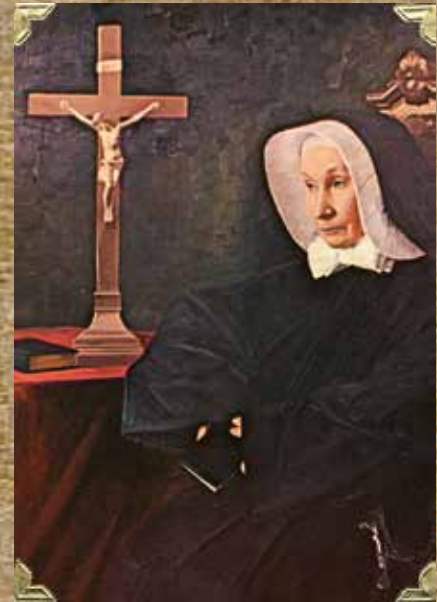




New DIMENSIONS

www.SCNU.org

A Publication of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth



Celebrating the Life of Our Foundress

MOTHER MARY XAVIER MEHEGAN

— 1825 - 1915 —

NEW Dimensions is the quarterly magazine 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 and social service ministries in 19 dioceses within the United States and El Salvador and Haiti. The Congregation currently numbers 307 vowed members. The Seton Associate relationship has 280 affiliated lay and religious women and men.

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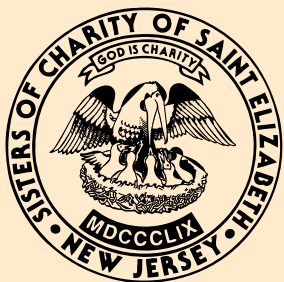
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Welcome

Dear Friends,

How different our world is from that of Mother Mary Xavier! And yet, how very faithful her sisters have been to her legacy of facing hazards yet going forward to help those in need in all their diversity for "God Alone". She did not shy away from a challenge. She did the best she could. She responded to requests for help even to mortgaging the Motherhouse to help start the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven when doctors of various faiths needed a place to practice, to serve the people of New Haven. She was not always sure of what to do or how to do it. She was sure of God's presence in her life and the surety of the Holy Spirit in guiding her band of Sisters of Charity. Mother Xavier was a humble, rather simple, and very human person. I pray that all of us, including all of you who are reading this magazine, gain hope from her life of love for others.

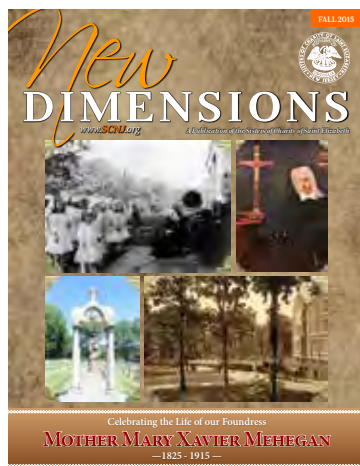


This issue highlights several exciting dimensions of the Mission of Charity evolving. As we celebrate 100 years of Mother Xavier's legacy in the Mission of Charity you will read about new efforts in several of our works which are recipients of the Sister of Charity Ministry Grants. You will hear about our great joy in celebrating twenty-five years of the dynamic Seton Associate program, lay women and men of all ages, who carry the Mission throughout the world in their families, their work, their schools, and to horizons and ways far beyond where the vowed religious could go. In addition, there are exciting changes and updates from our new membership and spirituality program. You will share in our prayers for those killed in violence in Charleston, SC and beyond. And, you will learn about our ministry of advocacy through the Congregation's recent public stand on the need for each of us individually and all of us together to address Climate Change and Global Warming following the call of Pope Francis and in response to the rapidly evolving crises on our beautiful planet Earth.

We are most happy that you are sharing in the Mission of Charity by reading this issue of **NEW Dimensions**.

Many blessings,

Sister Rosemary Moynihan - General Superior



On the cover:

Top left - Academy of Saint Elizabeth girls sing to Mother Xavier. Top right - Portrait of Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan. Lower left - Statue of St. Vincent de Paul in Holy Family Cemetery, Convent Station, dedicated to Mother Xavier. It reads 'In Loving Memory of Our Foundress Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan - Died June 24, 1915'. Lower right - Mother Xavier's funeral procession in 1915.

Celebrating the Life of Our Foundress – Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan

by Sister Noreen Neary

On June 24, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth remembered Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan, our foundress, on the 100th anniversary of her death. She lived a long and extraordinary life dedicated solely to God, a dedication expressed in her legendary care of poor people.

In 1842 Catherine Mehegan, 17 years old, and her sister emigrated from rural Ireland to America. One of the first postulants of the New York Sisters of Charity in 1847, she took the religious name Sister Mary Xavier. At the request of the first Bishop of Newark, she and Sister Mary Catherine were



Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan, SC

assigned to establish a new congregation of Sisters of Charity in New Jersey, with the understanding that they were free to return to New York in a few years. Fortunately both chose to remain with the fledgling community and in September 1859 the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth was founded under the leadership of Mother Mary Xavier.

