are locked now.” She knows the chapel is generally open, and if it is off season, Sister Mary, who sees all from her office window, will come out and open it for you. “Wonderful people of strong faith searching for God come here,” says Sister Mary. “They are such an inspiration. I am in awe of their desire to grow in God’s love.”

Plans for the future include increasing use during the week in the off season with programming and vacation rentals, as well as utilizing the website to publicize rentals for pot-luck suppers, birthdays, anniversaries and receptions of all kinds. The expansive view of the bay from the conference center enhances any occasion.

Maris Stella “is a rich resource for study and reflection on the sacredness of creation” (Mission Statement). It has been offering respite and awe-filled moments for 60 years and counting. Sister Mary says, “Maris Stella, or Star of the Sea, is one of Our Lady’s titles. She has protected us here. After Hurricane Sandy, we did not have even one broken window. Those three Hail Mary’s at the end of each mass asking for protection from storms has really worked.”

Still to this day the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth are so grateful to Mother Ellen Marie McCauley, the Mother Superior who purchased Maris Stella in 1959 as a vacation place for the Sisters. She was a woman of vision for that time! Prior to the Sisters’ owning Maris Stella, it was unheard of for Sisters to go on vacation because there was no place for them that offered private recreation at the beach. Maris Stella was and still is the perfect place!

On Aug. 27, 2019, Mother Ellen Marie’s family arrived at Maris Stella for the first time to visit her legacy. “McCauley” is an efficiency apartment at Maris Stella named in honor of Mother Ellen Marie. Pictured are her adult great-grandniece and grandnephew and her younger great-great-grandniece and nephew. The family made the trip from New York and rejoiced in the opportunity to see first-hand the beauty of Maris Stella and learn from the Sisters more about their beloved “Auntie Ellen!”
Seton Associates Celebrate 30 Years

The Seton Associates program of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J., had its beginnings in the late 1980’s. The 1987 General Assembly of the Congregation endorsed a congregational program of lay affiliates for those men and women who wish to share the mission and charism of the Sisters of Charity. The Council later chose, March 25th, the day Elizabeth Seton made her vows, as the official beginning of the Associate Program, and in 1990, on that date, the Program was officially inaugurated. In 1990, sixteen women and two men were accepted as Seton Associates and that number has grown to 307 Associates throughout the United States and other countries in 2019.

The Seton Associate Program is an invitation to women and men, married or single, 20 years of age or older, to join the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in a non-canonical relationship of prayer and ministry. For further information visit www.SCNJ.org.

Seton Associate SPOTLIGHT

STEPHEN PRIOLA
S.J. Priola Parsippany Funeral Service

Q - What drew you to a career in mortuary services?

A - My career in funeral service began as a calling when I was just seven years old. Coming from a large Italian and Irish family, I was often attending family funerals with my parents as a child. I found the whole idea of funerals - the coming together of family and friends and the wake and Funeral Liturgy - both intriguing and comforting. I announced at the wake of my maternal great-grandmother in July of 1976 that, “I am going to be a funeral director when I grow up.” While some of the family thought this strange, my grandmother thought it was fantastic, and she readily arranged a tour of the funeral home for me with our family funeral director. I knew at that moment that this ministry was my calling. I remained steadfast in my plans, taking a second funeral home tour at the age of 13, and commencing my work in the funeral industry just after my 17th birthday at a local funeral home. I have been working in various capacities in funeral service for over 33 years. I have never looked back or regretted my choices. I love the work that I do and feel very blessed to have been called to this work at such a young age.

Q - Do you experience an added spiritual dimension when caring for our sisters?

A - Serving the Sisters of Charity has added a new dimension to my work in funeral service. I began serving the Sisters while working for the late, and much loved, Bill Dangler. Following his sudden passing, and the subsequent sale of his business, I began serving the Sisters from my own facility in Parsippany. This has been an uplifting experience. Working with this loving, spirited, and selfless group of women has truly changed my life and that of many of my colleagues. My staff often remarks how we leave a Sister’s funeral with a warm and peaceful feeling. It is an honor and a privilege to be a small part of laying these women to rest after a long and dedicated tenure serving God. My friendship with many of the Sisters, and witnessing the examples they have set in their lives of service, has strengthened my own faith and relationship with God. I am hopeful that I give the Sisters even a small percentage of the comfort they provide me in our interactions.

Q - How has being a Seton Associate enriched your life?

