



New DIMENSIONS

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A Publication of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

Challenged to

TAKE ACTION



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 14 dioceses within the United States and El Salvador and Haiti. The Congregation currently numbers 204 vowed members. The Seton Associate relationship has 300 affiliated lay and religious women and men.

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Welcome

Dear Friends,

Spring has sprung! As I go about some errands, I am delighted to see the hardy daffodils emerging and the yellowing of the forsythia bushes. It feels good to know that warmer weather and brighter days are ahead of us. It has been a long winter in a number of ways.



This issue of **NEW Dimensions** holds some wonderful stories about a variety of topics. In terms of outreach, you will read about the wonderful response to Catholic Sisters Week and the Food Drive Project. Also you will read about the work being done on behalf of homeless persons; this is so needed and we are proud of what is being done. We invite you to join with us in whatever way you can.

Our Development Office and our Communications Office staffs have been engaged in new ways of collaboration brought about as a result of the pandemic. Creativity came to the forefront and we benefited greatly.

Another story in this issue speaks of our High School initiative called "Toward Boundless Charity;" these young people prove that the charism of Charity will live on in wonderful ways. In this year that Pope Francis has dedicated to St. Joseph, Father Terry Moran gives us insight into St. Joseph as an Advocate for the Poor and the Marginalized.

On May 8th, we celebrated the Feast of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, S.C. whose Cause for Canonization continues. You will read about the Cause and its progress here.

As always in the Spring issue, we honor our Sisters whose Jubilees were celebrated in 2020.

Lastly we are introducing our new Logo –a return to what has been traditional for our Congregation.

As always, we could not do anything without your support financially and spiritually as you join with us to move the Mission of Charity forward. We thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to us.

Peace,

Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.

Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.

General Superior

On the Cover:

Top left: Marissa Gioffre, Seton Associate and Shannon Hoffman, Co-Director of the Office of Vocation and Mission Engagement visit the "joy of Sox" facility in Philadelphia, PA. Top right: Sister Beverly Ornes, delivers items to St. Michael's Food Pantry in Newark, NJ, during Catholic Sisters Week. Bottom: Sister Michelle Lukenda, SC, makes sandwiches that will be delivered to Our Lady of Peace Church in New Providence, NJ. They deliver them to a variety of groups for distribution.

A Life of Kindness Here and Into an Unknown Future

by Sister Barbara Garland, SC

Sister Margaret (Peggy) Fitzgibbons, SC



"**S**he was one of the kindest persons I have known." These words were used by Sister Margaret (Peggy) Fitzgibbons' councilor, Sister Joan Repka, to describe why the former might have chosen to donate her body to medical science when she died. Anyone who knew her might have said the same.

Always concerned for the other person whether with direct assistance in ministry or personally or being conscious of including others, Sister Peggy loved to be with people. Perhaps it was this central characteristic that led her to investigate with Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center how she might make sure her body provided the fullest help to other people through medical training and research. Having consulted with the Sisters of Charity and her family over time, we can imagine that she saw this as the stream of Charity to which her life was dedicated.

Sister Peggy died on Jan. 19, 2019, after several months of illness and hospice care. Her body was then reverently brought to Robert Wood Johnson to continue the life and health of others. She was celebrated in Holy Family Chapel in March 2019 by a memorial mass. Her niece, Rebecca, offered these reflections at that memorial:

Aunt Peggy was one-of-a-kind! We loved her dearly! The care and attention she showed her nieces and nephews was tremendous. She was so dedicated. ... We all know that her dedication to loving and serving others went way beyond her

family. Peggy supported anyone and everyone that she thought could use a little help ... She had room in her heart for everyone. ... She was truly a gift to everyone with whom she came in contact.

This way of living led to the final donation of her body to medical science, knowing full well her funeral and burial would be different from that of other Sisters of Charity. Following her body's time at Robert Wood Johnson, her remains were cremated and returned to Convent Station for internment in Holy Family Cemetery on Nov. 2, 2020. At that time a testimonial by Sr. Maureen Malone described Sr. Peggy in this way: "Peggy was a free spirit who saw everything that happened as a way to help other people. She never said an unkind word. She was the essence of goodness and kindness."

As the prayerful consideration of donating her body to science and conversation with family and friends and the Sisters of Charity ensued, one can imagine the travels of a life from growing up in Dover, N.J. to the immersion in the Charism of Charity through ministry in many schools in New Jersey, Florida, Mississippi, and in Mexico and Chile, ending in a lengthy illness. But then her life of Charity continues by doing the final, kindness ministry of helping unknown others to be cared for medically through education and research.

For information regarding donating your body to medical science, you might visit Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology, Anatomical Association.



ST. JOSEPH

ADVOCATE OF THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED

by Fr. Terrence J. Moran

On Dec. 8, 2021, Pope Francis called for a Year of St. Joseph ending on Dec. 8, 2022. Joseph is a most popular saint – patron of the Universal Church, of a happy death, of workers, of countless countries and is even subject to the indignity of having his statue planted upside down in real estate deals. Might Joseph also have something to say to us who strive to promote peace, justice, and the integrity of creation?