The few photographs of Mother Xavier show a petite woman looking somber and stern. We know that her heart was set on “God Alone,” the theme of her religious life. When the announcement was made of Sister Mary Xavier’s appointment as superior, one N.Y. Sister’s response was, “Well, she’ll make them good, and she’ll make them all observers of holy poverty, I tell you!” And only 15 days before her death in 1915, Mother Xavier continued to exhort her Sisters: “Being now too old to visit the missions, I rely on the Sister Servants to see that the rules are kept. ‘Who lives to the rule lives to God.’” After pointing out a few areas that needed correction, she ended her letter, “My blessings and prayers will be with the Sisters who observe my admonition and help to correct any abuse they may notice. Yours in our All, Mother”

Her single-minded devotion to the Will of God was matched by tremendous personal warmth, revealed most clearly in exchanges of letters. Although she kept very few personal items the Congregational archives holds two letters written to her in 1860 by Sister M. Adele of the New York community. In each of them Sister Adele expresses her sorrow at their separation and thanks Mother Xavier for her many kindnesses. Perhaps it was Sister Adele’s death just a few months later that led Mother Xavier to treasure the letters for more than five decades.

Sister Mary Agnes, one of the first postulants, served as Directress of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth from its foundation in 1860 to her death in 1877. When it was clear that Sister Mary Agnes’ health was failing, Mother Xavier wrote to Sister Mary Pauline, asking her to take over the leadership of the Academy.

As you know, our dear little Sister is sinking rapidly, and the trial of my life is not far off. May God’s holy will be ever mine...Pray for me, and for poor Sister, who is suffering much. I shall miss her sadly, for she was always my support, and comfort; I relied much on her help for I needed her.

Two decades later, as the Sisters prepared for Mother’s 50th anniversary of her entrance into religious life, she wrote to Mrs. Catherine O’Neill Sharkey, the sister of Sister Mary Agnes, making one request.

Will you be surprised to get a letter from me? Well, at a time like this, when there is so much talk about my Jubilee, my thoughts go back to dear Sister M. Agnes, and how happy she would have been today and how



The first Motherhouse on Washington and Bleeker Streets in Newark, NJ.

her faithful loving heart would have been full to overflowing at the thought of this celebration. I hope, though, that she is helping me with her prayers –

And now, my dear Kate, I want you to come for that day – I am not inviting anyone but you and your sisters. For the sake of old times and our lasting friendship I want you to be present...I am, dear Mrs. Sharkey, your old friend and in Him.

M. Xavier

The Sisters who planned Mother's Golden Jubilee, feeling that they could not accommodate all the Sisters at Convent, made the decision to exclude those who had been in the community 15 or fewer years. When Mother Xavier learned of the young Sisters' disappointment, she wrote to the community:

However, as all the Sisters are dear to my heart and have an equal share in my prayers, I want all to have a part in my Jubilee...on Saturday the 20th let all the [young Sisters] come home...We will have a Jubilee all to ourselves. God bless you all. Mother

A few years later, Mother Xavier wrote to Sister Mary Trinita who had sought permission to visit her ill sister:

I am sorry for your poor sister. Yes, you may go to see her whenever you can get away from school. Do you want me to do anything to help you or get her any little thing? You need not mind asking me for anything they may need. With love, yours affectionately,

– Mother

A letter written by her at the age of 83 showed Mother Xavier's lighter side. On a visit to the Sisters in Massachusetts, she wrote home to Sister M. Rufina:

I am glad to hear that you and Sister Immaculata went to Father [illegible]. I hope that his Purgatory will be short.

I am very well and am surrounded with every comfort. The wind is high but I do not feel it. The poor Sisters here are so afraid that I'll take cold while I am here. I hope you all at home are well.

Tell Sr. M. Joseph I played checkers today and beat Sister Maria. I hope to be home Saturday.

Love to all my dear Sisters. I am yours aff.

– Mother

Mother Xavier served as Mother General for 56 years. Beginning with five candidates at its founding, the Congregation had grown to more than 1200 Sisters during her tenure. It had expanded from a small house in Newark into northern New Jersey and beyond to Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York state. The people of God were served in six academies, a college for women, four hospitals, five orphanages, three infant asylums, three industrial schools, a foundling home, a home for incurably ill patients, and 83 parochial schools. To the end Mother Xavier remained humble and modest, attributing all to "God Alone." At the celebration of her Golden Jubilee in 1897, she responded to the Sisters' congratulations with "...if I have seemed to do aught of good, remember that it is all God's, for unassisted by His great grace, I should be nothing but weak failure."

A black-rimmed notice at the time of her death includes her photograph and a few significant dates in her life. Below this appears the sentence, "To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die." As we celebrate the centennial of Mother Xavier's entrance into eternal life, we know that she has not yet died.



Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth New Leadership Team

The 2015-19 Congregational Leadership of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth was installed on July 1. The installation took place at the culmination of the Assembly of Affairs. At this Assembly, 132 sisters came together for six days of prayer and reflection regarding the life of the Congregation.

The theme for the prayer and ritual for the installation was the "Washing of the Feet." After Sister Rosemary Moynihan, General Superior, washed the hands of the five Councilors, she gave each one a towel as a reminder of the Councilor's "Servant Leadership" to the sisters of the Congregation for the next four years.

