

Seton Associate Newsletter

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April 2018



Front row, from left: Deacon William Myers, Marjorie Blomberg, TBC member Jocelyn Toper, Marissa Gioffre, Jessica Velasquez-Julca, Donna Devereaux and Karen Lukenda. Middle row, from left, Seton Associate Director Rosemary Carroll, Eliana Agudelo, Michele Ciottone, Maria Capozzoli, and Peggy Filarowicz. Back row, from left, Christa “Kerry Gambescia-Shannon, Robin Morrison, Patricia Starkey, and General Superior Sister Rosemary Moynihan, SC.

Class of 2018 Seton Associates Poses after Commitment Ceremonies

After a one week delay, the annual Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Mass and Celebration of Seton Associate Commitments and Toward Boundless Charity Blessing Ceremony were held on Saturday, January 13, 2018. Ten of our 12 candidates became Seton Associates

then, and three Seton Associates made Lifetime Commitments. One member of Toward Boundless Charity at the Academy of Saint Elizabeth participated in the Blessing Ceremony.

Msgr. George F. Hundt, pastor of St. Vincent Martyr Parish in Madison (NJ) presided over the Mass and delivered a homily reminding all those present of our Vincentian call to charity. Attendees enjoyed a Celebration Luncheon, organized by Seton Associate Judy Rosenberg, in the Academy Study Hall.

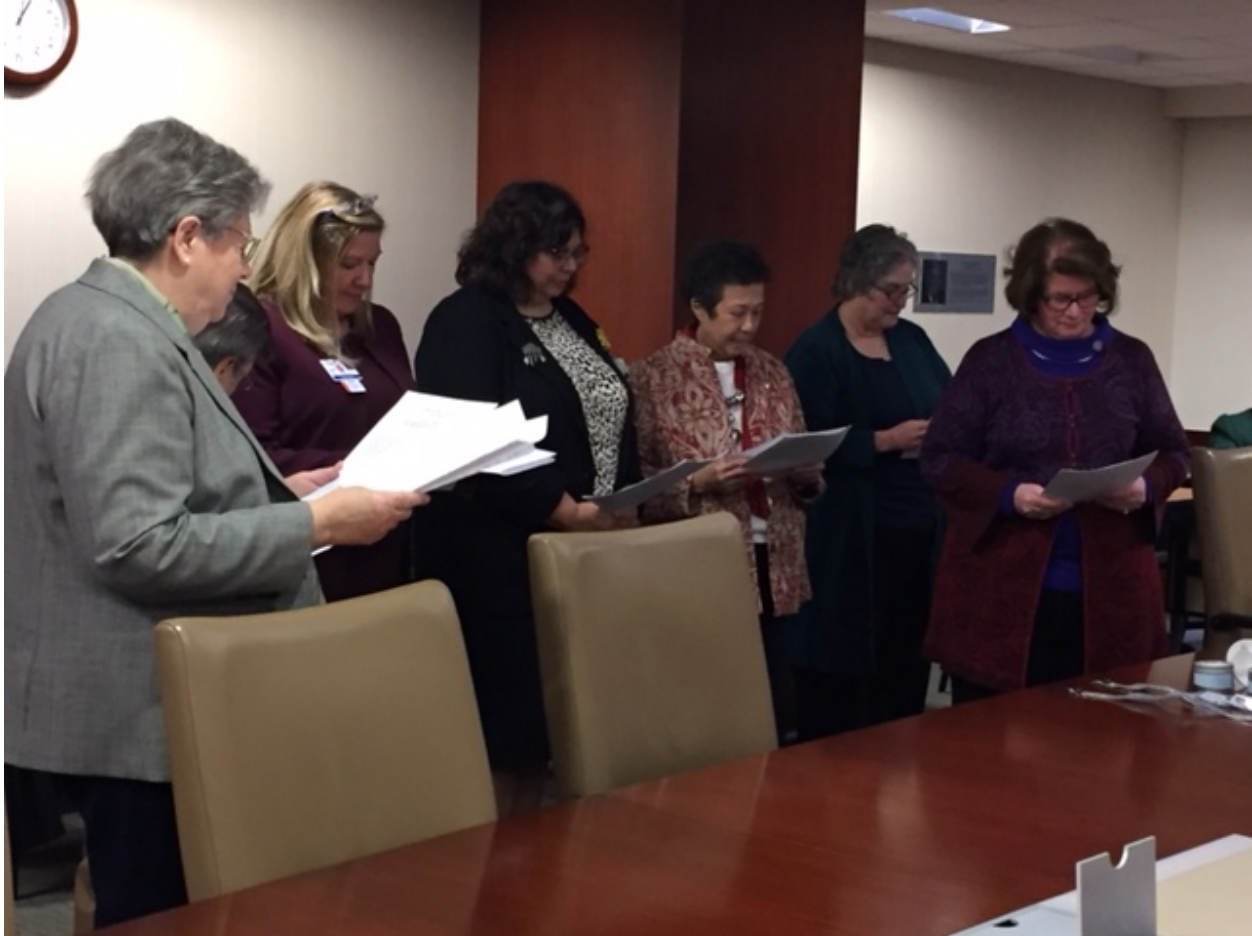
General Superior Sister Rosemary Moynihan welcomed the two remaining candidates, Maria Christensen and Judy Padula, at a special ceremony at St. Joseph Medical Center in Paterson (NJ) on Friday, March 2. Hospital President, Seton Associate Kevin Slevin, welcomed attendees, and Sister Patricia Mennor, VP for Mission at the hospital made arrangement for the ceremony in the Board Room for the two nursing administrators. About 40 people attended. (See photo next page.)

