



# New DIMENSIONS

[www.SCNJ.org](http://www.SCNJ.org)

*A Publication of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth*

## SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

CONVENT  
STATION, NJ

**165 YRS**  
1859-2024

## COLLEGE OF SAINT ELIZABETH/ SAINT ELIZABETH UNIVERSITY

MORRISTOWN, NJ

**125 YRS**  
1899-2024

## HOLY FAMILY CHAPEL

CONVENT STATION, NJ

**115 YRS**  
1909-2024

## SAINT VINCENT ACADEMY

NEWARK, NJ

**155 YRS**  
1869-2024

## BEATIFICATION OF BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA

**10 YRS**  
2014-2024

### Maris Stella

Harvey  
Cedars, NJ

**65 yrs**  
1959-2024

### ST. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL/TRINITAS

REGIONAL  
MEDICAL  
CENTER

ELIZABETH, NJ  
**120 YRS**  
1904-2024



**NEW Dimensions** is a publication 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 care, women's services, retreat and spiritual services and social service ministries in 10 dioceses within the United States and El Salvador and Haiti. The Congregation currently numbers 150 vowed members. The Seton Associate relationship has 300 affiliated lay and religious women and men.

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# Welcome

Dear Friends,

It's Spring again! The campus is slowly coming to life with flowers and budding trees. Graduation time for St. Elizabeth University and the Academy of Saint Elizabeth will soon be here, and the campus will be alive with many guests.



In this issue of **NEW Dimensions**, we will share with you some of our plans for the 165th anniversary of our founding in September 1859. We are excited to share this year with all who join us in our Mission of Charity, especially our Seton Associates, our Partners in Mission, and all our dear friends and benefactors. The logo for the year speaks of our desire for the legacy of Charity to continue in the future.

The staff we are highlighting in this issue are our Support Coordinators. These three Sisters and three lay women accompany our Sisters and assist them in meeting their needs. This will enable elected Leadership to do the corporate work and strategic planning needed for the good of the Congregation and our Mission and ministries. This structure was approved by our Coordinating Council in March 2023 and affirmed by our Assembly Delegates at our General Assembly the next month.

We had a wonderful week of celebrations here at the Motherhouse for Catholic Sisters Week in March. Our Communications Office shared about this event on our social media platforms each day.

The construction of Caritas Center is wonderful to watch - each day we can see the progress being made. You can check our website for up-to-the-minute pictures of this exciting project. We anticipate being able to use this for our Congregation Day gathering on September 28. We invite you to be part of this beautiful addition to the Motherhouse and ask you to visit our website, [SCNJ.org](http://SCNJ.org), to consider how you might be able to help us. We thank you, as always, for your generosity and support.

Our Development Office, under the leadership of S. Judy Mertz, SC, has done an excellent job over these past months. We had a successful Harvest Festival in October, a rewarding Giving Tuesday dedicated to the new Caritas Center needs, and an inspiring Christmas Concert in Holy Family Chapel with Rev. Alphonse Stephenson and the St. Peter by the Sea Orchestra. At each in-person event, it was beautiful to be with so many friends of the Sisters of Charity again!

As you know, in April 2023 we held a Joint Assembly with the Sisters of Charity of New York at the Madison Hotel in Convent Station. It was a memorable and historical happening. The Joint Assembly Delegates approved five proposals to be acted upon following the Assembly. These proposals dealt with exploring the feasibility of establishing a collaborative venture in Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation; the Charism of Charity - fostering a deeper understanding of the charism for members, partners in mission and the broader public to foster our mission; Climate Crisis - reducing our carbon footprint with a focus on our food print; Homelessness - creating a joint task force to continue sharing best practices and to explore other collaborative strategies, and Immigration - forming a core committee on immigration to expand our understanding of the issue and to increase advocacy on systemic and direct service levels.

Peace,

*Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.*

Maureen Shaughnessy, S.C.  
General Superior

### **On the Cover:**

Celebrating Milestones  
Cover designed by Jessica Wright

Celebrating 165 Years



Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

## CELEBRATION OF OUR 165<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**O**n September 29, 1859, Sister Mary Xavier Mehegan was named Superior of the New Jersey Sisters of Charity. She established their Motherhouse in Newark on the corner of Washington and Bleeker Streets to take up her new charge. The Newark community grew and thrived. They ran a school from this house, opened St. Mary's Academy, began a hospital and an orphanage, and received postulants. It was soon evident that this new community needed much more space to accommodate the formation of the postulants, whose number had grown.

