



# Assumption College for Sisters

## Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters † March 2012

### Alumnae Spotlight

Sister Ifigenia Bahati, a Franciscan Sister of St. Bernadette, arrived at ACS from Tanzania on January 7, 2003. In her own words in the exit essay that graduates are asked to submit she said: "...that date is one of the most important days of my life. Arriving at the Motherhouse, I was welcomed by the smiling faces of the Sisters of Christian Charity. At first, it was very difficult for me to share my ideas with them because my English was not good. However, due to their love, encouragement, and friendship, I got used to the environment in only a few days." She adds: "The students at ACS exemplify the beauty in diversity. Living together at Assumption College for Sisters, despite our differences in background, culture, customs, nationality, race and color, makes it possible for the students to share experiences and learn from each other. Our unity and diversity contributed much to my learning, because from all these differences, I learned new customs and developed friendships with the students from other countries. I believe that all that I have learned from them will help me in the future."

After graduating with an AA degree from Assumption College for Sisters, Sister Ifigenia continued her studies at D'Youville College in Buffalo, NY where she obtained a BA in Accounting and MA in International Business. She returned back to Tan-

zania in July 2010 where she is involved in very active ministry.

#### **Sister writes back to ACS as to how she is giving back to the community:**

"My bond with the Sisters of Christian Charity and the ACS faculty has and will always remain strong for my entire life. The class and other outside-the-classroom interactions with faculty helped me achieve much more than I ever thought possible. I have learned not just how to succeed in



*Sister Ifigenia and colleagues at Radio Kwizera*

the classroom, but also in life. At ACS I was well-rounded: to learn, to be an active participant, and to give back to the community, and actually have found a way to "give back" to others. A life in human resources and logistics is never dull. You never can plan a day.

Currently, I work for a local Catholic Radio

run by the Jesuit Fathers as Human Resources and Logistics Officer. I know that being in HR can be very difficult at times, but God has been with me and always helps to overcome the challenges! A quote I try to live by is "Don't TRY harder, DO harder and LEAVE everything in the HANDS of GOD." My special thanks go to both colleges: ACS and DYC [D'Youville College]! We are 33 employees at Radio Kwizera and there are two Jesuit priests. Radio Kwizera was founded in 1995 as an initiative of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Catholic Diocese of Rulenge-Ngara (formerly Rulenge). RK seeks to fill the information and knowledge gaps around the areas it covers. It accompanies, empowers, educates, serves, and advocates for the rights of the marginalized and the vulnerable in the spirit of justice for all. The approximate total population within the coverage area is 12 million. The radio station is situated in a very remote area where people have no access to information, and it is the only available radio in the whole district."

Sisters Ifigenia, along with the hundreds of Assumption College Alumni, are making a difference as they bring their compassionate care and professional skills to those in need. Sister Ifigenia is a witness to the need for Assumption College in the life of the Church and the world.

### Students and Faculty to Meet with Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations

A field trip to meet with Archbishop Chullikatt and a tour of the United Nations is on the agenda for our students and faculty. Prior to the visit, Sister Mary Veronica Kulsar, history professor, will deliver a lecture to the students on the

history of the UN and its role today. Students will have a guided tour of the UN followed by a meeting with Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN. Archbishop Chullikatt has

taken a keen interest in the mission of Assumption College for Sisters in recent years, having delivered a lecture to our students and having offered financial assistance through his *Path to Peace Foundation* in sponsoring a Sister.

## From the President...

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Dear Friends of Assumption College for Sisters,

Happy New Year to each of you! Even though 2012 is a few months old, my wishes and prayers for you are “on time.”

In addition to some of the events here at ACS that you will read about in our newsletter, I would like to share with you a wonderful experience I had a few weeks ago. Assumption College for Sisters belongs to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) along with over 200 Catholic institutions of higher learning in the United States. I was able to attend their 2012 annual meeting held in Washington, DC from January 28-30.

This year’s meeting theme, “Catholic Higher Education & Culture: Advancing Gospel Values and Cultivating Civility” reflected how our institutions can both

embrace and challenge culture in order to advance society and offer a model of respect for the dignity of all persons.