Seton Associate Membership Totals 298

The 12 new Seton Associates bring our membership total to 298. Our new Seton Associates and their Sponsors include:

Eliana Agudelo of Passaic, NJ	Sr. Patricia Mennor, SC
Marjorie Blomberg of Pompton Plains, NJ	Sr. Elena Francis Arminio, SC
Maria C. Capozzoli of East Hanover, NJ	Sr. Maryanne Tracey, SC
Maria P. Christensen of Ramsey, NJ	Sr. Dolores Lew, SC
Michele Ciottone of Morris Plains, NJ	Sr. Mary Ellen Verdon, SC
Donna Devereaux of North Haledon, NJ	Sr. Patricia Mennor, SC
Marissa Gioffre of Philadelphia, PA	Sr. Elise Gittrich, SC
Robin Therese Morrison of Jersey City, NJ	Sr. Mary Anne Rattigan, SC
Judy Padula of Pompton Plains, NJ	Sr. Barbara Conroy, SC
Kerry Gambescia-Shannon of Far Hills, NJ	Sr. Patricia Reynolds, SC
Patricia Starkey of Cranford, NJ	Sr. Deborah Humphreys, SC
Jessica Velasquez-Julca of Newark, NJ	Sr. Maryanne Tracey, SC

Our new Lifetime Seton Associates are: Peggy Filarowicz of Centennial, CO, sponsored by her aunt, Sr. Alberta Keuhlen, SC (later deceased); Karen Lukenda of Linden, NJ, sponsored by her sister-in-law, Sr. Michelle Lukenda, SC; and Deacon William H. Myers of North Arlington, NJ, sponsored by Sr. Marion Farrell, SC (deceased).



Seton Associate Commitment Ceremony at St. Joseph Medical Center. Pictured, from left: General Superior Sister Rosemary Moynihan, Sister Barbara Conroy (her head), new Seton Associates Maria Christensen and Judy Padula, Sister Dolores Lew, Sister Deborah Humphreys, and Seton Associate Director Rosemary Carroll.

Great News! Ana Navarro is Back!

Seton Associate Secretary par excellence Ana Navarro has returned after a three-month leave of absence. Ana's time off took her to her native Honduras where she and her husband Rene helped to relocate his parents there. They had been living with Ana and Rene but were eager to return to their family home.

While she was away, her office was dark. Now that she's back, the telephone is ringing, her computer keys are singing, she's running errands, and, best of all, her laughter and good cheer warm the cockles of our hearts. Welcome back, Ana!