A - It has enriched my life in numerous ways, but most importantly, I am thankful for the relationships and friends I have made as an Associate. I love being a part of the family of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and Seton Associates. Being an Associate keeps me ever mindful of trying to live the charism of charity in my daily life. I am a better person for my membership in this wonderful organization.
It hardly seems possible, but we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Miriam Teresa on Oct. 4. We are celebrating the 160th anniversary of our Congregation this year as well. The previous week we celebrated both anniversaries at a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, where we were founded in 1859. The Mass was preceded by a festive dinner and a liturgy that included references to many significant moments in our history. In attendance were Sisters and Seton Associates.

A public celebration also was held at Saint John the Baptist Church in Bayonne. This was the parish church of Blessed Miriam Teresa and the Demjanovich family. Bishop Kurt Burnette of the Eparchy of Passaic presided with concelebrants including Rev. Gregory Lozinskyy, Pastor of Saint John Parish and Reverend Marcel Szabo, former pastor. A beautiful choir accompanied the liturgy. Bishop Kurt in his homily paid tribute to Blessed Miriam Teresa as a bridge between the Eastern and Latin Catholic Churches.

Arranged by Carol Chambers and a group of parishioners, the Liturgy and the reception afterwards were truly fitting tributes to this woman who grew up in Bayonne and who carried the traditions of her Byzantine Ruthenian roots in her heart all her life. About 40 Sisters of Charity were able to be present along with a number of other devotees of Blessed Miriam Teresa. We are grateful to Bishop Kurt and to all who helped to make this celebration possible. We are hoping that we will soon be able to pray to Saint Miriam Teresa. All in God’s good time!

Beatification of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich 5th Anniversary
by Sister Mary Canavan, SC
We had our First Annual Bad Prom 5k and 1-Mile Fun Run on June 9th to benefit the Office of Interns and Volunteers. We challenged participants to come wearing outfits inspired by the bad fashion of proms past (think sequins, ruffles, really big hair). They did not disappoint! Over 150 runners and walkers—many holding up their voluminous skirts so they didn’t trip—took on the course, which threaded throughout the campus. We were blessed with beautiful weather, and thrilled to have so many friends—old and new—join us.

While winter weather has us thinking more about parkas than prom dresses, we are already planning for our Second Annual Bad Prom 5k! We hope that you will join us on Sunday, June 14, 2020. We need runners, walkers, volunteers and cheerleaders! For more information, please check out the Bad Prom link on our website www.SCNJ.org.

Catching up with the Goings-on in the Office of Interns and Volunteers

by Sheila Tracy, Director of the Office of Interns and Volunteers

BAD PROM 5K

We had our First Annual Bad Prom 5k and 1-Mile Fun Run on June 9th to benefit the Office of Interns and Volunteers. We challenged participants to come wearing outfits inspired by the bad fashion of proms past (think sequins, ruffles, really big hair). They did not disappoint! Over 150 runners and walkers—many holding up their voluminous skirts so they didn’t trip—took on the course, which threaded throughout the campus. We were blessed with beautiful weather, and thrilled to have so many friends—old and new—join us.

VALUES INTO ACTION – SUMMER 2019

Values Into Action places college students in internships at nonprofits that reflect the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth’s commitment to social justice and building community. Our interns spend 10 hours a week at their host site, and then meet at the Motherhouse on Thursdays for training and pro-
This summer we were thrilled to be able to place 10 students at eight New Jersey nonprofits addressing important social issues like immigration, poverty, homelessness and domestic violence.

To follow, we asked some of our Values Into Action Interns to reflect on their experience.

WHAT SKILLS DID YOU LEARN OR DEVELOP DURING YOUR INTERNSHIP?

I learned about communication strategies, and how important they are when doing outreach on behalf of the organization. Sending a consistent message is key– it can impact who funds you, it can impact who reaches out to you for help. – Selena Nandiwada, University of Saint Louis/ Intern at Manavi in New Brunswick, N.J. Manavi works predominantly within the South Asian community, advocating for survivors of violence.

YOU SPENT ONE DAY A WEEK GETTING TO KNOW AND LEARNING FROM SISTERS. WHAT SURPRISED YOU THE MOST?

Many of the Sisters have had multiple careers. At our age, we are focused on what our career will be and assume we will do that forever. But getting to know the Sisters, it was really a lesson in just being passionate about making a difference. And learning how that can look one way when you start out, and can change many times along the way. – Priscila Ruiz, Rutgers University/ Intern at First Friends of NJ/NY. First Friends works with immigrants who have been detained and asylum seekers.

AS YOU PROCESSED YOUR INTERNSHIP FROM A VALUE PROSPECTIVE, WHAT RESONATED THE MOST?