Later in the day, the new leadership was celebrated and blessed at a Mass in Holy Family Chapel. The Chapel was filled with sisters, Seton Associates, friends and relatives who came together to welcome the new leadership team. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth 2015-2019 leadership team is (as pictured): 1st row – Sister Maureen Dunne and Sister Elise Gittrich, 2nd row – Sister Joan Repka and Sister Deborah Humphreys, 3rd row – Sister Marilyn Thie, Assistant General Superior, and Sister Rosemary Moynihan, General Superior.

Also, as of July 1, Sister Ellen Dauwer completed her second term as a Council member of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth leadership team. Sister Ellen has been appointed to the Religious Formation Conference as Executive Director. She has been engaged with the Religious Formation Conference since 2007, participating in its national congresses and in the series *The Transformation of Religious Life in North America: An Action-Oriented Initiative*. She will begin her new journey effective Jan. 1, 2016. Our deepest gratitude to Sister Ellen for her dedication and expertise that she has so generously given to the Congregation for the past eight years in leadership.



Sister Ellen Dauwer



Ms. Lynn Burek

Academy of Saint Elizabeth Welcomes New Principal

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and the Academy of Saint Elizabeth are pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Lynn Burek as the new principal of the Academy effective July 1.

Ms. Burek came to us from Parsippany High School where she was the Vice Principal for Student Services. Prior to that, she spent most of her professional career as a high school English teacher. Ms. Burek holds an undergraduate degree in secondary education with certifications in English, Speech and Theater from West Chester University in West Chester, PA. She earned her MA in Educational Leadership at the College of Saint Elizabeth.

An active parishioner at Our Lady of the Magnificat in Kinnelon, N.J., Ms. Burek integrates her faith and spirituality with a servant leadership philosophy consistent with the Sisters of Charity belief of leadership as service. We welcome Ms. Burek in this new time in the history of the Academy. Visit the Academy website at www.aosenj.org.

Ministry Grant Awards

The recent awards for 2015-16, assist the creative programs presented by various sisters to further works of charity. The scope of the projects presented range from educational to health care to social justice and fund areas as far as Haiti and El Salvador and as near as Jersey City and Passaic. This year there were twelve recipients each receiving a Sister of Charity Ministry Grant. The highlighting of the following four, illustrates how the funds were needed to further the truly Vincentian spirit of outreach to those most in need.

Making Peace Visible Through the Virtues

by Sister Mary Anne Rattigan

The Virtues Project at Saint Joseph, A Peaceable School, in Jersey City, is a comprehensive approach to values education that builds on efforts over the last two years to cultivate a culture of peace among students, staff and families. During school year 2015-2016, students and faculty will focus on naming and integrating virtues/qualities of the heart, to encourage more thoughtful, caring and compassionate behavior in and out of school.

Primary Goals:

- Improve academic performance, behavior and moral reasoning
- Reduce conflicts
- Enable students and teachers to name their "strength" virtues as well as their "growth" virtues.

Ms. Dara Feldman, Director of Education for the Virtues Project International, will conduct a faculty in-service in late August. Her book, *The Heart of Education*, will be used as a guide for discussions throughout the year. One virtue each month will be emphasized. Supplementary activities will give students and teachers opportunities to develop and practice virtues embraced by all faiths. Evaluation will be on-going.

In each generation the Sisters of Charity have found ways to respond to the "signs of the times." Our students are dealing with the ever-increasing complexities of peer pressure, difficult family circumstances and, more recently, the confusing world of social networking. In a society where violence, sex and substance abuse abound, they will be faced with a multitude of moral decisions and...they need to be prepared. The unfolding of this Sister of Charity grant will, undoubtedly, make a difference in their lives!



(l to r) Sister Mary Anne Rattigan, Sister Eleanor Uhl, OP, and Sister Barbara Nesbihal

Sister Barbara Nesbihal, Sister Miriam Evanoff, Sister Mary Anne Rattigan and Sister Eleanor Uhl, OP, are the Peace Team at St. Joseph and the initiators of the grant.

SPIRIT ALIVE HAITI: Partners in Mission

by Sister Dianne Moore

In spite of massive world and local efforts to provide relief following the Earthquake of 2010, Haiti remains the poorest country in our hemisphere, 3rd poorest in the world, hungriest and most water poor. The majority of its people are still deprived of adequate food, nutrition, and medical care. In collaboration with our Maryknoll Sisters, we strive to work with and for those people most at risk and marginalized. The goal of all our programs is to improve the health and wellbeing of families, empower women, and work together to build a strong, healthy, caring community.



Sister Dianne Moore empowers Haitian women as Community Health workers.

Through education, job training, language skill development and mentoring our grant allows us to empower and train local women as Community Health Workers. In 2015, they will screen and triage thousands of patients through our medical clinics, translate problems and concerns for visiting medical teams and give medication and treatment instructions. In addition, they are now conducting censuses in four other local villages for our Vitamin Angel program, enabling us to track and distribute vitamins to thousands of children under six years old as well as pregnant and breast feeding women. By the end of the year, they will also be responsible for providing education to parents and children focusing on nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, stress relief and clean water. The women selected for this training are committed and enthusiastic about making the changes needed to provide a better quality of life for all. This opportunity also affirms and empowers them, as leaders, to look to the future with courage and renewed hope.