(Kneeling in front l-r) **NANCY CAMP, MINNIE SCOTT**, Skeleton Woman, Anna Hester, Heather Hathcote, Sally Axton, Suzanne Shrum, (standing, l-r) Camille Bickerstaff, Fawn Keen, **PAULA STARKS**, Cheryl Peeler, Cindy Hester, Rachael Faulkner, **CHRIS WILSON**, Laura Schulenburg, **TRESSIA LANE**, Debra Lay, **PEGGY STEVENSON, MELISSA SIERRA, CARLOS ANN SANDERS**, Charlotte Curtis, Debbie Lay, Janice Cain. (Three not pictured who were there are Beth MacArthur, Darlene Cocherell and Elizabeth Sanders.)

Mississippi Seton Associates Participate in Annual Retreat

By Chris Wilson

Mississippi Seton Associates (names in caps above) and their spiritual friends held their annual weekend retreat at Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, AL in February. The theme was taken from Dr. Brené Brown's book *Rising Strong* which offers concrete steps for dealing with life's failures, griefs and low points. The weekend included group discussions, prayer, music, guided meditations and healing rituals. This was the first retreat in 23 years not led by Sr. Marie Gilligan and Sr. Kathy Quigley. The Mississippi "Setons," as they call themselves, took ownership and ran it themselves.

Quote: "I firmly believe that our salvation depends on the poor." ~ Dorothy Day

In Memoriam: Four Members Return to Place Prepared for Them

We prayed adieu and Godspeed to four Seton Associates over the last four months:

James Varick of Edison, NJ, died December 27, 2017. Jim became a Seton Associate in 2000 and made a Lifetime Commitment in 2015. His Sponsor was Sr. Marianne Sullivan, SC (deceased);

Patricia V. Downes of Bayonne, NJ, died January 9, 2018. Pat became a Seton Associate in 2000. Her Sponsor was Dr. Mary Rosarii Downes, SC (deceased);

Mary Stark of Bloomfield, NJ, died February 18, 2018. Mary became a Seton Associate in 2000 and made her Lifetime Commitment in 2004. Her Sponsors were Sr. Immaculata Mary Maroney, SC and Sr. Maria Michael Garner, SC, (both deceased);

John Uriarte of Newark, NJ, died March 6, 2018. John became a Seton Associate in 1994 and made his Lifetime Commitment in 2002. His Sponsors were Sr. Maryanne Campeotto, SC and Sr. Eileen Clifford, SC.

Randazzo Delivers Lecture on *Divine Dance*

Father Anthony Randazzo's much-anticipated lecture on the *Divine Dance* took place Saturday, March 24, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Academy Study Hall at the Motherhouse. Close to 50 Sisters and Seton Associates attended.

Father Anthony continued our year's theme of transformation by presenting his commentary of contemporary theologian Richard Rohr's acclaimed book *Divine Dance – The Trinity and Transformation*. Father Rohr writes eloquently of our dance with the Divine and its holy implications for us. Father Randazzo explained that Rohr's circle dance has the dynamic of inflow and outflow and that we are called to live the dynamism of the Trinity in loving encounter with each other. By living "the dance," taking the steps led by the Spirit, we are, indeed, transformed, and the mystery becomes our identity.

Father Anthony presently serves as pastor of The Catholic Parish of the Holy Trinity in Westfield (NJ) and is a noted lecturer at colleges, parishes, and the diocesan seminary, and is an oft-requested retreat master. He has lectured to graduate students in the College of Saint Elizabeth Theology Department, and has led our sisters in the Motherhouse on retreat. He plays annually in the Josephine's Place Golf Tournament.



Come and Pray One Hour for Pentecost

In preparation for Pentecost, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth invite Seton Associates and members of the college and local communities to “One Hour Prayer for Pentecost” on Wednesday, May 16 from 10 – 11:15 a.m. in Holy Family Chapel at the Motherhouse in Convent Station. Coffee and goodies will be available at 9:30 a.m. and at 11:15 a.m. Please let us know if you will participate by contacting Louise Pechello at 973-290-5470 or at lpechello@scnj.org.

Congregation Day Set for May 12

Congregation Day is Saturday May 12 at Birchwood Manor from noon to 5 p.m. The program begins with a lunch buffet followed by a series of meetings. A highlight will be a panel of three speakers reflecting on their experiences at the Vincentian Symposium in Rome, followed by table discussions on our call to implementing goals of the Symposium. The day ends with the Celebration of the Eucharist. If you will attend, please register by contacting Louise Pechello at 973-290-5470 or lpechello@scnj.org. Birchwood Manor is located at 111 North Jefferson Road, Whippany.