On the morning of July 2, 1860, Mother Xavier set out with five young sisters trained in Cincinnati and four other new young sisters. The new community would now be called the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, as Mother Xavier said to honor Elizabeth of the Visitation and Mother Seton, "who they hoped to one day be named a Saint." Mother Xavier carried the white Carrara marble statue of Our Blessed Mother in her lap for the entire journey, which was given to the new community by the

New York Sisters of Charity, Mother Xavier's original community. They arrived at their new home in Madison, young, talented, confident of God's providence, and full of HOPE for the future.

Today, after 165 years of unwavering dedication and service, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth continue to embody HOPE. Their ministries, spanning education, health care, pastoral, social service, and more, have touched lives across the United States and beyond. Despite the challenges of smaller numbers, they stand united with the Seton Associates, partners in ministry, and employees, serving 11 dioceses in the United States, El Salvador, and Haiti.

As they reflect with deep gratitude on their rich legacy and eagerly anticipate the opening of the 165th anniversary in the newly constructed Caritas Center and all the exciting events in the planning stages throughout the year, they look forward to the future with HOPE and excitement.





Standing from left- Sister Mary Morley, SC, Sister Joan Repka, SC, Sister Maryanne Campeotto, SC, Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC, Sister Eileen Clifford, SC, Rev. Nelson Oyola, Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, Sister Patricia Butler, SC. Seated from left – Claudette Scutari, Seton Associate, Sister Beverly Policastro, SC, Sister Noreen Neary, SC, Sister Cecilia McManus, SC, and Sister Ellen Farrell, SC

## Sacred Heart Celebrates 145 Years

**S**acred Heart parish in Bloomfield, N.J., celebrated its 145th anniversary in January and thanked the Sisters of Charity for our 125 years (1879-2004) of service to the parish. Eleven of our sisters were present, including Sister Patricia Butler, SC, former principal, and Sister Beverly Policastro, former first grade teacher.

Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC, spoke to the religious education students about our Congregation and vocations and fielded their questions.

A first-class relic of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton was presented to the parish by Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, General Superior.

The parish hopes to renovate the convent in the next few years and use it for religious education/faith formation and as the parish center with a particular focus on Mother Seton.

The people of the parish asked to be remembered by all of you. The charism of charity burns brightly in Sacred Heart parish!



Sister Mary Morley, SC, Mayor John M. Imperiale and Sister Patricia Dotzauer, SC.

## *Maris Stella Celebrates 65 Years*

**S**ixty-five years ago, on April 16, 1959, Mother Ellen Marie McCauley, SC, purchased the property known as the Small Estate in Harvey Cedars, N.J., with plans to make it the summer vacation destination for the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. The formal opening of Maris Stella took place on June 20, and on June 27 the Chapel was dedicated.

Fast forward to April 15, 2024, the Harvey Cedars Borough Commissioners presented a resolution to the Sisters of Charity and the Maris Stella Retreat &

Conference Center to honor their 65 years of service to the community.

Mayor John M. Imperiale presented the resolution to Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, General Superior. Imperiale said, "The Maris Stella Retreat & Conference Center represents the best of Harvey Cedars. It is an integral part of our community. It is, as all things Harvey Cedars, peaceful and beautiful, and we are lucky that the Sisters of Charity are here to serve our residents and visitors. Sixty-five years is not enough. We need them here forever!"



Sister Patricia Beaumont, SC with the women she had as students at SVA

## Sister Patricia Beaumont Recognized by SVA Alumnae Association

**T**he Saint Vincent Academy Alumnae Association hosted its annual Spring Reunion luncheon in March, celebrating the anniversary classes ending in 4s and 9s.

During the luncheon, Sister Patricia Beaumont, SC, was recognized as the oldest alum in attendance. Sister Pat graduated from SVA in 1946. She taught there from 1952-1962, and in 2003 she returned to volunteer until 2019. Pictured here is Sister Pat (seated 2nd from the left) with women she had as students.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth opened Saint Vincent Academy in 1869 and continue to sponsor it. For 155 years, SVA has graduated women of faith, service, character, and competence—women whose hopes reach beyond themselves to the good of their families, friends, and neighbors.