Opportunities in Hospitality grow at WomenRising

by Sister Roseann Mazzeo

The mission of WomenRising, Inc. is to assist women and their families to achieve self-sufficiency and to live safe, fulfilling and productive lives.

Women are often the primary “breadwinner” or an essential second earner in their families and stable employment at more than a “living wage” is essential to meet today’s needs and to secure a preferred future.

“Community Partnerships in Hotel/Hospitality Employment” (CPHE) provides the opportunity to acquire knowledge and a skill base to obtain gainful employment in the Hospitality Industry. We sometimes hear about programs that train people for jobs that don’t exist. CPHE is the opposite! The CPHE program prepares women for a career track; it matches trained local residents of Jersey City and Hudson County with

We sometimes hear about programs that train people for jobs that don’t exist. CPHE is the opposite!

opportunities in the growing hospitality sector in Hudson County. CPHE is in collaboration with the Culinary Arts Program at Hudson County Community College.

CPHE is a 14-week training cycle featuring a four-week Internship in area hotels, restaurants, and food service entities at corporate sites, nursing homes and institutions. Internships provide hands-on experience. WomenRising staff assist graduates with job placement and job retention, including convening a “Job Club” that provides an opportunity to network, hear from colleagues and guest speakers, and exchange info about job opportunities. Success is measured by completion of the course and the internship, and gaining a position in the hospitality industry. Perhaps the most important evidence of success is the transformation in the person of the student.



Students and instructors in the kitchen - HCCC Culinary Arts Program

New Software Enhances Language Proficiency

by Sister Ann Marie Paul, SCC

Since opening its doors in September 2013, the Passaic Neighborhood Center for Women has seen over 2,200 visits from women, many of whom attend English classes. Because the Center’s English classes occur weekly, we were looking to enhance the women’s abilities to keep up their English study between classes. Evidence has shown that the Rosetta Stone® language learning system is an effective and efficient way of increasing language proficiency. However, the cost of the software was prohibitive for our new, small Center’s



Sister Mary Culhane with two of the students who will benefit from the Rosetta Stone® software.

budget. Through the Sisters of Charity Ministry Grant, we were able to purchase four sets of Rosetta Stone® software. The women are instructed by a mentor when they begin to use the program and are able to work at their own pace and on their own schedules once they are familiar with the program. The women continue to meet face-to-face with their instructors each week; the use of Rosetta Stone® simply enhances their learning.

The Passaic Neighborhood Center for Women is a collaborative effort between religious communities and the Diocese of Paterson. The Center exists to empower women by providing a peaceful, safe place for them to meet each other, express their needs and be connected to resources to meet their needs. The support of the Sisters of Charity has been highly instrumental in the growth of the Center. Since 2013, five Sisters of Charity have volunteered at the Center. Additionally, the Center has received two Sisters of Charity Ministry Grants that have contributed greatly to the Center’s success. We are very grateful to the Sisters of Charity for their continued support.



Habit Day photo of the Band of 1966. Can you find Sister Rosemary Moynihan?

To Make God's Love Known in the World

In September 1965, three months before Pope Paul VI closed Vatican Council II, a “band” of 76 young women entered the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. They experienced the transformation from a theology of religious life rooted in the Council of Trent to one reflecting the spirit of Vatican II. Among those postulants was Sister Rosemary Moynihan, our newly re-elected General Superior, who celebrates her Golden Jubilee this summer.

A native of Bridgeport, Ct., Sister Rosemary attended Notre Dame High School, conducted by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. As a high school student she volunteered and worked at a facility run by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. When she told her parents of her hopes to join the Carmelite Sisters, they asked her first to attend college for a year. Rosemary came to Convent Station and “I fell in love with the College of Saint Elizabeth and the Sisters of Charity.” She entered the Sisters of Charity after her sophomore year and completed her undergraduate education later.

Her first assignment was a multifaceted position in the Social Work Department at the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, Ct. Sister Rosemary worked in the psychiatric and surgical units and with prisoners from the county jail. Perhaps most challenging was her work in the dialysis unit, as there were only eight dialysis chairs in New Haven. “We had to choose which patients would receive treatment,” she says.

The pursuit of a Master of Social Work degree at Columbia University led Sister Rosemary to two challenging field

*“The two hospitals –
Saint Raphael and Yale – were
islands of safety in a city of chaos.”*

placements, first working with deinstitutionalized mentally ill persons through the New York City Welfare Department and then studying the impact of catastrophic illness on patients and their families at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. With her MSW, Sister Rosemary returned to Saint Raphael's Social Work Department serving patients and families and joined local efforts to establish the first hospice program in the country. She recalls the turmoil at the time of riots in New Haven. “The two hospitals – Saint Raphael and Yale – were islands of safety in a city of chaos.”

She then spent 17 years at Sloan-Kettering, first as a social worker and, after earning a Ph.D. in clinical social work from New York University, as the Assistant Director of the Department of Social Work.