We are accustomed to calling Joseph a carpenter and have seen countless images of him in his shop at a work bench covered with wood shavings. However the Greek word that the gospel of Matthew uses to refer to his profession is tekton. Its meaning is closer to craftsman or even handyman than to carpenter. In a small village like Nazareth there would have not been enough work on a daily basis for Joseph. So he was likely a day laborer, traveling from worksite to worksite. It's not impossible that he worked at the construction of the splendid city of Sephoris, only about five miles from Nazareth. There he would have seen the miserably poor slaving to build palaces for the obscenely wealthy. Joseph's travels would have enabled him to witness rather widely the conditions of his people. No doubt his heart widened as he listened to the stories of people crushed under the burden of debt and taxes, of the precarious life of the peasant farmer, of lives spent under the shadow of the Roman Empire that used crucifixion as an instrument to terrorize its colonial subjects. And even today, people find in Joseph someone uniquely sympathetic to the needs of those made poor and marginal.

Among the most poor and marginal in the world were and are women and girls. Joseph was extraordinary in his patriarchal culture in the way he took seriously the word and spiritual experience of a poor and marginal woman – his wife, Mary. The law told him there were only two possibilities in the face of the news of her extraordinary pregnancy – to denounce her publicly or to divorce her privately. Either would have meant disaster for the life of young Mary. Joseph had the courage to listen to a dream – a marginalized part of himself – that enabled him to believe that God was doing something completely new in his life and the life of Mary.

Devotion to Joseph does not mean trusting his ability to sell a house if you bury his statue in the yard. It means to listen attentively and widely to the stories of those made poor and marginal and to allow our hearts to widen in compassion. It means paying attention to movements like Black Lives Matter and #MeToo. It means entertaining the possibility that God is showing us a new way forward, not in bankers or corporation presidents, but in a young woman like Greta Thunberg. True devotion to Joseph means compassionate listening, imaginative dreaming, and deep commitment to the new thing God is doing in the world.

St. Joseph...

Who believed in Mary's word, make us a church that listens to women's experience and their testimony of the action of the Spirit in their lives;

Who raised your son to be a peacemaker, make us a church of nonviolent resistance to war;

Who knew the joys of craftsmanship and the fatigue of work, make us a church that teaches the dignity of labor and that joins in the workers' struggle for just wages and decent conditions.

Who listened to the voice of a dream, make us a church of deep contemplation, cautious of superficial answers, open to God's surprises;

Who was a refugee, make us a church that is a home to the wanderer, shelter to the terrorized, haven to those in flight from violence and war;

Who was a member of a most unconventional family, make us a church of welcome to all families in all their wonderful diversity;

Who taught Jesus the wisdom in the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, make us willing disciples of Earth's wisdom and loving kin of all creation.



WHERE DID THE NEW SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH LOGO COME FROM?

THE NEW LOGO WAS TAKEN FROM A SKETCH BY SISTER ANNE HAARER, SC, WHICH SHE USED FOR THE PLASTER BAS RELIEF THAT HANGS OUTSIDE FOUNDERS ROOM IN THE MOTHERHOUSE, CONVENT STATION, NEW JERSEY. (SISTER ANNE HAARER, SC - RIP 2019)

Why the Pelican?

"The purpose and spirit of the Community is embodied in its symbol, the pelican, who feeds her young with her own substance. In Christian history the pelican is a symbol of Christ in his life of unconditional giving. He is the source and model of love for us. As Sisters of Charity we are called to a life of giving of our talents, our resources, ourselves, without condition and without reservation. We are called to give not just from our surplus, but from our substance. The ideal of charity is at the heart of the charism and tradition of the Community." (Toward Boundless Charity C13)

NEW Sisters of Charity Logo Unveiled

We are excited to share the **NEW** Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth logo. You will begin to see the new logo more and more as it replaces all of the logos that have been used in the past. The new logo is a clean styling rooted in the symbolism of the pelican which embraces the familiarity of our current and trusted identity, connecting our exciting future with our respected past.

We will continue to use the Congregational seal on some documents and, at times, as a secondary identification.

What's in a Name?

Baby Boomer Catholics and older people remember the days when Catholic sisters all bore exotic saints' names. It was an exciting moment to find an old yearbook that showed a sister teacher as a high school senior and revealed her real name.

Where did the practice of sisters changing their names begin and why did it stop? The practice has some biblical precedent. Frequently in the Bible, God changes someone's name when that person is called to a special mission: Abram becomes Abraham; Simon becomes Peter; Saul becomes Paul. Since religious life was once considered a "second baptism," a new name was given to signify this new life in Christ. Among the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, a woman entering the community was asked to submit three choices for a religious name, one of which was usually given to her. Often sisters chose a combination of their parents' names or that of a favorite saint. Variations of the name of Our Lady were common: Mary, Maria, Marie, Maureen, Miriam. Since sisters didn't use their surnames except for legal

business, no two sisters could have the same name - which made double names common: Marian José, Agnes Marian, Grace de Paul. The name was given at the ceremony of reception into the novitiate. The sister received the blessed novice's habit and the celebrant of the liturgy, often a bishop, solemnly pronounced, "In the world you were known as Miss Sally Smith. In religious life you will be known as Sister Catherine Perpetua." The Second Vatican Council put new emphasis on the importance of the consecration to God made in Baptism as the root of every vocation in the Church. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, like most religious congregations, gave their members the option to return to their baptismal name. Some sisters chose to keep their religious name. But many Catholic school children had the experience of seeing Sister Catherine Perpetua become Sister Sally Smith again.

Speaking of honoring your Baptism-we all know our birthdates. How many of us know the date of our Baptism? Find out and have an annual celebration.



Pictured are the members of Toward Boundless Charity at the Academy of Saint Elizabeth. The student led program includes more than 55 active members committed to living the charism of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Student leadership includes Molly McKenna, '21, president; Samantha Insler, '22, vice-president, and Katelyn Rohlf, '21, secretary. The program is co-moderated by Mrs. Lynn Burek, Principal, and Ms. Megan Knight, Director of Development & Alumnae Relations and Seton Associate.