Saint Vincent Academy has been witness and participant in the evolution of the City of Newark as it welcomed successive waves of immigrants, moved from a manufacturing base to a corporate center, struggled to address issues of racism and civil rights, and embraced the 21st century with renewed optimism. Today, SVA plays a singular role as Newark's only Catholic, college-preparatory school exclusively for young women. The academy makes a unique contribution through the commitment to learning, service, integrity and leadership that marks its graduates.



Sister Patricia Beaumont, SC





## Joint General Assembly – **ONE YEAR LATER**

By Fr. Terrence Moran, Director of the Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

**A** year ago the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and the Sisters of Charity of New York celebrated their historic Joint General Assembly. Every religious congregation holds a periodic General Assembly or Chapter to evaluate the congregation's faithfulness to its mission and to set goals for the near future. Our congregations are no strangers to each other. We often refer to "our cousins across the river." We share a common heritage started by St. Vincent de Paul in the 17th century and adapted to the new American republic by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in the 19th century. The foundress of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Mother Mary Xavier Meaghan, began her religious life as a member of the Sisters of Charity of New York. We have always had mutually supportive and collaborative relationships. But April 2023 was the first time the two congregations gathered in a joint General Assembly that included times of prayer and discernment together as well as separate sessions for each of the congregations. What has happened since that historic meeting? Plenty!

We have established committees made up of sisters, associates, and staff from both congregations to focus on implementation of the decisions of the Joint Assembly. One committee was devoted to Charism – to finding ways to communicate the gift of the Spirit to members, associates, and partners in mission. The Committee discovered that there are 18 separate publications and other forms of media between the two congregations. They plan to engage with each of them to be more intentional in sharing information and resources about



**Less Meat,  
Less Heat!  
Eat more  
vegetables  
to fight  
global warming!**

the Charity charism. One ambitious recommendation is the creation of a Charity app that would collect resources on the charism and make them available to a new audience.

Another committee was tasked with addressing climate change through attention to our "food print" – the ways in which our food choices every day affect the well-being of Earth. Two ZOOM sessions were organized to hear input on Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudate Deum* and to reflect on the call we hear to our congregations. From these listening sessions a list of suggested action steps was developed to which sisters and associates committed themselves at a ZOOM prayer service on April 6. At the motherhouse gate in Convent Station we put up a banner proclaiming this Assembly commitment.

Both of our congregations have a long commitment to people experiencing homelessness; it was a specific focus of the Sisters of Charity General Assembly in 2019. Both congregations hope to give a new impetus to this commitment by sharing resources and opportunities for advocacy on the state and federal levels. They plan to sponsor a retreat-like experience for sisters and associates with LEFSA (Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates), a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Charity of New York that offers time and space on a weekly basis where homeless people can come together to share their lived experience in the light of God's word.

Ministry to and with immigrants is perhaps the oldest commitment of both our congregations.

This Committee surveyed both our congregations and received 80 responses from sisters and associates interested in direct service of immigrants or advocacy on their behalf. Since immigration is already a contentious issue in the 2024 presidential campaign, plans are being made to offer educational opportunities to counter myths about immigration. As one sister remarked, "My most difficult conversations about immigration are at holiday meals with my family!"

To learn more about the implementation of our Joint Assembly decisions, watch the video that both congregations produced to report on the accomplishments of the past year and recommendations for future plans on SCNJ.org.

Though our numbers are diminished and our median age rises, there is no lack of courage, imagination, and hope for the future among the Sisters of Charity of New York and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Please join us in praying our Joint Assembly Prayer so that God who began this good work in us will bring it to completion (Philippians 1:6).

Loving Spirit  
we call upon you to be with us  
as we walk into the unknown.

**Inspired by our founders, we pray for**  
the faith and conviction of Vincent and Louise,  
the hope and trust of Elizabeth Ann Seton,  
the courage and daring of Elizabeth Boyle  
& Mary Xavier Mehegan.

**Trusting in your Divine Providence**  
we ask you to be with us as we continue the legacy of Charity  
wherever you reveal yourself in your beloved poor. Amen

*Assembly 2023  
Prayer by Sister Anita Constance, SCNJ  
& Sister Arlene Kethcum, SCNY*



Dustin M. Riccio, MD, MBA, President and CEO.