Quote

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.”

~~Robert Louis Stevenson

Sister Peggy O'Neill Invites Us to an Intercultural Experience

This is an opportunity of a lifetime! Sister Peggy O'Neill invites Seton Associates to participate in one of two week-long visits to Suchitoto, El Salvador to experience the Salvadoran people and learn the story of why she went to El Salvador and why she stays.

The one-week program will immerse attendees into another culture, introduce us to the people, learning of their hopes and what sustains them, and enable us to see the world through a different lens. Three local Seton Associates will welcome us!

You will see how the Sisters of Charity have been building bridges there for 30 years. You will walk the way of the martyrs: Oscar Romero, the Jesuits, and thousands of faith-filled members of the pueblo. You will see in real time how "war divides and art connects." You will witness how healing spaces, such as the Centro Arte para La Paz, contribute to building peace, both personal and social. You will visit rural communities still healing after 25 years of the signing of the Peace Accords. Most of all, you will experience how we all are connected by the Mystery of God, and join with the Salvadorans in their promise of being faithful, always trying to be creative with the gift of being human.

The weeks are June 3-9, 2018 or August 12-18, 2018. The cost, approximately \$1,200-\$1,500, includes airfare from Newark, lodging and transfers. Housing and meals will be provided at Centro Arte para La Paz hostels - www.capsuchitoto.org

Participants must be in good health, able to walk distances in rural settings, and open to new experiences; have updated DPT and malaria pills; CDC recommends Typhoid and Hepatitis vaccine. United States Passport is required and must be valid for 6 months prior to the trip. Deadline for application is May 15, 2018 along with a \$500 deposit. Send inquiries and deposit to Sister Elise Gittrich, SC, PO Box 476, Convent Station, New Jersey 07961-0476. Sister Elise may be reached at 973-290-5403 or egittrich@scnj.org

New Seton Associate Organizes Tour of Elizabeth's Emmitsburg

Brand new Seton Associate Maria Capozzoli, a senior at the College of Saint Elizabeth, organized a bus trip to Emmitsburg on Sunday, February 25, which she described as "awesome." A number of Sisters and Seton Associates joined college members in visiting the sites where Elizabeth Seton worked, prayed, and formed the Sisters of Charity.

Associates Gather at Area Meetings for Prayer and Discussion

Shore Area Associates met February 6 and March 6 in Point Pleasant; Morristown Evening Group met February 13 at the Motherhouse; **Navajo Associates** met March 5 at St. Berard Parish House; **Convent Area Group** met March 12 at the Motherhouse for an inspiring program on Vincentian Spirituality presented by Sisters Maryanne Tracey and Roberta Feil; **Paterson/North Jersey Associates** postponed their March 13 meeting due to snow and re-scheduled their St. Patrick's Prayer Service and Dinner for April 24; **New Haven Seton Associates** will gather May 5 at the Motherhouse for a program on Blessed Miriam Teresa.

Seton Associate Leda Reeves Shares Her Spiritual Journey

The Convent Area Group, Morristown Evening Group, and the Paterson/North Jersey Group will hold a joint meeting on Monday, May 14 at the Motherhouse to hear guest speaker Seton Associate Leda Reeves reveal her deeply personal spiritual journey. Leda will discuss her physical and spiritual transformation from able-bodied to disabled to restored able-bodied. She will share some of her exquisite poetry written during that time. Leda also will present her program to the Motherhouse Sisters on Sunday evening, May 13.

Director Will Visit Navajo Members

Director Rosemary Carroll will visit the Navajo Seton Associates in New Mexico May 26-28 to support their efforts and to direct a day-long retreat on the theme of "Compassion and Forgiveness" on Sunday, May 27.

Millennials Plan Program on Centering Prayer

Seton Associate Maria Capozzoli will invite our "millennial members" to a meeting on centering prayer in May or June. She will work with Seton Associates Theresa Nolan and Marialaina Nissenbaum in organizing the group. New Seton Associate Michele Ciottone, a devotee on centering prayer, will lead the program and assist the attendees in deepening their spirituality through the centering prayer method.