We learned about Catholic Social teaching, which as someone who is not Catholic, was really eye opening to me. It reinforced what I have always felt – at the end of the day it is all about people, regardless of religion, race, culture, gender, wealth. And here was this blueprint (Catholic Social Teaching) that basically addresses how to have a just society. This is common sense stuff that we should all be doing. I know I am going to carry what I learned with me, and apply it as I move forward doing social justice work. – Rafath Kader, Rutgers University/ Intern at Women And Families Ascending Association (WAFAA). WAFAA has a variety of social programs that address hunger, poverty, and domestic violence in the Paterson and Wayne, N.J. area.

Our Value Into Action summer interns.
Since our Spring 2019 issue of NEW Dimensions, our Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity Office has sponsored two bus trips to peaceful protests in support of current social issues. The first included a contingent of 25 from Convent Station. Sisters of Charity, friends, and volunteers from RAMP (Refugee Assistance Morris Partners) joined 500 others for Lights for Liberty on the evening of July 12 outside of the Essex County Detention Center in Newark, N.J. Large demonstrations were held in cities and towns all across the country - inspiring and hopeful!

The next event took place in September when 35 Sisters of Charity and friends joined 500 others in Newark, N.J., for Catholics Say: Stop the Inhumanity, a Catholic Day of Action against the separation of immigrant children from their families and their inhumane detention. The day began with a prayer service in St. Mary’s Abbey Church followed by a procession and rally at the Peter Rodino Federal Building on Broad Street, site of an ICE Office. The venue was particularly meaningful to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth since a few blocks away they began their ministry 160 years ago – immigrant women ministering to immigrants.

When asked why she chose to be a part of the Catholic Day of Action, Sister Patricia Reynolds, SC, responded, "For years I have been teaching immigrant women and I know their stories. Once you do that, you have to do all you can to support them. So many that come are escaping a life of violence or because of climate change it’s impossible for them to grow crops. They are hungry and want to feed their families, just what all parents want for their children. The sense that so many see the gospel call to care about and welcome the stranger resonated with me personally and as a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth."

At the 2019 General Assembly in June, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth released a public statement affirming the dignity of all persons.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth affirm the dignity of all persons. In light of this fundamental belief and our charism of Charity, we deplore the conditions imposed on those who are held in detention centers at our border and in other locations. In particular, we object to the undue detention of children, their separation from their families, and the unhealthy and inadequate conditions in which they are held. We advocate for the just and compassionate treatment that all children deserve and the immediate reuniting of children with their families. We call upon federal, state, and local authorities to provide for the basic necessities of all detainees including medical care and legal services. We, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, commit ourselves to collaborate with others in advocating for immediate change and long-range solutions to this humanitarian crisis at our border.

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth General Assembly
June 30, 2019
Sisters of Charity Weaving Together Unstoppable Charity in Chicago

Sisters of Charity Federation members, associates, staff, and guests representing 14 congregations gathered in Chicago, in June for the first-ever Assembly of the Whole. A total of 550 participants! Out of that 550 were 23 Sisters, six Seton Associates and two staff members, all from the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth.

The opening ritual included a procession of the congregations. Sisters from each congregation carried a colored banner along with their congregational logo banners. Together, they were posted and woven together on the large, front dais. Then, as part of the Opening Ritual, attendees each shared their “hopes” for the assembly and tied together their own, individual colored ribbons—another Weaving Together of Unstoppable Charity, the theme of the Assembly.

Sister Peggy O’Neill, a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, brought her energy and lived experience to the keynote address, entitled “Love is the Answer.” Sister Peggy stated we are standing at the edge as congregations, open to new forms of incarnation. She suggested the Family of Charity will continue to widen as we give ourselves away so that we can connect with others and God.

The assembly was a moving and thought-provoking time to consider what congregations have accomplished over the years, and how to move forward together, weaving unstoppable charity.

Join the Circle of Friends to Sustain One Child’s Education in Haiti

by Dawn Colapietro, Seton Associate

I have lived for the past six years in Haiti with Sister Dianne Moore, SC. As a Seton Associate, I have had the privilege to carry the charism of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth into the poorest country in our hemisphere. During our ministry in Haiti, we have grown from hosting medical teams and providing free medical care to rural villages to including a goat project, community garden, disaster relief, small business loans, water purification program, and a sewing school.

Currently, we are in the process of our biggest project to date by having a school built in Cuvier, a village that hosts most of our programs. After petitioning Food for the Poor, Inc., (an ecumenical Christian nonprofit organization) for nearly three years, that organization finally approved construction of a new grammar school for 250 students. These children previously were housed in make-shift huts constructed of used wood and tin. The new school is almost finished but now we have to raise the money to operate it.