It was her good friend, Sister Christine Reyelt, M.D., who called Sister Rosemary to join in the effort to treat and support HIV-infected individuals and their families. Sister Chris, then working in the Comprehensive Care Center for HIV at



Members of the Band of 1966 today - (l to r) Sisters Margaret Conlon, Elizabeth Scheick, Mary Dolores Spano, Elizabeth Kremp, Rosemary Moynihan and Maryanne Tracey.

Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, believed passionately that the Sisters of Charity needed to be involved in the care of HIV- infected and AIDS patients. Working with Sister Chris, Sister Frances Demarest and many other Sisters of Charity in this icon of compassion at St. Joseph's, Sister Rosemary served as the manager of community mental health, which included the establishment and management of a non-traditional mental health program within the Comprehensive Care Center for HIV/AIDS.

Sister Rosemary's election to the Congregation's leadership team in 1999 gave her the responsibility for 125 Sisters, the supervision of Josephine's Place and a new, collaborative mission in Haiti, as well as service as the President of the Bon Secours Charity Health System.

When her two terms in leadership ended, Sister Rosemary accepted a position with Bon Secours Health System in which she wore many hats. As the director of Ecology and Global Ministries, she led system-wide initiatives related to ecological stewardship - "the greening of the system" - and international mission outreach to provide health care and social services in Peru, Haiti and South Africa, especially to people affected by HIV/AIDS. As its mission leader at the Health System Office, Sister had responsibility for the mission programs for employees at those three sites.

As she recalls her many and diverse ministries as a Sister of Charity, Sister Rosemary notes that, "I've loved every place I've ever been. I've learned that everyone - every individual in all areas of institutions, professions, and works - brings something special to the Mission of our work."

In 2011 the Sisters of Charity elected Sister Rosemary to serve as General Superior and she was re-elected overwhelmingly

this past March. The washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus (John 13: 1- 15) served as the theme of the ritual of installation of Sister Rosemary and her Council on July 1. After the three former General Superiors washed her hands as a sign of her servant leadership, she washed the hands of her Councilors and concluded the Gospel reading: "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me Teacher and, rightly so, for I am. If I then - your Teacher - have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you."

In reflecting on her five decades as a Sister of Charity, Sister Rosemary recalls that, as Vatican II closed, the Congregation held a Special General Chapter to carry out its directives. "Everything changed: our horarium (the daily schedule), our dress, our religious names...There was little left of the visible aspects of what I had expected before I entered." Still, much remained the same. "The spirit and culture of our Sisters never changed. They were joyful women who loved the people they served and were so involved in their ministries...We began to dream differently about bringing about the reign of God. We struggled with the changes, but embraced opportunities to serve the people of God in different ways. It has been 50 years of seeing God's love explode in the world."



Sister Rosemary (l) washes the hands of Sister Deborah Humphreys during the ritual of installation.

After describing the challenges and opportunities that face us, Sister Rosemary concluded her recent report to the Congregation by reminding her Sisters of our call:

Ultimately, it is most important that we remember, in all our efforts, experiences and deliberations, that our good and gracious God is with us and among us and that we have been called

"To make God's love known in the world" and that, no matter what, "Love is inventive unto infinity."

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Celebrate 25th Anniversary of Seton Associates



(l to r) Seton Associate Director Rosemary Lalevée Carroll, Award-winning author Joan Barthel, and General Superior Sister Rosemary Moynihan

by Rosemary Carroll

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and their lay affiliate the Seton Associates celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Seton Associates with a series of events beginning with a Mass of Thanksgiving in Holy Family Chapel on March 21 followed by a Celebration Luncheon at The Madison Hotel. Award-winning author Joan Barthel, who wrote *American Saint, The Life of Elizabeth Seton*, delivered the luncheon address.

General Superior Sister Rosemary Moynihan called the Seton Associates “a vital presence among us for the Church and the world and a milestone event in the history of the Sisters of Charity.” She praised the Seton Associates for “embracing this new vocation, for reaching out, seeking to touch people’s lives, to integrate the spirituality of love into family life, work and social situations, and advocacy for the evolving needs of the world today, particularly for those on the margins of society.”

At the luncheon, the Seton Associates honored founding Director of Seton Associates Sister Julia Scanlan, of Jersey City, by announcing the Annual Sister Julia Scanlan Ministry Project. The first project was held March 16 when the group, in cooperation with Family Promise of Morristown, hosted a house shower for a homeless woman who was moving into her new apartment.

On June 10, the Seton Associates planted and dedicated a pin oak tree in the lawn in front of the Motherhouse to symbolize the bond between them and the congregation. The pin oak symbolizes endurance, purity and constancy, and its fall leaves of blazing red are a powerful symbol for the Holy Spirit. Thanking the Seton Associates, Sister Rosemary Moynihan said: “We dedicate and bless here today a tree whose symbolism reminds us that we are aflame with the charism of charity, that the bond among us will endure with

purity and constancy, and the good that we do, with endless energy, will be life-affirming to those we serve in ministry.”

Following the tree ceremony, the Seton Associates honored the sisters as guests at their annual picnic and presented each with a corsage.