In addition to attending wonderful plenary sessions such as “Discerning Culture and Advancing Gospel Values”, “American Catholics I Have Some Good News and Some Bad News,” “Cultivating Civility: Pro-Life and Social Justice Pursuing the Kingdom Together”, and “Advancing Gospel Values and Cultivating Civility: The Compelling Story of Catholic Higher Education,” I was able to attend some specific breakout sessions.

Perhaps the greatest experience for me, however, was the networking with so many college presidents who have offered our international students scholarships to complete their Baccalaureate degree. As I spoke with each, I was able to express the thanks of all of us at ACS for partnering with us in educating the Sisters from

developing nations. In turn, they had words of praise for our alums. They remarked about their academic achievements, but especially expressed gratitude to the Sisters for being a religious presence on their campuses and expressed appreciation for what ACS is doing for the world. What especially impressed me was that these presidents of large colleges and universities knew our Sisters by name!

I came away from the weekend grateful for the part ACS plays in the realm of Catholic higher education and energized to see that it continues. I, in turn, express my deep thanks to you, our friends and benefactors, for helping to make our mission possible. May God bless each of you.

Sincerely,



Sister Joseph Spring, SCC

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## Morris Museum Visit

On November 30, ESL instructor, Dr. JoAnne Sylva led her first year ESL 101 students on an autumn field trip, accompanied by Sister Marie Cecilia Landis, SCC, Coordinator of International Resident Student Services.

They began their afternoon with a lunch at the Market Restaurant in Morristown, where they experienced a multicultural American menu. Many students were quite adventurous and ate food which was totally new to them.

Arriving at the Morris Museum, Morristown, a museum guide presented two programs. The first program was *American Indian Cultures* focusing on the customs of the various Native American tribes. Students had just learned about the American celebration of Thanksgiving, so they were very interested in this topic. Also of great interest was the actual native American clothing, cooking implements and jewelry on display

In the Guinness Wing of the Museum,

students viewed the exhibit, *Musical Machines and Living Dolls* housing the world’s largest collection of musical machines and animated toys, students took interest in the artistic and cultural value of these items.

One student summed up the day: “We had delicious food and beautiful things to see and hear!” The trip was intended to provide recreational and cultural experiences for our students. *Thank you* to all who made the day possible.

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## Academic Happenings

A report back to Middle States Commission on Higher Education caused us to reflect on the global perspective of our curriculum. Our Bulletin states: “The curriculum at Assumption College for Sisters is designed to reflect a global perspective that incorporates an awareness of and respect for the viewpoints, cultures, and customs of all peoples. Through the teaching and study of the contributions of the world community to humankind, we seek to broaden our horizons by realizing our connectedness as individuals of dignity and worth whose common needs call us to continue to strive

for the peace and justice of Gospel teaching.”

Just for some examples: In the Division of the Humanities, in the World Civilization I class a Russian Orthodox priest was invited to present the history of the Russian Orthodox religion (this article was featured in the December issue of Sharings); the ESL 101 class was treated to a multicultural lunch; and the FA 101 Dance class attended a Ballet Folklorico de Antioquia Colombia in which students enjoyed the rich legacy of Columbian folklore through traditional dance, music, and costumes.



Sister students take a break from studies to prepare a traditional Vietnamese meal in celebration of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year.

(Continued on next page.)

## Stewardship: A Way of Life

Lent provides opportunities to explore and deepen our faith, to reflect on Christ's example of sacrifice, and to consider our commitments to one another and the Church. Lent can provide us with an awareness of all that is good in our life—our faith, talents and opportunities to serve.

That being said, Lent can challenge us to examine what we *do* with these God-given gifts. Knowing how to best place them at the service of God and others is key. Like any worthwhile undertaking, using our gifts wisely requires understanding, planning and trust. Only then can our lives and the lives of those in need be enriched.

To that end, Assumption College for Sisters asks you to consider stewardship as a way of life. The concept of stewardship is nothing new to Catholic Christians. From the story of Genesis we read that God saw all that he made was good and *entrusted such* to human beings. The great American preacher, Billy Graham, tells us: "God has given us two hands — one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for

hoarding; we are channels made for giving."

What is Stewardship?