Youth + Charity - POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD

by JoLynn Ryan Krempecki, Seton Associate

WHAT IS TOWARD BOUNDLESS CHARITY?

"Toward Boundless Charity" is dynamic and focused. The word "toward" says movement; "boundless" says possibilities, and "Charity" speaks of God in whose name the Sisters of Charity serve. For the past eight years the Sisters and Seton Associates have been joined by youth in Toward Boundless Charity (TBC). Rosemary Carroll, former director of Seton Associates, who was instrumental in creating TBC for teens, described it, "The purpose of TBC is to nourish the seeds of the charism already implanted in our high school students so that

it becomes a vital part of their identity."

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

Since the first TBC group started at Mother Seton Regional High School (MSRHS) in 2012, numerous youth have found it helpful on many levels. Marialaina Nissenbaum, a student at MSRHS in 2012, said, "TBC made me more aware of my personal responsibility to contribute where I can, using the skills I have." Through TBC and the example of her adult facilitators, she discovered the value of doing small things – tutoring, donating

clothes and toys, contributing to food drives and even donating blood. TBC planted the seed of deeper commitment in her heart. Thus, in 2015 she became a Seton Associate.

From small beginnings of 14 students in one location, TBC expanded to two more schools where adult facilitators (Megan Knight at Academy of St. Elizabeth and Theresa Nolan at St. Vincent's Academy) provide guidance and structure.

Theresa shared several stories about the girls in her group. Many of them, she said, are members of their local youth groups and various other church programs. She noted, "They are always willing to give of their time and talents to serve others. Whenever I observe them volunteering, it is completely obvious to me that their service comes from the heart. It is who they are."

Theresa also noted the transformative effect of TBC - responding with the Charism of Charity to others' needs provides for the poor but also stretches many teens, who begin to live the Charism of Charity more intentionally - in their own way and in their own lives.

Megan spoke of the long-range effects she has seen on the 60 students taking part at St. Elizabeth. She believes the program gives the girls "a deeper sense of purpose while working together toward the greater good. This sense of being an important part of the Sisters of Charity legacy creates a meaning and heartfelt appreciation for the tireless efforts of those who have paved the way before them. They know that they are part of something special that is full of God's grace."

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Beginning 2021, Toward Boundless Charity will be overseen by Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC, and Shannon-Cathleen Hoffman, co-directors of the Office of Vocation and Mission Engagement. Patti D'Esmond, Seton Associate and Coordinator for TBC Facilitators, will assist with events like retreats, spirituality days, and joint ministry projects. Patti shared her belief in the TBC teens, "They are carriers of God's goodness in a new generation, and, if we trust in the movement of the Spirit in their young hearts, we will have much to learn from them."

Patti's reflection on her role summarizes the goals of the TBC program. Her role will be to assist the co-directors and the facilitators in providing experiences of

- understanding more deeply the charism of charity,
- understanding that they are part of something bigger than themselves or their schools,
- seeing their lives in the context of the Vincentian family,
- providing hands-on opportunities for service, and
- connecting and networking all the students.

She concluded, "Hopefully, these endeavors will deepen the students' belief in their power to change the world."



(l to r) A Lora '20, B. Cyriac '21, Jen Hule '20 with a child from a nearby elementary school during SVA's TBC Trunk or Treat.



Seton Associates- Convent Group.



Iban Johnson and Paige Sweeting, students at Immaculate Conception H.S., Montclair, NJ.

Charity IS Alive:

CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK PROJECT A HUGE SUCCESS!



by Donna Sartor-Halatin

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Office of Vocation and Mission Engagement joined in the celebration of National Catholic Sisters Week 2021 by offering the opportunity for sisters, employees, associates and ministries to take part in an effort to assist those who are food insecure. The campaign was a week-long project, which began on Monday, March 8, (National Women's Day) and ended on Sunday, March 14.

Individuals and groups were asked to organize local food drives by simply collecting food at their locations and delivering it to a local food bank or to an individual or family in need. The collections included gift cards, monetary donations and non-

perishable food items. Participants were encouraged to gather friends, family, neighbors, parishes, churches, colleagues or any group to collaborate with to work on this worthy and much-needed cause. Small scale or large scale...all were encouraged!

The results were humbling! Sisters, employees, Seton Associates, Sisters of Charity- sponsored ministries and schools were overwhelmingly generous to the donation location they chose. The Spirit of Vincent, Louise, Elizabeth and Mother Xavier was surely alive in everyone who joined this endeavor!

These are the groups/individuals that we know participated, but there may be others for which we were not made aware. A huge thank you to all of you!

ORGANIZER	RECIPIENT
Trinitas Regional Medical Center	St. Joseph Social Service Center
St. Joseph's Health Emergency Dept. Staff	Father English Center
Sister Maureen Sullivan - Catholic Family & Community Services	Eva's Kitchen and local senior citizens
Seton Associates - Navajo Reservation, NM	Local communities
Immaculate Conception High School	Mary's Pantry St. Theresa of Calcutta Parish
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Employees, Sisters and Seton Associates	St. Elizabeth University Food Pantry
Jean Semler, SA	Delaware Valley Food Pantry
Luis Santos, SC Employee	Local community and Church
Academy of Saint Elizabeth	Interfaith Food Pantry, Morristown
Sister Beverly Ornes, SC	St. Michael's Food Pantry, Newark
Maria Breakey, SA & Family	St. Joseph's Parish, Lincoln Park
Josephine's Place, Elizabeth	Women/families of Josephine's Place



Students from the Academy of Saint Elizabeth



St. Joseph's Health - ER Staff.