Established in 1990, the Seton Associates are lay women and men who seek a deeper spirituality and engage in ministry by living the sisters’ charism of charity. There are presently 275 members. Seton Associates continue the work of the sisters where they live and work.

For information on how to become a Seton Associate visit www.SCNJ.org or call the director, Rosemary Carroll, at 973-290-5336.



The planting and dedication ceremony of the pin oak tree.

CLIMATE CONTROL

If Pope Francis wants to “wake up the world,” he has certainly done so with his encyclical letter *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home*. With lyrical language he invites us to experience God in the beauty of creation: “The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God,” (*Laudato Si’* #86). He issues a stirring call for all of us to take responsibility for the flourishing of our common home: “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” (#217).

It’s a happy coincidence that, around the same time of the publication of *Laudato Si’*, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth completed a year long process of prayer and reflection and, by unanimous vote, took a Public Stand on Climate Change/Global Warming.

We, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, recognizing the reality of global climate change and its negative impact on the entire community of Life, commit ourselves

- **To a deeper contemplation of the presence of God in the wonderful diversity of creation which compels us to a life of reverence for the sacredness of Earth;**
- **To education about the reality of global warming in all our ministries;**
- **To a special focus on the effects of global warming on those made poor, especially women and children;**
- **To continual and sustained effort to reduce our carbon footprint in our local communities, sponsored and other ministries;**
- **To join with other people of good will in advocating for policy changes that will reduce carbon emissions and promote the use of sustainable forms of energy.**

We make this public stand as a Congregation inspired by our patrons and founders:

Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac who challenged social and economic structures from the perspective of those made poor; Saint Elizabeth Seton who took contemplative delight in God’s presence in creation; Mother Xavier, who met the needs of her age with energy and zeal.

Find below some resources for study and reflection on the encyclical. Why not gather a few friends for Fair Trade Coffee and organic vegetable snacks to reflect together on *Laudato Si’*?

A Readers Guide to *Laudato Si’* by Thomas Reese, SJ
<http://files.ctctcdn.com/5c9328ed001/075be5ab-e083-4f9a-b5f4-e1059a72e8e1.pdf>

USCCB Discussion Guide

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/laudato-si-discussion-guide.pdf>

Reflection by Dr. Erin Lothes, College of Saint Elizabeth theology department

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/story/life/faith/2015/06/29/morris-theologian-weighs-popes-climate-changeencyclical/29452419/>

Study guide from the Archdiocese of Washington

<http://www.adw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Laudato-Si-Study-Guide.pdf>

Laudato Si’ – A Map from America Magazine

<http://americamagazine.org/issue/laudato-si-map>

Interfaith Power and Light Action Kit

<http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/PopeFrancisActionKitFINALJulysm.pdf>





(l to r) Sister Noreen Holly and Jean DE Rosa-Pizutelli

Wake Up the World

by Sister Maryanne Tracey

On Feb. 2, 2014, Pope Francis sent a letter to all Consecrated people announcing a Year of Consecrated Life that would begin on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30, 2014, and would end on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Feb. 2, 2016. "Wake up the World" is the title of the Apostolic Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to "All Consecrated People". In his letter Pope Francis discusses several aims.

The first is to look to the past with gratitude, to reflect on our history and charism and to give rise to new ways of exercising our charism. The second is to live the present with passion and be joyful about our lives as religious. The Pope further comments "The creativity of charity is boundless; it is able to find countless new ways of bringing the newness of the Gospel to every culture and every corner of society." And finally we are to embrace the future with hope, to "Wake up the World" with our passion for mission and our joy for being a consecrated religious.

Pope Francis's letter focuses on renewal for religious in consecrated life, thanksgiving among the faithful for the service of sisters, brothers, priests and nuns, and an invitation to young Catholics to consider a religious vocation.

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every corner of society."*

The American Church has planned three times throughout the year for celebrations of consecrated life, focusing on community, ministry and prayer, one in February, one during the summer, and one in September.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, in conjunction with the Academy of Saint Elizabeth and the College of Saint Elizabeth, held an Open House on Feb. 8, 2015, which included a prayer service, a panel of sisters sharing their vocation story, visits to the archives, to the Academy and to the College that had a display of all the Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Charity.



(l to r) Shannon Hoffman and Alexis Fiore participated in the Mass on Open Campus Day.

The summer service project took place on Memorial Day weekend at Maris Stella on Long Beach Island. Sister Diane Collesano accompanied nine College of Saint Elizabeth students for the annual clean-up weekend. The group gathered at the outset for prayer and a blessing on their time together. Sister Diane oriented them to Maris Stella and its place in the mission of the Sisters of Charity. The group was well integrated with sisters and associates as they worked side by side on the weekend in their various projects. They participated in liturgy on Saturday as well as meals together.

On Sunday, Sept. 27, we will host a prayer day with the theme "Praying the Legacy of the Sisters of Charity". It will be a time for lay people and religious to spend the day together, joining in several different prayer opportunities, starting with morning prayer at 8:45 a.m. followed by Mass. The day will conclude with a Mass, hosted by the College of Saint Elizabeth, for young adults. We hope to welcome many people for some or all of the different prayer opportunities throughout the day.