## The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Welcome the New Leader of St. Joseph's Health

**D**ustin Riccio, MD, MBA, has joined St. Joseph's Health as president and CEO. St. Joseph's Health, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, is one of New Jersey's leading healthcare systems, recognized for its innovative programs and cutting-edge services. The health system operates a full continuum of care, including a regional tertiary care medical center (St. Joseph's University Medical Center, Paterson), an acute care medical center (St. Joseph's Wayne Medical Center) a state-designated children's hospital (St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, Paterson), a new 140,000 square-foot outpatient facility (St. Joseph's Totowa Health Campus, Totowa) comprehensive home care (Visiting Health Services of New Jersey), and multiple ambulatory care centers located throughout Northern New Jersey.

Before taking the helm at St. Joseph's Health in January, Dr. Riccio was a part of Rochester (N.Y.) Regional Health, serving in various leadership capacities, including president of Unity Hospital and Unity Specialty Hospital and president of Regional Operations for the health system. He also served as president of the Medical Staff for Unity Health System before its merger with Rochester Regional Health System in 2014.

On a more personal note, Dr. Riccio had a great aunt, a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, the late Sister Maria Liberata Doherty.

The Sisters of Charity are so happy that Dr. Riccio will be leading the St. Joseph's Health community in the mission of providing quality healthcare to the people of Paterson/Wayne and the surrounding areas.



# How we Celebrated CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK 2024

Sisters and employees gathered in the dining room of the Motherhouse to celebrate and honor our sisters during Catholic Sisters Week. A video presentation of photos showed all the ways the sisters contribute to the many outreach programs throughout the year.

Shannon Hoffman, co-director of the Office of Vocation and Mission Engagement commended the sisters by saying, "Through the passage of time, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth remain steadfast in their mission, extending a helping hand to all, including those facing homelessness, food insecurity, and spiritual struggles. It's impossible to measure the depth of their impact, as it transcends mere tangible assistance to encompass spiritual and moral support, as well as the profound influence of their exemplary lives. We gratefully acknowledge and celebrate the immeasurable service the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth continue to provide, knowing that their legacy of charity will continue to ripple across time singing a song that never ends."

And in true tradition, we ended the celebration by eating cake! In collaboration with the Joy of Sox, For the Love of Feet Sock Drive sponsored a sock drive. The socks will be distributed to various Sisters of Charity ministries where they are most in need. More than 5,000 pairs of socks were collected! That is a lot of feet that will be kept warm and dry through the generous donations from sisters, employees, Seton Associates, and friends. Thank you to all who participated.



**"The way we live  
ripples across time,  
touching people we  
never see, changing  
places we never went,  
singing a song that  
never ends."**  
~ Joan Chittister



CSW Catholic Charities - Sock collection (l to r)  
Ariel Alonso, Dir. of Community Emergency Services program, and  
Archie Burrell, Counselor for Emergency Services.



# Some of Our Most Liked #TBT Posts

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



Joined by Sister Ethelreda, Sister Mary Simeon Ward and Sister Mary Edna Barthel were celebrating their 70th and 40th anniversaries, respectively, in Saint Anne Villa in 1964. A native of Ireland, Sister Simeon entered the Sisters of Charity in 1893 and her ministries are listed as laundress, sacristan and general worker. During those 55 years she served God in three orphanages, Seton Hall College, St. Mary Hospital, the House of Divine Providence for the Incurably Ill, St. Anne Villa and St. Francis Residence. When she entered the Villa in 1948 Sister Simeon met Sister Edna and they became close friends. In 1973 Sister Edna contacted Sister Hildegarde, the general superior, with a request, "Sister Mary Simeon (a dear old saint) asked that I be buried beside her. 'God's Will be done,' for some day we will be together in heaven." While that request wasn't able to be granted, we trust that these two good women are, indeed, together in heaven.

The establishment of the College of Saint Elizabeth (1899) and the flourishing of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth necessitated the construction of an academic building separate from the Motherhouse. On February 7, 1901 the departing carpenters handed to Mother Xavier the keys to Xavier Hall. It appears that the first classes were held in the new building on February 22. While there are no pictures from that day, this photograph from 1931 shows the Academy students processing from Xavier Hall to Holy Family Chapel.