- Stewardship is an understanding of the heart that everything we have is a gift from God.
- Stewardship is a way of life, honoring God in everything we do with God's gifts.
- Stewardship is having the heart to give back out of love a portion of every gift that has been entrusted to us by God.
- Stewardship is a life-long commitment that brings us closer to Christ; following the path laid out for us through His example.

Assumption College for Sisters can only go forward with your help. We ask that you pray and consider a sustaining gift to the college. Please know that, in turn, the college is ever a good steward of all that has been entrusted to us.

To give to the college, please contact Mr. Louis Scarpa, Director of Institutional Advancement at [development@acs350.org](mailto:development@acs350.org) or 973-543-6528 x 225.

### Academic Happenings (continued)

As an extra-curricular activity, Sister students from Vietnam celebrated Tet (Vietnamese New Year) with all students and the Motherhouse community. Tet is the most important and popular holiday. In Vietnam Tet celebrates the arrival of spring according to the Lunar calendar. This year Tet fell on January 23 and initiated the year of the Dragon.

There are many customs practiced by Vietnamese during Tet such as giving away lucky money to children and elderly people, cooking traditional food and decorating the house. The Vietnamese Sisters planned a festive and inspirational liturgy for the Motherhouse community, which included a dance-like procession and Vietnamese hymns.

Later in the day, the students prepared traditional food to be served at the evening meal and decorated the student center with spring blossoms and a tree festooned with small red envelopes of lucky money. The international student body, including the Vietnamese, Tanzanian and Kenyan students, entertained with festive dance.

## Faculty News

Farewell to Sister Patricia Murphy, SCC, who has retired from teaching Art History and Appreciation for the past 7 years. We welcome back Sister Jonathan Moyles, SCC, teacher of College English 102. In addition, we also welcome Mrs. Catherine Murphy who teaches ESL 105 (Intermediate Reading).

### Join us for a cocktails and dinner, meet the Sisters and congratulate our honorees.

Some exciting Silent Auction Items include:

- Four tickets to a Jets game of choice, includes parking pass
  - Weekend at a private Lodge, Lake Placid, New York
  - Golf and Lunch at the Mendham Golf and Tennis Club
  - A New York Night: Broadway theatre tickets, dinner and limo service
  - Tickets to Broadway's *Memphis*, a CD soundtrack, chocolate, and dinner
  - Four tickets to *Porgy and Bess*, Richard Rogers Theatre, NYC
  - One-year membership to the Park Avenue Club, Florham Park
  - Four tickets to Giants vs. Redskins game, parking pass, 4 souvenir hats, mini football, cooler
  - 4 hours recording time and 2 hours mix down at a professional studio
  - Fioravanti framed painting
  - Summer athletic cam certificate for 1 at Morris Catholic High School
  - Front row pew for Christmas Eve Mass in SCC chapel, Mendham
  - Dinner for 8 at Villa Pauline, Mendham
- Many more fantastic gifts await!*

Let others know that you support the education of our Sisters and wish our honorees well by placing an ad in the Gala Journal or donating an item to our exciting Gift Basket Raffle and Silent Auction.

Thank you for your support!

Gala tickets: \$200 donation (\$133.00 of each tickets is tax deductible.)

Call 973-543-6528 x227 for more information. Credit cards accepted over the phone or visit [www.acs350.org](http://www.acs350.org) to make a donation.

### Congratulations to the

### 2012 Honorees

#### The Education Award

Sister Merris Larkin,  
SC, Principal  
Assumption School  
Morristown, New Jersey

#### The Social Justice Award

Monsignor Robert S. Meyer  
Esq., Pastor

Ss Peter and Paul Church  
Hoboken, New Jersey

#### The Family Life Award

Al and Lisbeth DiCotiis  
Morristown, New Jersey



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**Assumption College for Sisters 2012 Honorees**  
Assumption College for Sisters Invites You to Congratulate our  
2012 Honorees at The Eleventh Annual Caring Basket Gala



*Sister Merris Larkin, SC*



*Msgr. Robert S. Meyer, Esq.*



*Al and Lisbeth DeCotiis*

March 22, 2012, 6:00 pm ■ The Hanover Marriott, Whippany, NJ  
*See inside for details!*

The Eleventh  
Annual  
*Caring  
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*In support of*  
**Assumption College for Sisters**