South Carolina Victims Remembered

by Sister Anne Haarer

We remembered, together with countless others, the victims of the tragedy that happened in Charleston, South Carolina so many months ago. We, the Sisters of Charity, together with our many colleagues and staff, prayed and reflected on each and every life martyred that evening. The contemplation of their portraits instilled in us a personal response to the tragedy that senselessly took from this needy world, beautiful and dedicated people. We were able to share, however, in the Amazing Grace that followed with the forgiveness expressed by their worshipping community.

Discover the Benefits of Planned Giving

Have you ever considered making a planned gift to the Sisters of Charity? With thoughtful planning, you can make a gift that supports the Sisters and the mission of boundless charity while at the same time benefitting you and your loved ones.

Please visit our new Planned Giving website at <http://scnj.plannedgiving.org/> to learn more.

AWARDS AND RECOGN



(l to r) Ryan J. Maher, S.J., executive director of the University's Jesuit Center; Sister Margaret O'Neill; University President Kevin P. Quinn, S.J.

The University of Scranton presented its annual Pedro Arrupe, S.J., Award for Distinguished Contributions to Ignatian Mission and Ministry to Sister Margaret Ann O'Neill, founder and director of Centro Arte para la Paz in El Salvador. The Arrupe Award is named in honor of the late Very Rev. Pedro Arrupe, S.J., the superior general of the Society of Jesus from 1965 to 1983.

In presenting the award, University of Scranton President Kevin P. Quinn, S.J., said Sister Peggy "is an example of what St. Ignatius calls us to do in our work." In accepting the award, Sister Peggy said that the award didn't go just to her, but rather was a "social award" that also belongs to her family, the Sisters of Charity and her students, as well as many members of the university community who have traveled to El Salvador over the years through various service and mission initiatives.

In June, Sister Joseph Nelida Richard was a recipient of the 2015 Vivere Christus ("To Live in Christ") Award in the Diocese of Paterson, N.J. Sister Joseph Nelida, principal of Saint Clare School in Clifton, received the award from Bishop

Arthur J. Serratelli, who said the diocesan award honors "the life of Christ manifested in the service of so many of the good faithful in our Diocese who give us the example that Christ is the reason, Christ is the joy, Christ is the center of our lives."

To commemorate its 30th anniversary, Migrant Clinicians Network selected 30 individuals who have dedicated their lives to migrant health. Sister Eileen Eager, an Adult Nurse Practitioner in Seton Center in Princess Anne, Md., was chosen as one of the "30 Clinicians Making a Difference" in 2015. Sister Eileen's career in farmworker health spans four decades. Her presence has been described as a 'healing and life-giving force, both for the mobile poor and for those who work alongside of her.'

The Seton Associates honored founding Director Sister Julia Scanlan by announcing the establishment of the Annual Sister Julia Scanlan Ministry Project. The first event was held on March 16 when the group, in cooperation with Family Promise of Morristown, hosted a house shower for a homeless woman, Lynne Radcliffe, who was moving into her new apartment.



Lynne Radcliffe was overwhelmed with the generosity of the Seton Associates.

ITIONS

Sister Thomas Mary Salerno received The Distinguished Trustee Award from the United Hospital Fund on May 11 at the annual tribute to hospital trustees at a luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria in Manhattan. The fund's goal is to honor one trustee annually from hospitals across the metropolitan region. Sister Thomas Mary was nominated by Trinitas Hospital.

The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless - Hospitality House celebrated Sister Maryanne Tracey by holding a Sister Maryanne Tracey Day on April 12. Sister Maryanne was recognized for her contributions to the Coalition, her journey in building the Hospitality House as it is today, her vision for the program as it is today, and her influence in how the coalition is moving forward.

St. Augustine School in Union City, N.J., honored Sister Rosemary Moynihan, General Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and Rosemary Carroll, Director of the Seton Associates of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, with the Sister Roberta O'Hea Scholarship Award at the Third Annual Scholarship Dinner to Benefit the Sister Roberta O'Hea Scholarship Fund on April 29.

On April 14, the Center for Catholic Women's History at the College of Saint Elizabeth, invited Dr. Kathleen Sprows Cummings to talk about nation-saints, and the process of beatification in American Catholic history. After Dr. Cumming's inspiring talk, a tribute was given to the Leadership of the Cause of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. Mary Mazzarella DeMayo '55, M.D., Sister Marian Jose Smith (posthumously), Sister Mary Canavan, Sister Barbara Conroy, Sister Maureen Shaughnessy and Sister Rosemary Moynihan, who also serves the college as chair of the board of trustees, were recognized as having worked for decades to document and present the required proof of sainthood.

On May 1, Sister Merris Larkin, Principal of Assumption School in Morristown, was awarded the Anna B. Hillock Community Service Award by the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey.

Letters to the Editor

I attended St. Mary School in Dumont from 1960 to 1964. I recently became aware that one of my 8th grade classmates, Robert Dunne, has written a book about Jesus called "909 Days That Changed the World". I wondered if any of our former teachers were still around. I'm sure they would be so proud of him! I Googled Sister Josepha's name and up popped the issue of your *NEW Dimensions* with the terrific article by Tim Messick. I loved seeing Sister Alice Joseph's face again as well as Sister Maria Claire, both of whom were very kind to this public school 6th grade transfer.