Holding a commercial certificate from Holy Trinity High School in Westfield, NJ, Anna Gerty worked as a stenographer before entering the Sisters of Charity in 1925. As Sister Maria Lucia she completed her high school education and earned a B.S. in Elementary Education while teaching elementary school. In 1936 Sister M. Lucia was missioned to the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, CT, studied pharmacy at the Connecticut College of Pharmacy, and became a registered pharmacist in 1940. Sister M. Lucia worked in the HSR pharmacy from 1936 to 1979. Additionally she taught a first year pharmacology course and "Mathematics of Drugs" at the hospital's nursing school from 1942 until it closed in 1970. In 1975 a scholarship to the University of Connecticut's College of Pharmacy was established in Sister Maria Lucia's name by Dr. Oscar Roth.

When Sister Jane Teresa Culligan entered the Sisters of Charity in 1955, Mother Ellen Marie assured her that her dancing days were over. Convinced that God was calling her to religious life Sister Jane Teresa gave up dance . . . for the time being! However, having completed a six month's internship in 1972, Sister Jane was hired as a Creative Arts Therapist at Overbrook Hospital in Cedar Grove, NJ where she employed dance as a therapy with psychotic patients. Throughout her life Sister Jane has praised God for the gift of dance in her ministries and in liturgies. In this photograph (circa 1980) Sister Jane Teresa is demonstrating dance therapy to students at Saint Vincent Academy in Newark.



A nearly forgotten chapter in our history is a five-year period (1949-1953) when the Sisters of Charity staffed Saint Mary Regional Catechetical Center in Deal, NJ. Sister Mary Madeleine Rose (pictured) was missioned there for all five years. William A. Griffin, Bishop of Trenton, established the catechetical program to provide religious education and sacramental preparation to children in Deal, as well as five neighboring towns and the Preventorium, a health care facility for children who were deemed vulnerable to tuberculosis. While it was uncommon in those days, the sisters had access to two cars, which enabled them to visit homes of needy or sick people, transport the children to classes often held in farmers' homes, and to visit local hospitals. During the summer additional sisters joined the four or five missioned in Deal to provide instruction to the children of migrant farmworkers. In 1953 Franciscans from Graymoor replaced the Sisters of Charity, who left them a strong ministry which served more than 700 children in 1953.



# THE NEW CARITAS CENTER

**G**iving Tuesday is a one-day opportunity and invitation to support your non-profit charity of choice. This day has been celebrated throughout the world for many years. It is an opportunity to choose your non-profit and to support its mission as it is lived each day.



Sister Marie Russo, SC.

On this past Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, the Sisters of Charity focused on the construction of the new Caritas Center which will be an annex to the Motherhouse in Convent Station, N.J. People were invited to be part of this exciting new venture from the ground up.

This much-needed space will offer

- Total handicap accessibility, including restrooms

- Convenient access to food services
- State of the art audio and visual technology
- Possibility for all to attend Congregational meetings and events
- Single-level structure without stairs
- Portico entrance for convenient drop-off in any weather
- Future possibility for use with neighboring communities

The goal hoped for was \$30,000. The final amount for Giving Tuesday was \$92,000!!

The opportunity to continue supporting the construction of Caritas Center is still available. We hope that the construction will be complete by September, in time for the opening day of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth 165th Anniversary. Visit our website, SCNJ.org, or scan the QR code on your digital device for more information and for sponsorship opportunities.







St. Vincent Martyr School student freshening up the Sisters' headstones.



Mother Seton Regional High School students making tote bags out of T-shirts.

## SECOND ANNUAL Saint Vincent de Paul Volunteer Day

by Rosemary Carroll, Seton Associate

**S**isters, Seton Associates, staff, students, and volunteers gathered at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, for the second annual Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul Volunteer Day.

Attendees began their day in Holy Family Chapel, praying for grace to recognize and respond to the charism call to serve the poor and marginalized. Focused on charity, a brigade of workers went to assigned rooms in the Motherhouse where they filled "Sam Bags" back packs with snacks and personal hygiene supplies for homeless, turned gently used t-shirts into handy tote bags, cut and tied fabric into blankets for those living in shelters, and placed basic but necessary school supplies in backpacks for children who needed them.

Adventure seekers joined Sister Noreen Neary, SC, and Sister Noreen Holly, SC, in the Congregation's cemetery, where they cleaned headstones. Other students helped Sponsorship and Mission Services Director John DiMucci clean Nazareth Park of fallen branches and overgrown weeds.