Quote

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." ~Dwight D. Eisenhower

Federation Plans Major Assembly for Sisters, Associates

The Sisters of Charity Federation is planning an *Assembly of the Whole* June 13-16, 2019 in Chicago at the Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center – near O’Hare International Airport. Everyone is invited – all Sisters and Associates within the Federation – to discuss our joint call to mission and ministry especially into this new century. The keynote speaker is our own Sister Peggy O’Neill. The Assembly Committee will distribute a newsletter to keep us up-to-date with plans and programs to encourage our participation. Newsletters will be sent to all Seton Associates. The room rates are \$125 for a single/double, and \$135 for 3 or 4 people. The registration fee, not yet set, will include all meals from Thursday evening, June 13 to Sunday lunch, June 16. We hope many Sisters and Seton Associates from our congregation will attend and contribute to all discussions.

CCFP Federation Meeting Set for Maris Stella

The Company of Charity Formation Personnel Committee of the Sisters of Charity Federation will hold its annual meeting April 17-20 at Maris Stella. Its theme is “Widening the Lens – Keeping the Focus with #Young Adults - #Charity Now” and will feature a keynote by Sister Donna del Santo, SSJ, an expert on millennials in the church. She will be followed by a panel of millennial interns from our congregation and from the Sisters of Charity of New York discussing their involvement in charity projects. Attendees from our congregation include Sister Maryanne Tracey, Director of Vocations/Formation, Sheila Tracy, Director of Interns and Volunteers, and Rosemary Carroll, Director of Seton Associates. Sister Ellen Dauwer, Executive Director of the Religious Formation Conference, headquartered in Chicago, also will attend. During the meeting, the Directors of Associates within the Federation will meet to discuss common issues, concerns and projects.

Workshop Aims at Strategy to Defeat Physician-Prescribed Suicide

Sister Patricia Codey, SC, President of the Catholic HealthCare Partnership of New Jersey, invites Seton Associates to attend a workshop to develop a strategy to defeat a proposed bill permitting physician-prescribed suicide in New Jersey. The workshop, sponsored by the NJ Alliance Against Doctor-Prescribed Suicide, will be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1 at the New Jersey Hospital Association Conference and Event Center, 760 Alexander Road in Princeton. Share your voice by registering by April 24 with Jennifer at 732-243-4577 or Jennifer.ann.ruggiero@gmail.com

Circle Your Calendar! Annual Picnic is June 6!

The Annual Seton Associate Picnic is set for Wednesday, June 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Academy Study Hall. Weather-permitting, members also may gather on the Plaza Patio. A highlight of the year, the annual picnic brings together Seton Associates, their Sponsors and other members of the congregation for an evening of camaraderie and classic picnic fare with all the trimmings!

Associates Will Gather at Maris Stella for Annual Retreat

Sister Anita Constance, SC will lead our Seton Associate Retreat at Maris Stella in Harvey Cedars on October 12 to 14. Our theme this year is “Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World.” We will consider the times we are Mary and Martha: finding intimacy with the Divine in the busy-ness of life; and facing the dilemma of making right choices in the reality of our time. Together, Mary and Martha invite us to answer Jesus’ invitation to wholeness, to balance our lives by recognizing and responding to the needs of others from the Divine home within us. How do we get there? Come to retreat and see.

And in the end...

...We live in a strange era of communications with fake news, polarized blogs and publications, trustless tweets, and overall disregard of the truth. It’s a challenge to know what’s what. To some extent, we participate in questionable discourse by our own political polemics, drawn into pointless debate, responding more from gut reactions than reflecting on research into topics by reading respected, quality publications and newspapers, and viewing substantive television.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton once said: “Why should others be more persistent in persuading me to trifles than I in adhering to that which I know is right?”

What is right? It takes time to study issues and courage to share our knowledge with others who are still reeling with gut reactions. It takes strength of character to know when to bite the tongue or when to speak up when others rail at reputations or foster the fake. We know in our hearts what is right and, while we may never have all the answers or be able to separate the wheat from the chaff, we do know we are called as people of charity to address others in love.

By Rosemary Lalevée Carroll, Director of Seton Associates and Newsletter Editor