Nancy Walsh Burlage
Class of 1964

I so enjoyed *NEW Dimensions*, Winter 2015. Mr. Messick's cover story, Gift of Presence, demonstrated just how lovingly our Sisters of Charity lived and modeled charity for their students.

As a proud K-12 parochial scholar, my Sisters of Charity are very dear to me and nothing compares to seeing that Sister Marie Gilligan's cherubic smile still endures. There was my beloved teacher arm-in-arm with wonderful Tim McLoone. And then I spot Sister Ursula Marie, my brilliant chemistry and physics teacher, celebrating her 65th Jubilee! How wonderful. I'm very proud of both of these exceptional women and their diverse ministries beyond teaching and grateful to have had their special light shine on me

Elaine (Kelso) Murphy
St. Stephen School '63 / St. Cecilia HS '67

The latest issue of *NEW Dimensions* should be nominated for a Pulitzer! So many wonderful featured articles and celebratory news stories. Loved it!

Rieda Breakey Piatti,
Seton Associate



(l to r) Alix Ann Arlinghaus and Siobhan Fallon Hogan



(l to r) Carol Collins and Jeanne Nicholls

Spring Lake Luncheon

The Sisters of Charity Spring Lake Luncheon on June 2 was a record setting event! With over 200 guests in attendance, the luncheon was a sellout. Luncheon goers enjoyed entering a drawing for lovely gift baskets and other items donated by generous friends. The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation by Siobhan Fallon Hogan, who entertained and inspired guests with the story of her journey as a Catholic actress.



(l to r) Betty Dangler, Elaine Robertazzi and Denise Repak



(l to r) John Laezza and John D'Angelo



Top: Brunch on the patio. Above: (l to r) Sister Ellen Dauwer and Elaine Foley

Golf Outing

Thank you to the many friends who attended and sponsored the Sisters of Charity Eighth Annual Golf Outing. More than 100 golfers enjoyed a perfect summer day at beautiful Echo Lake Country Club on June 22. The afternoon of golf was followed by cocktails on the patio, dinner, and a live auction. We are already looking forward to a return to Echo Lake for next year's Golf Outing, which is scheduled for June 20, 2016!



SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

The Direction Statement of the General Assembly of 2015

We, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, with deep faith and trust in Divine Providence, seek healing for our world through the transforming love of God. Impelled by boundless Charity, we strive to collaborate with others to promote right relationships and the common good of all people and creation. Energized by the fire of Charity, we, as bearers of hope, accompany people in need while advocating for systemic change.

We commit ourselves to the conversion and transformation necessary to make God's love known in the world. As a Congregation we challenge ourselves to sustain the mission by:

- Acting with conscious awareness of our interdependence with one another and all creation
- Practicing consistent advocacy for human rights, right relationships, peace and nonviolence
- Embracing a simple lifestyle and a responsible stewardship of our resources
- Engaging current and future generations in the charism and energy of Charity



IN MEMORIAM

Please visit "Remember Our Deceased Sisters in Your Prayers" at www.SCNJ.org for reflections on the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth who died between February 15, 2015 and August 15, 2015. May our sisters enjoy the fruits of their labor as well as peace with their God.

**Sister Anita Agnes
Whalen**

February 27

**Sister Suzanne
Faulkner**

February 28

**Sister Mary Ann
Tierney**

March 25

**Sister Eileen
Reinhardt**

April 12

**Sister Rosemary
McNabb**

April 15

**Sister Dorothy
Impens**

May 7

**Sister Marie
Claudia Rink**

May 28

**Sister Irene
Mary Roy**

June 24

**Sister Jean
Hemmer**

July 2

**Sister Ellen
Normile**

July 15

We invite you to partner with us in any of the following ways:

Consider becoming a Sister of Charity

Contact our Vocations Office
choosecharity@yahoo.com • 973-290-5331

Consider becoming a Seton Associate

These are our lay affiliates who live a life of charity in ministry to others.
setonassociates@scnj.org • 973-290-5336

Participate with financial support

Gifts may be designated for Ministry/General Support, Retired/Infirm Sisters or for specific ministries. For more information, please contact the Development Office at 973-290-5409/5454 or srcharity@scnj.org. Online donations may be made through www.SCNJ.org.

Request prayer support

Send a request online by selecting *Prayer Requests* from our website home page menu.

Learn more about the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
at www.SCNJ.org and on Facebook

Upcoming Events



Stop and Pray During the Day

Sunday, September 27, 2015

Sisters of Charity Motherhouse
Praying the Legacy of the Sisters of Charity -
A Year of Consecrated Life Event
Beginning at 8:45 a.m. - Participate in
some or all of the prayer opportunities.
Come and go as you please! For more details
visit www.SCNJ.org or call 973-290-5325.



Harvest Festival

Thursday, October 29, 2015

The Madison Hotel
The 2015 honorees are Carlotta M. Budd, Esq.
receiving the Caritas Award and
Alix Ann Arlinghaus receiving the
Mehegan Award. For more information visit
www.SCNJ.org or call 973-290-5454/5409.