Sister Maureen Sullivan, SC, Catholic Family and Community Services.



Trintas Regional Medical Center - Sister Prudentia Osuji, SC.

2020 JUBILEE

Congratulations to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth who have celebrated milestones in their religious life. If you recognize one of the Sisters and would like to send a correspondence to her, please mail it to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, 1000 North Main Street, Suite 100, Saint Elizabeth, SC 29920. If you would like to make a donation in their honor, contact the Development Office at (803) 733-1234.

75 YEARS



Sister Jane
Cavanaugh, SC



Sister Barbara
Conroy, SC



Sister Barbara
Ginther, SC



Sister Elizabeth Ann
Holler, SC



Sister Joseph Marian
Hudson, SC



Sister Maria Brigita
Fitzsimmons, SC

70 YEARS



Sister Barbara
Brown, SC



Sister Beverly Ann
Bligh, SC



Sister Beverly
Ornes, SC



Sister Jane Teresa
Culligan, SC



Sister Jo Ann
Bromley, SC



Sister Joan Eileen
Butler, SC

65 YEARS



Sister Frances
Salemi, SC



Sister Geraldine Ann
Brady, SC



Sister Janet
Lehmann, SC



Sister Janet
McLaughlin, SC



Sister Kathleen
Flanagan, SC



Sister Elizabeth
Kremp, SC



Sister Elizabeth
Scheidt, SC

60 YEARS

ILARIANS

We celebrate these 37 faithful women for continuing the mission of Christ in the world for 2,295 cumulative years.
 of Saint Elizabeth, Communications Office, P.O. Box 476, Convent Station, NJ 07961-0476 or e-mail it to escharity@scnj.org.
 nt Office at srcharity@scnj.org or **973-290-5480** or visit **www.SCNJ.org**.

65 YEARS



Sister Marie Charitina
Frabizio, SC



Sister Mary Jane
O'Hare, SC



Sister Patricia
Bray, SC



Sister Anita Louise
Thompson, SC



Sister Ann
Stango, SC



Sister Barbara
Aires, SC

60 YEARS



Sister Joyce
Vincent, SC



Sister Madeline
Fahey, SC



Sister Maryanne
Van Note, SC



Sister Patricia
Reynolds, SC



Sister Anne Marie
Moroney, SC



Sister Catherine
Morrisett, SC

55 YEARS



Sister Elizabeth,
SC



Sister Margaret
Conlon, SC



Sister Mary Dolores
Spano, SC



Sister Maryanne
Tracey, SC



Sister Rosemary
Moynihan, SC



Sister Carol Ann
Lockwood, SC



Sister Margaret
McCann, SC

35 YEARS 30 YEARS



Challenged to **TAKE ACTION**

by Sister Maureen Sullivan, SC

Sister Gloria O'Brien, SC, (l) and Sister Barbara Connell, SC, help pack up the SAM Bags with other sisters at the Motherhouse.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, in their 2019 General Assembly of Affairs, prayerfully reflected on the persistent and widespread nature of homelessness experienced by persons locally, across our nation and around the globe. We were challenged to take actions that highlight this crisis, to commit ourselves to being informed and educated about the causes, to collaborate in advocacy efforts with other groups and organizations and to address this issue with public officials at all levels of government.

A working Committee on People Experiencing Homelessness of Sisters of Charity, Seton Associates and members of the New Jersey community was established. For two years, the Committee has engaged in actions of education, collaboration and advocacy.

A public statement was prepared by the Committee: "A CALLING: HOMELESS TO HOPEFUL" received affirmations from members of the Sisters of Charity and the Seton Associates. The statement was published and sent to Congressional and state representatives as well as corporations and other organizations. We are calling upon these groups to promote policies and take actions that recognize the dignity of each person and ensure his/her right to affordable, safe and adequate housing. The statement is available on www.SCNJ.org.

For the Sisters, it was not just a matter of making a statement.

Their commitment had to be followed by actions. Over the course of the last two years, the Sisters have undertaken various activities to study the problem of homeless in those areas where we serve and take action to address the needs where possible.

Demographics told us that almost 55% of the homeless in New Jersey are in the eight counties where most Sisters of Charity live (Bergen, Sussex, Hudson, Union, Morris, Passaic, Monmouth and Ocean).

Many homeless are in urban areas of these counties. In 2020, homelessness increased by 49% due to loss of jobs and evictions. In 2019, 2020 and 2021 the Sisters learned about and participated in the Point in Time Count required by Health and Housing Services Department (HUD) to assess the homeless in each of the counties. Sisters participated at sites, including Eva's Village and Catholic Charities in Passaic County, to pack bags to distribute to homeless during the count. They also joined a team to seek out the homeless and engage them in conversations to learn more about their situations and what would help. These counts highlighted the racial and income disparities facing the homeless.

As the committee learned more about homelessness, it shared its finding with the rest of the community via highlights in the weekly Sisters of Charity FACTS and Zoom programs. The Sisters also participated in small Zoom discussion groups with 360 Sisters in the Charity Federation on homelessness nationwide.