Members of the University of Saint Elizabeth baseball and softball teams, setting up base in the Foods and Nutrition Lab in Henderson Hall, pitched in to make 500 ham and cheese

and PB&J sandwiches for local soup kitchens. Meanwhile, elementary school children in the Motherhouse Founders Room stuffed breakfast bags with cereal boxes, juice, milk, hand sanitizer, and grain bars to be distributed by Nourish of Morristown.

Father Terrence Moran, director of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity; Sister Roberta Feil, SC, and Seton Associate Mary Gannon led participants in writing advocacy letters to their Congressional representatives to support a new farm bill.

Seton Associates Rieda Piatti and Anne Marie Civinskas worked with students from Saint Vincent Academy, Mother Seton Regional High School, and the Academy of Saint Elizabeth in sending cards and personal notes to Sisters of Charity in nursing homes and to Seton Associates in need of cheer.

Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC, and Shannon Hoffman, co-directors of the Office of Vocation and Mission Engagement, organizers of Saint Vincent dePaul Day, expressed gratitude to all the day's volunteers and participants.







Sisters and Seton Associate gather for the walk.

## Sisters and Associates Help to Raise Awareness about the Plight of the People of Haiti

**M**embers of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and Seton Associates attended a Mass of Deliverance at St. Patrick's Cathedral (NYC) celebrated by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan for the People of Haiti. Following the Mass, the Haitian community prayerfully walked from the Cathedral to the United Nations to raise awareness about the atrocities happening in Haiti. Seton Associate and graduate of the then College of Saint Elizabeth, Marie Noel serves at the Department of Youth Faith Formation as the Regional Specialist for Bronx and Yonkers in the Archdiocese of New York and had a substantial role in organizing this event. Thank you to all who participated and supported this cause.



Sister Dianne Moore, SC, and Sister Cecilia McManus, SC with Cardinal Timothy Dolan.





## *North American* **VINCENTIAN FAMILY GATHERING**

**T**he North American Vincentian Family Gathering took place in October at DePaul University in Chicago. Representatives from more than 25 branches of the Vincentian Family, including the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Cincinnati, Halifax, Leavenworth, and others. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth sent a delegation including John DiMucci (Sponsorship), Shannon Hoffman (Vocation and Mission Engagement), Marisa Gioffre (Seton Associate), and two students from Saint Elizabeth University, Rodrigo Rivera Gilbono and Michael Cadavid. We were joined by Rosemary Carroll (Seton Associate) and shared a meal and time with Sister Ellen Dauwer, SC. The Gathering was an excellent opportunity to share and learn from others rooted in our Vincentian - Setonian Charism. The conference theme, "Harmony in Diversity: Working for Social Justice and Fostering a Culture of Encounter through the Arts," included time for discussion and dialogue around issues of justice and peace. There was also the opportunity to engage in performance with others as part of a concert by the performing arts group Gen Verde. There were presentations from the Seton Shrine, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and the app "The God Minute" and the launching of the new "Famvin" app. Participating in the gathering and seeing how the Mission is always moving forward was rejuvenating.







# Highlighting The Support Coordinators Office

by Jessica C. Wright, Assistant to the Communications Office

From left - Sister Elizabeth Kremp, SC, Margaret Davey, Karen Bethel, Sister Margaret Conlon, SC, Mary Fierro, Sister Anita Constance, SC.

**T**he Support Coordinator is an authorized person appointed by the General Superior/Council to assist sisters in all matters that affect their well-being and quality of life. If needed, the coordinator serves as a liaison between the sister and congregational offices and services and reports to the General Superior/delegate. The team is comprised of six members: Karen Bethel, Sister Margaret (Peggy) Conlon, SC, Sister Anita Constance, SC, Margaret Davey, Mary Fierro, and Sister Elizabeth Kremp, SC.

Their responsibilities include assisting sisters in discerning ministry changes, such as retirement, living situations, educational opportunities, car replacements, and senior transportation.

Support coordinators are instrumental in communicating with the Health and Lifestyle Transition Office concerning a sister's serious health issues, transportation to and from doctor's appointments, and end-of-life instructions regarding durable power of attorney. In the event of a sister's death, Support Coordinators work closely with the funeral director, arranging hospitality and planning wake and burial services.