We invite you to join and be a participant in our Circle of Friends. Each Circle is composed of five friends who each donate $20. Your Circle’s $100 gift sustains one child in school for one year. If after discernment and prayer you feel led to help sponsor one of our students, please know that our children in Haiti will be forever grateful. Visit www.SCNJ.org and look for the Circle of Friends logo to join!
Awards & Recognitions

Josephine’s Place presented its most prestigious award, The Mother Josephine Marie Humanitarian Award, to Sister Judith Mertz SC, during the charity’s Annual Dinner Celebration in November at Mayfair Farms. Sister Judy is the founding director of Josephine’s Place located in Elizabeth, N.J. Sister Judy stepped down after 17 years when she was elected to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth governing council.

Sister Dolores Lew, Geriatric Falls Navigator in the Emergency Medicine Department, retired from St. Joseph’s Health after 24 years of service. A retirement reception was held in her honor this past July. Pictured from left (standing) Sister Patricia Mennor, Sister Frances Demarest, Sister Elizabeth Noonan, Sister Rosemarie DiCenso, and Sister Francis Raftery. (seated) Sister Mary Jane Timmernans, Sister Eileen Clifford, Sister Dolores Lew, and Sister Elizabeth Brennan.

Mary Jane Waldron, long-time employee of the Sisters of Charity and CSE Class of ’45 alum, was honored in September at the College of Saint Elizabeth President’s Council Luncheon at Annunciation Center on campus. Dr. Helen J. Streubert, CSE President, presented Mary Jane with the President’s Award as family, friends and colleagues were in attendance to celebrate Mary Jane’s dedication to CSE and the Sisters of Charity.

In November, the Alumnae/i Association of the College of Saint Elizabeth honored Sister Mary Ellen Gleason at the Holiday Boutique and Luncheon. Sister Mary Ellen Gleason, ’60 and CSE Archivist, was presented the Distinguished Alumna award. This year is the 100th anniversary of the CSE Alumnae/i Association.

Sister Patricia Butler celebrated her retirement in July from the Archdiocese of Newark where she served as associate superintendent of elementary schools since 1990. At her farewell gathering held in the Archdiocesan Center in Newark, Sister Patricia received a book of memories on behalf of students and schools she served.
The dictionary definition of "friend" describes a person affectionately bonded to another or a person who supports a cause. The Sisters of Charity may define "friend" best by the example of Jean Romeo, a woman whose longstanding bonds with and support of the Sisters have been a source of continuing joy and blessing.

The bonds of friendship between Jean and the Sisters began on Jean’s first day of kindergarten at St. Stephen’s School in Kearny. Jean loved the Sisters, who could calmly command the classroom and also break into joyous Irish dancing for the annual St. Patrick's Day program.

Years after leaving St. Stephen’s, Jean renewed her ties with the Sisters in 1990 when she joined the faculty of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth. Here she met Sister Jean Stabile, her "twin.”

"The Sisters of Charity may define “friend” best by the example of Jean Romeo, a woman whose longstanding bonds with and support of the Sisters have been a source of continuing joy and blessing.”

“Her name is Jean; my name is Jean. Her middle name is Marie; my middle name is Marie. Her confirmation name is Teresa; my confirmation name is Teresa.” Besides sharing the same name, the two Jeans found that they shared many interests and delighted in talking about sports, education, politics, and “you name it!”

As the moderator of a service club at the Academy, Jean took students on weekly visits to Saint Anne Villa. She was gratified to foster connections between her students and the elderly sisters. The students were especially delighted to witness "Mrs. Romeo" interact with her own eighth grade teacher who was then a Villa resident.

The enduring bond with Villa Sisters is now shared by Jean’s daughter, Laura, who started going to the Villa to fulfill a volunteer requirement while she was studying nursing at the College of Saint Elizabeth. Laura and Jean continue regular visits with Sisters at The Villa in Florham Park, enjoying the good company and lively wit of the Sisters they now know so well.

Jean values the tremendous impact that the Sisters had in her life and is gratified to support them and their mission. She looks forward to attending the Spring Lake Luncheon every year and makes the luncheon a family affair with her sister, daughters, and nieces. She also makes a point to participate in every quarterly 50-50 raffle, though she is still waiting to receive the phone call telling her she won!