Additional concrete actions were also taken. After learning that most college campuses nationally have students who struggle to provide for their education, housing and adequate food, a drive by the SCNJ Congregation Administrative Departments provided food for the Saint Elizabeth University student food pantry. This issue was also addressed by a joint group with Drew and Fairleigh Dickinson Universities who were also facing similar challenges.

Around the country, Sister Gerry Brady, SC, in Tucson, AZ, serves on the board of a shelter where immigrants are processed and housed and have their needs provided for including safety for children. Sister Elise Gittrich, SC, in El Paso, TX, ministers in a shelter for homeless migrants from across the border. Covid has restricted the numbers they can accommodate and some are sleeping in tents. Many are undocumented. They need shelter, food, clothing and other services.

Sister Jacquelyn Balasia, SC, and the students at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark, N.J. regularly reach out to help immigrants in the Federal Detention Center in Elizabeth, N.J. Covid has reduced the number of detainees and some have been released for medical reasons. But conditions have deteriorated because of the pandemic. The students provided necessities at the jail and also collected coats, food, blankets, baby items and personal care items that were shared with the needy in Elizabeth and other areas.

A group of Sisters of Charity and also Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC and Sister Cecilia McManus, SC, attended FamVin workshops in Rome regarding homelessness on an international level. FamVin is working to unite 800,000 Vincentian members to help address this international crisis. Our Sisters are helping in El Salvador and Haiti. Sister Peggy O'Neill, SC, at the Peace Center in Suchitoto, El Salvador, works to heal those who suffer from violence and homelessness. Our Sisters of Charity, along with the Dominican Sisters, have sponsored a Housing Project in Haiti that has built 13 homes to date. Our Haitian project was recognized by FamVin for our work to address homelessness and well as education because we have also built a school in Haiti.

Dee Banicki, a Seton Associate, started a program to provide needed items for the homeless in memory of her son, Sam Banicki. This project is called "Sam Bags." Aided by donations from Sisters, Seton Associates and friends, Sisters at the motherhouse helped fill these bags for some of the homeless in New Jersey and in Detroit where Dee is living during Covid-19. These sturdy red bags include toiletries, socks, hats, gloves, snacks and various other items.

Sister Maureen Sullivan, SC, working with Catholic Charities in Paterson, N.J., said that homelessness is reflected in the need for food for the homeless and the poor. Because of Covid, the food pantries have gone from feeding 5,000+ in February 2020 to

feeding 21,000+ in February 2021. In addition, shelter has been provided for the homeless, displaced families and those who have lost their homes because of local disasters like house fires.

Sister Roseann Mazzeo, SC, Director of WomenRising, Inc. in Jersey City, N.J., reported that Covid has caused a cut in funding for domestic violence and the courts have been closed so that victims must remain in place. Due to social-distancing requirements, the shelter capacity is limited and no new families can be processed. There has also been an uptake in elder abuse.

Sister Ellen Clifford, SC, and Donna Fico, director of Eva's Village, reported that Covid protocols, including testing and social distancing, have restricted the number of homeless who can be sheltered. This has forced more people to remain on the streets.

Advent and Christmas 2020 during the pandemic heightened the Sisters' awareness of the needs of the homeless. Father Terry Moran, director of the Sisters of Charity Office



Sister Geraldine Brady, SC, with a friend at the St. Francis Shelter Hospitality Center.



Housing Project in Haiti - 13 homes were built to date.



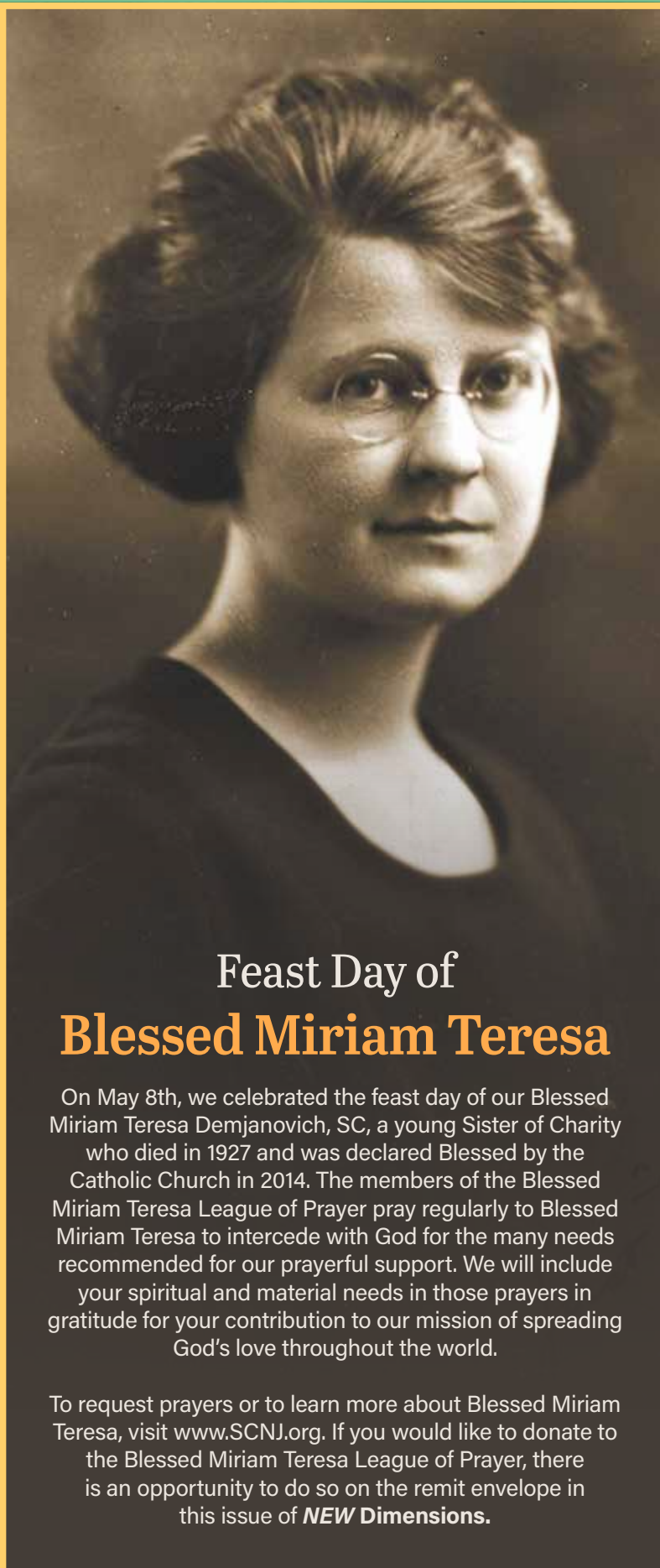
Sister Jacquelyn Balasia, SC, and Sister Eileen Clifford, SC, help with clothing drive at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark, NJ.