The Support Coordinators work well together. The team believes that the experiences of ministering in this new role of Support Coordinator have been positive, growth-producing,

inspiring, challenging, and filled with many blessings. Others describe being a Support Coordinator as grace-filled and tear-filled, but mostly a multifaceted privilege with moments of joy, inspiration, challenge, collaboration, and humility, all contributing to a rich and meaningful experience.

Team members believe what is most fulfilling in this role is the ability to relieve the elected leadership of some of their day-to-day responsibilities as they move into strategic planning for the future. The sisters have a wealth of wisdom, life experience, and spiritual insight to share, which provide opportunities for connection, learning, and personal growth for the Support Coordinators. Working closely with the Sisters in this role allows them to build relationships based on trust, respect, and mutual understanding. As a result, the sisters are gracious and appreciative of all that the coordinators do.

In this fairly new role, the Support Coordinators have learned that adaptability to change at a moment's notice is crucial as the sisters' needs shift daily. Most days, however, go as expected, allowing Support Coordinators to understand the Sisters better. This benefits them and the quality of their lives. Nevertheless, it is essential to add that being positive and joyful helps overcome challenges.





Shasta Averyhardt, golf pro, (c) was happy to give this foursome some pointers.



Just a few of our wonderful volunteers, Sister Michelle Lukenda, SC, Sister Patricia Beaumont, SC, and Keysha Berry.

# GOLF OUTING 2024

The 16th Golf Outing for the Sisters of Charity was an enormous success.... a sellout event! Golfers arrived at the Cedar Hill Golf & Country Club on April 29th at 10:00 a.m. to register, practice, and enjoy a scrumptious brunch before teeing off at noon.

They were welcomed with a challenge to a hole-in-one on two separate holes. Audi of Branchburg—Mendham provided two cars. In addition, a woman pro and a man pro met them at another hole. The object here was to have a lesson, and the opportunity for a hole-in-one, if incurred, would result in a trip to a famous golf course with lodging and airfare provided. These two additions brought entertainment and fun to the outing.

The golfers' spirits during the cocktail hour and dinner testified to the success and enjoyment of the day.



Sister Judy Mertz, SC, and golf pro Andrew 'Thor' Herbert.





# Welcoming Christmas in Holy Family Chapel

**W**hat a wonderful, inspiring, and sacred way to prepare for Christmas! Father Alphonse Stephenson, who conducted the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea, presented a glorious concert with various genres of music. The orchestra consisted of 40 members and filled Holy Family Chapel with magnificent melodic sounds. Many people in the sell-out crowd attended the concert the previous year. The new attendees were surprised, excited, and inspired. A few

were overheard saying that they would be making this a family tradition and would be attending the following year.

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor and Sister Merris Larkin, SC, Stephen Priola, Sodexo food services, and Larry Downes, the entire event was sponsored. Their generosity was so greatly appreciated. Please save the date for the 2024 Christmas concert scheduled for Dec.21.





(From left) Sister Maryanne Campeotto, SC, Mary Leahy, MD, Sister Cecilia McManus, SC, Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, Stephen Priola, Sister Judy Mertz, SC, and Sister Ellen Farrell, SC.

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

The spirit of the evening was felt from the moment that guests entered the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park, N.J. Greeters welcomed the guests as they registered and were treated to a glass of bubbly. More than 180 people chatted with each other as they walked around to view the silent auction items, participate in the wine swap, and purchase additional raffles.

The evening's honorees were Stephen J. Priola, of S.J. Priola Parsippany Funeral Service, who received the Caritas Award, and Mary Leahy, M.D., CEO of Bon Secours Charity Health System, who received the Mehegan Award. Both honorees were accompanied by their families, friends, and colleagues.

The goal of the evening was for people to celebrate with their friends and become acquainted with other attendees to experience a successful fundraiser, which certainly was, as the event netted \$202,000. The Sisters of Charity are so grateful for the wonderful turnout, the spirit generated among the guests, and the promise to return to the Harvest Festival in October.



Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, and Mary Leahy, MD.



Steve Priola with his aunt, Elizabeth Corbett.



Sister Maureen Corcoran pictured with Sisters and alumnae.