Jean encourages others to give back to the Sisters, continuing a legacy of charitable giving instilled by her parents. Her own experience proves without a doubt, “You always get back much more than you give.”
POSTED ON AUGUST 9, 2019

Dear Sisters,

I wanted to share with you a Facebook post I just wrote upon hearing of the death of Sister Regina Hudson. I am truly indebted to the five Sisters of Charity who welcomed me into their lives 20 years ago. May God's richest blessings continue to inspire your community.

Gratefully,

Rich Jasper

****************

Twenty years ago, after leaving the seminary following my brother's accident, my journey took me to rural Princess Anne, Md., where five Sisters of Charity took in this 25-year-old "Philly kid" and showed him what it means to serve others with both dignity and great love. They brought the Gospel to the Delmarva Peninsula in ways in which few government or faith-based agencies were ever able to do before or since, and it was common on the Lower Shore to hear folks say, "Go see the Sisters. They'll help you."

In my year there, I was able to do everything from delivering furniture to migrant farm worker camps to helping prisoners just released from the state correctional facility down the road. I haggled with Food Lion to get bread it was going to throw away, and taught Bible study to the neighborhood kids long before I ever stepped foot in the classroom as a teacher. Mostly, I learned to listen with love, to break out of my comfort zone, and to experience "Church" in a way so different from the institutional one in which I grew up.

I mention all this because I learned this past week that the Sisters have left Seton Center after 38 years of incredible ministry in the Diocese of Wilmington. Their work continues, of course, and in many ways it's exactly what they hoped for when they arrived four decades ago: to be Church to one another.

Sister Regina Hudson, SC, who welcomed me and encouraged me to live the faith without fear, died two weeks ago at age 88. She never stopped believing in me, and I have no doubt I am a priest now because of the Sisters' love and all I learned during my time spent in Somerset County.

In your charity, please say a prayer for Sister Regina and all the Sisters of Charity who made Seton Center a place of Christ-like healing, hope, peace. May Mother Seton's mission continue without abating: to live the Gospel without compromise.

*If you are not following us on Facebook and Instagram yet, please take the time to do so. Facebook: SistersofCharityofSaintElizabeth Instagram: sisters_of_charity*
Guests at the Sisters of Charity’s Annual Spring Lake Luncheon were delighted with the new venue at Spring Lake Golf Club. The smiles on the faces of all as they entered the Club and greeted their friends set the tone for a special day.

The speaker for the occasion, Dr. Robert Wicks, provided a wealth of material for reflection and inspiration. His talk integrated the spiritual, psychological and physical nature of the person to offer insights for self-care, resilience, and a healthy lifestyle. Guests appreciated Wicks’ approachable manner as they asked questions and engaged in casual conversation during a book signing.

An added attraction at the Annual Luncheon is the opportunity to win lovely gifts through our gift raffle. Winners were delighted with their treasures and had fun comparing their prizes with friends at their tables.

There are so many reasons to look forward again to the Annual Spring Lake Luncheon. What a great way to support the Sisters of Charity!
Once again, our eager golfers gathered bright and early at Echo Lake Country Club to register for the annual Sisters of Charity Golf Outing. After a delicious brunch and pleasant conversation, the golfers made their way to their carts and set out on the course determined to give it their best.

After an afternoon of golfing and camaraderie, the cocktail hour provided an opportunity to unwind and relive the great or not-so-great moments on the fairways and greens.

The friendly smiles and outbursts of laughter again were signs of another successful Sisters of Charity event. Thanks to all who helped make the day such a happy occasion!

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Sister Regina Hudson, SC**
JULY 11, 2019

**Sister Marguerite Brennan, SC**
(Sister Mary Bernice)
AUGUST 13, 2019

**Sister Mary Rose Mitchell, SC**
OCTOBER 15, 2019

**Sister Clare Maureen Tracy, SC**
OCTOBER 16, 2019

**Sister Paula Blue, SC**
OCTOBER 25, 2019

**Sister Ann Dorrity, SC**
(Sister Barbara Michael)
NOVEMBER 9, 2019

**SETON ASSOCIATES:**
Sister Anne McKeon, GNSH – August 28, 2019
Kathleen Ognissanti – November 7, 2019
Upcoming Events

Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, NJ
Saturday, January 4, 2020
Mass 11:00 a.m
Light lunch following Mass

Winter 50/50 Raffle
Drawing takes place on
Friday, February 28, 2020
There will be 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners!

13th Annual Golf Outing
Shackamaxon Country Club, Scotch Plains, NJ
Monday, May 11, 2020

Spring Lake Luncheon
Spring Lake Golf Club, Spring Lake, NJ
Thursday, June 4, 2020
With guest speaker Joe Piscopo, actor, comedian and performer.

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