of Peace and Justice Committee, provided an Advent Series on Homelessness and the Advent calendar 2020 addressed this issue.

To meet the needs of the homeless during Advent, the Sisters established an Alternate Gift Giving Program asking Sisters, Seton Associates, staff members, friends and our sponsored ministries to provide, food, gift cards, blankets and other items. The total raised to support the homeless in Eva's Village, Paterson; the Opportunity Center for the Homeless, El Paso, and Sam's Bags, Michigan, totaled \$21,494. Eight hundred gift cards were also obtained along with blankets, socks, food items and eating utensils. Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC, and Sister Maureen Sullivan, SC, reported that 10,000 pairs of men's, women's and children's socks from the Joy of Sox were distributed to Paterson, Michigan, El Paso, and Elizabeth.

The Sisters continue their advocacy. President Biden's new Covid Relief Bill addressed assistance for renters, homeowners and the homeless who were adversely affected by the pandemic. While the bill was being debated in Congress, the Sisters of Charity Leadership publicly endorsed a letter by the National Alliance for the Homeless for the Stimulus Bill. The Covid relief bill, the American Rescue Plan Act, passed Congress and was signed by President Biden. This will help address homelessness.

We are grateful for all those who have collaborated with us to address not only the physical needs of homelessness, but also the systemic issues. We will continue to look for your support to do what we need to do to address the needs of those who experience homelessness.



Feast Day of Blessed Miriam Teresa

On May 8th, we celebrated the feast day of our Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC, a young Sister of Charity who died in 1927 and was declared Blessed by the Catholic Church in 2014. The members of the Blessed Miriam Teresa League of Prayer pray regularly to Blessed Miriam Teresa to intercede with God for the many needs recommended for our prayerful support. We will include your spiritual and material needs in those prayers in gratitude for your contribution to our mission of spreading God's love throughout the world.

To request prayers or to learn more about Blessed Miriam Teresa, visit www.SCNJ.org. If you would like to donate to the Blessed Miriam Teresa League of Prayer, there is an opportunity to do so on the remit envelope in this issue of **NEW Dimensions**.

Some of Our Most Liked #TBT Posts

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



This spring, as the COVID-19 vaccine is distributed, we recall the widespread distribution in 1964 of the Sabin oral vaccine to immunize children against polio. Father Chang arranged for the nursing sisters of Saint Joseph Hospital in Paterson to vaccinate the young parishioners of Our Lady of Victories church. Pictured (left to right) are Sisters Mary Alicia Mullins, Marie Claudia Rink, Francis Elizabeth Duguay, Teresa Regina Confroy, Anne Maurilla (Sister Mary Jane) O'Hare, Margaret Alice Shalvoy and Eileen Clifford

In 2020 heroic teachers are planning for a uniquely challenging new year, as they prepare to meet their students face-to-face, online, or in some combination of the two. Back in 1948 Sisters Ann D'Auray, Alphonsus and Rita Mercedes were mastering the technology of their day, a filmstrip projector and a record. Beep!



In February 1963 Phil "The Scooter" Rizzuto was a patient in Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Elizabeth. Pictured with Sister Ellen Patricia Meade, CEO & Administrator, the former Yankee shortstop holds up the hand he damaged in a snow blower accident. Upon his induction into the Hall of Fame in 1994 Phil began his speech with his signature line, "Holy Cow," and then talked about wanting to be a ballplayer as a boy, but wondering what else he could do because he wasn't good with his hands. He noted that things became worse upon his retirement when "I almost took my fingers off trying to run my snow blower."



On October 10, 1993 Bishop Frank Rodimer conferred the papal medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (For the Church and the Pontiff) on Sister Hildegard Marie Mahoney. Established in 1888 the honor is given to Catholic adults who have given distinguished service to the Church and to the Papal office. Sister Hildegard taught at the College of Saint Elizabeth and then served as its president from 1952 to 1971. She then was elected to two four-year terms as the General Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Through all those years she served as a consultant to the bishops of the Diocese of Paterson and played a significant role in the canonization process of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.





SPOTLIGHT ON

(l to r) Dennis Cupido, Suzie Vail, Wendy Relation, Donna Sartor, Karen Soto and Sarah Bodnar.

THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE & THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Advancing the Mission through Teamwork

Even though the Development Office and the Communications Office are different cogs in the wheel that is the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, the regular collaboration and brainstorming of the two offices make the wheel run more smoothly. Each office has its own focus, but for many projects, the combined talents and expertise create a dynamic team.

The Development Office carries out the fundraising ministry of the Sisters of Charity. Every year, the Sisters receive over 8,000 gifts from approximately 4,000 donors. These gifts come primarily through seasonal appeals, online campaigns, quarterly 50-50 raffles, and events. There always seems to be something going on as the team acknowledges gifts, plans the next campaign or event, and uses rapidly evolving technology to reach out to new supporters.

The Development team is led by Wendy Relation, who joined the Sisters of Charity as Director of Development in December 2012. Wendy has enjoyed getting to know so many Sisters by working together and by writing Sister Stories for our website. With an undergraduate degree in music, she is always happy to play piano or organ for special celebrations with the Sisters.



Donna Sartor, standing, updating the website with Sarah Bodnar.

Karen Soto is the longest serving member of the Development team, beginning back in 2004 when Sister Sheila Holleran served as Director. Karen continues Sister Sheila's legacy of representing the Sisters of Charity with warmth and humor.

She fondly remembers the smiley faces Sister Sheila added after signing every thank you letter.

Although Suzie Vail joined the Development Office in July 2019, she has a long history with Mother Seton and the Sisters of Charity. Suzie and her siblings were all educated by the Sisters of Charity of New York and she feels life has come full circle now working for the Sisters in Convent Station. The tradition continues for her family as her daughter, Sophia, is a sophomore at the Academy of Saint Elizabeth.

Most recently, the Development Office has been grateful for the regular volunteer support provided by Dennis Cupido, who also happens to be Sister Noreen Neary's brother-in-law. Dennis willingly pitches in to process donations and help keep the office running smoothly.

The mission of the Communications Office is to maintain and coordinate a comprehensive communication program to support the mission, philosophy and positive image of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and to facilitate the flow of information within the organization and out to its various publics. This office is the hub of all internal and external communications. The various offices are required to funnel their correspondences through the Communications Office to ensure a consistent and professional message.

The functions of the Communications Office have changed dramatically in the past few years. The days of relying on printed materials, long-essay type stories, and in-depth brochures as marketing techniques are long gone. Fast forward to present day...mostly everything is digital and web-based. To stay relevant and competitive, the office was recreated to produce primarily digital marketing tools, while still offering the option of printed materials for those who prefer to receive them.

The Congregational website, www.SCNJ.org, has had a facelift within the last year. It is user friendly and has a visually pleasant look that provides a glimpse into who the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth are and whom they serve. While chock-full of information, it offers interactive videos and insights on our ministries and our partners in mission. We are also active on Facebook and Instagram, with a large following of fans. If you are not presently following us on those platforms, we invite you to do so!

Donna Sartor, Director of Communications, will be completing her 21st year with the Sisters in November 2021. Donna considers the Sisters of Charity not only her employer, but her extended family. She and her husband, Ric, are passionate about animals and have two dogs and two cats, although Donna would love to have a houseful! They love to kayak, bike ride and enjoy relaxing in their yard.



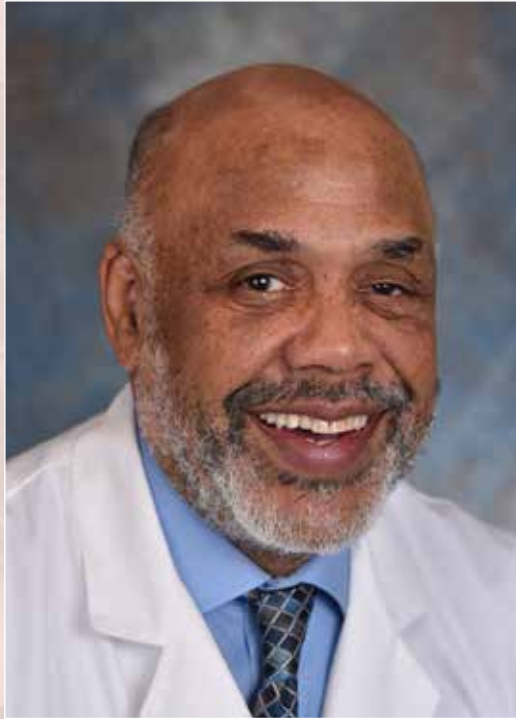
Development staff team building, l to r, Suzie Vail, Karen Soto, Wendy Relation and Dennis Cupido.

Sarah Bodnar has been working part-time in the Communications Office for just over a year as a social media and website specialist. When she is not in the office, Sarah is busy running her yoga studio, Three Birds Yoga. She instructs classes and trainings while managing all operations of the studio. In her down time, she enjoys married life with her husband, Brian, and spending time with their daughter Raigan and their pup Harpo.

Contributing their individual skills and united in their commitment to the mission, Wendy, Karen, Suzie, Dennis, Donna, and Sarah collaborate to spread the word about the Sisters of Charity and generate support for the Sisters and their ministries. Especially since the pandemic, this means creatively embracing the challenge to connect with people in new ways.

The advances achieved and lessons learned that resulted in a resoundingly successful Virtual Harvest Festival in October offer exciting opportunities moving forward. New capabilities to reach donors and accept gifts through text messages were key to December's Giving Tuesday campaign titled #SCCONNECT, which raised over \$35,000 for technology for the Sisters. The Sisters were thrilled to embrace new ways to stay connected with the community and fully engaged in their active ministries.