## Saint Elizabeth University Alumnae/i Recognize the Sisters of Charity and the Blessed Miriam Teresa League of Prayer

Jennifer Hanselman '93, secretary of the Alumnae/i Association, and President Kathleen Karkos '81 presented the Blessed Miriam Teresa Award to the Sisters of Charity and the Blessed Miriam Teresa League of Prayer at a November ceremony at Morris County Golf Club.

Ms. Hanselman said:

*"This award was created in 2023 in honor of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, Sister of Charity and graduate of the College of Saint Elizabeth. This year (2023) marked her 100th Anniversary of commencement!"*

*Blessed Miriam lived in Santa Rita dorm, walked the halls and paths that we all have walked during our time of study, and entered the order of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. She taught for a year at the Academy of Saint Aloysius in Jersey City before entering the Sisters of Charity on February 11, 1925.*

*She is one step away from official sainthood. Her beatification ceremony, the first one held on U.S. soil, was held on October 4, 2014, in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark, N. J. This year, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of her beatification.*

*One of the central teaching themes of Blessed Miriam's spirituality is the incredible beauty and dignity of the human person in whom God dwells. That sentiment and value are ever present in the teaching-learning pedagogy at CSE / SEU University.*

*The first Blessed Miriam Teresa Award is proudly given to The Sisters of Charity and the Director of the Blessed Miriam Teresa League of Prayer, Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC, '65."*

The Sisters of Charity were honored to receive this award in recognition of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC.



# IN MEMORIAM

Please visit In Loving Memory on SCNJ.org for obituaries, reflections and links to funeral Masses.



Sister Joan Walters, SC  
(Sister Robert Mary)  
July 24, 2023



Sister Elizabeth Scheick, SC  
September 18, 2023



Sister Marie Gilligan, SC  
(Sister James Marie)  
November 24, 2023



Sister Lorena Reilly, SC  
(Sister Robert Marita)  
December 7, 2023



Sister Patricia Godri, SC  
(Sister Agnes Joseph)  
January 7, 2024



Sister Marcella Nolan, SC  
(Sister Marcella William)  
March 28, 2024



Sister Marie Tansey, SC  
(Sister Ancilla Mary)  
March 29, 2024



Sister Anita Richard Heilenday, SC  
April 2, 2024



Sister Gloria O'Brien  
(Sister Maura Francis)  
May 2, 2024



Sister June Morrissey, SC  
(Sister William Josephine)  
May 2, 2024

## SETON ASSOCIATES

Carol Ohmer Collins – December 22, 2023 | Elizabeth Clare McCloskey – December 30, 2023  
Mary Elizabeth Kelly – December 30, 2023 | Patricia Ann Franco – January 14, 2024  
Deacon Joseph Sisco – February 14, 2024 | Marianne Kinney – March 3, 2024

## WHAT ARE SOME SMART WAYS TO GIVE TO THE SISTERS OF CHARITY?

### Have you considered a Donor-Advised Fund?

A donor-advised fund, or DAF, is a kind of charitable giving account. The donor deposits cash, stock, or other assets into the account and can claim an immediate tax deduction in the year that the assets were put into the DAF. The assets in the account are then invested and grow tax-free until funds are disbursed as directed to charity. Choosing to support charities through a DAF potentially reduces both capital gains taxes and estate taxes. Some donors direct disbursements from their DAFs to the Sisters of Charity every month and others make contributions from their DAFs at selected times.

### Are you age 70 ½ or above? Have you considered using your IRA to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

As you plan your required minimum distributions from your IRA, consider making a gift to the Sisters of Charity directly from your IRA. The gift will count toward your required minimum distribution for the year in which you make the gift. You may give up to \$100,000 per year in distributions to charities without having to count the distributions as income for federal tax purposes. In other words, you get to offer your support to the Sisters of Charity and receive a great tax benefit in return.

Talk to your financial advisor about these options and other smart ways to give to the Sisters of Charity!

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH  
P.O. Box 476  
Convent Station, N.J. 07961-0476

[www.SCNJ.org](http://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](mailto:srcharity@scnj.org)

[www.SCNJ.org](http://www.SCNJ.org)



**Fall 50/50 Drawing**  
Tuesday, November 26, 2024



**Harvest Festival**  
October 17, 2024  
Park Avenue Club, Florham Park NJ



**Christmas Concert**  
December 21, 2024  
Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station NJ