Without question, the world of fundraising and communications has changed and will continue to change. As always throughout their history, the Sisters of Charity are ready to adapt to the times. With the help of lay employees, Seton Associates, and many other friends, you can rely on the promise of Boundless Charity: Mission Moving Forward.



James N. Pruden,
MD, FACEP



Mary McTigue,
DNP, RNC, CENP

SISTERS OF CHARITY

Virtual Harvest Festival

by Wendy Relation, Director of Development

The Sisters of Charity 2020 Virtual Harvest Festival was a joyous and memorable celebration! We were delighted to honor Mary McTigue, DNP, RNC, CENP from Trinitas Regional Medical Center and James N. Pruden, MD, FACEP from St. Joseph's Health.

The need to transition to a virtual event became obvious as the COVID restrictions that began in the spring continued into the summer months with no end in sight. Members of the Development and Communications Offices worked to learn all that they could about virtual events. Using the digital services of MobileCause, Donna Sartor and Sarah Bodnar set up an event landing page that made it easy for friends to register for the event and offer support through texting a keyword on their phones. The entire Congregation enjoyed checking the event page to watch the fundraising totals rise to over \$175,000 as so many generous friends and sponsors helped us to exceed our goal.

The virtual event provided a unique opportunity to pay tribute to this year's honorees. Dr. McTigue was presented with the Caritas Award and Dr. Pruden was presented with the Mehegan Award. Highlights of the program included videos from Trinitas and St. Joseph's Health that showed the heroic contributions of the many selfless healthcare professionals who responded to the COVID crisis. Friends and colleagues of both honorees were able to share "shout outs" of congratulations. Tim McLoone added his special music that is always a crowd favorite at our Sisters of Charity Harvest Festivals.

Although we can't wait to get together again in person, we count our first virtual event as a great success. Thanks to everyone who supported the Sisters of Charity during this extraordinary time.

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 and Seton Associates who died between September 20, 2020 and April 15, 2021.



Sister Mary
Emmanuel Hauck, SC
SEPTEMBER 26, 2020



Sister Eleanor Zampese, SC
(Sister Eleanor Michael)
NOVEMBER 27, 2020



Sister Kathleen Murphy, SC
(Sister Mary Rosaire)
MARCH 1, 2021



Sister Ann Pressler, SC
(Sister Marita Cordis)
MARCH 7, 2021

SETON ASSOCIATES:

Dorothy Klemm – January 7, 2021 • Carol Bullock – January 19, 2021
Mary Varick – February 19, 2021 • Rosemarie Therese Brodeur – March 5, 2021
Reverend Monsignor Charles Gusmer – March 24, 2021



Awards & Recognitions

Congratulations to Sister Noreen Neary, SC, recipient of the Setonian Award presented to her at the Mother Seton Regional High School Alumnae Association virtual gala on January 22nd. Sister Noreen is a graduate of the MSR Class of 1970.

Congratulations, Sister Geraldine Brady!
In a recent newsletter from the Saint Francis Shelter for Men located on the grounds of Sacred Heart Parish, Sister Geraldine "Gerry" Brady will be honored by the naming of the newly renovated chapel in the old Convent building as "THE SISTER GERALDINE BRADY CHAPEL." Gerry has long been a supporter of the shelter. Congratulations, Gerry...
An honor well deserved for your tireless living out the Mission of Charity in Tucson, Arizona.

Have you considered planned giving?

If you're reading this, you probably already support the Sisters of Charity and their mission that helps so many people in need. Would you like to continue that support far into the future? With thoughtful planning, you can make a gift to perpetuate the mission of boundless charity while at the same time benefitting yourself and your loved ones.

The Sisters of Charity website offers a wealth of information (pun intended!) for you, your family, and your financial planner to consider. Please visit <http://scnj.plannedgiving.org/> to learn about gifts you can make through your will, your retirement plan, and other instruments. Have you considered making a gift of securities? Have you considered supporting the Sisters of Charity through a life insurance policy?

Even if the Sisters of Charity do not figure into your planned giving, be sure that you do have plans in place and that you review them regularly. Including a charity in your planning can do a lot of good and can also make sense from a tax perspective. No matter what you decide, your family will be grateful to know that you cared enough to plan ahead and take control of your legacy.

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

P.O. Box 476

Convent Station, N.J. 07961-0476

www.SCNJ.org



SistersofCharityofSaintElizabeth



sisters_of_charity

Upcoming EVENTS

**For all upcoming events
please contact:**

**The Sisters of Charity of
Saint Elizabeth Development Office**

P.O. Box 476

Convent Station, N.J. 07961-0476

973-290-5454/5409

srcharity@scnj.org • www.SCNJ.org

VISIT
OUR
ONLINE
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SCNJ.ORG

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GREETING CARDS
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OF GRATITUDE WRITTEN
BY OUR SISTERS

STAY SAFE WITH OUR
SCNJ FACE MASKS. THEY
FEATURE OUR NEW LOGO
AND ARE VERY
COMFORTABLE!
SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
THE SISTERS OF CHARITY
OF SAINT ELIZABETH.
PRICES ARE SUGGESTED DONATIONS.



13th Annual Golf Outing

Shackamaxon Country Club, Scotch Plains, NJ

Monday, May 24, 2021



Spring Lake Luncheon

Spring Lake Golf Club

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

With guest speaker New Jersey's beloved Maestro, Father Alphonse Stephenson, founder of The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea and retired National Guard/U.S. Air Force Chaplain and Brigadier General.