



Circle of Charity



Our efforts in the Work of Charity

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Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

Summer 2010

PUMPHOUSE CONSTRUCTION NEARS COMPLETION

The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill are nearing the completion of the construction of a new water pumping station, which will ensure that enough water pressure would be available in the event of fire.

Thanks to the generosity of friends and donors, the sisters are within \$20,000 of fully funding the new pump house.

The existing water pump, which was installed in 1999 in conjunction with the construction of Caritas Christi, passed every inspection. However, a few years ago, the sisters started to experience difficulty with the system. Engineering studies showed that there is not sufficient water pressure in the event that Caritas Christi, the motherhouse for the sisters, or other buildings on the grounds would require sustained water pressure for a fire emergency.

The Sisters of Charity met with Greensburg Fire Chief Lester Harvey, Westmoreland County Water Authority representatives and engineers in 2007 to discuss several solutions. Many options were considered, but were subsequently deemed inadequate.

In January 2009, the water authority proposed a joint agreement with the Sisters of Charity to install a booster pumping station on Route 130 at the base of the Sisters of Charity property. Although the Sisters of Charity will fund the majority of the construction costs, the Water Authority agreed to accept ownership and all future liabilities, including maintenance of pumps, facility and access roads and additional system demands to the Sisters of Charity complex should it be necessary.



Steve Svetkovich, Maintenance Supervisor, Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, and Bill Castile present the generator for the new water pumping station.

To complete the agreement, the Sisters of Charity granted pipeline right-of-way on their property for the installation of water pipes to the existing booster pumping station. This will help the water authority provide emergency water for residents on Mount Thor Road.

The pump house is scheduled to be completed in July.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation granted \$300,000 for the project, which will cover more than half the cost of the new pumping station. To complete the funding, the Sisters are inviting friends and benefactors to contribute as well. Donations may be sent to the

Sisters at the address below. Simply include a note indicating that the gift be earmarked for the pump house project.

We continue to give thanks to God for you, our Circle of Charity. Our sisters will keep you in our daily prayers. May the summer season be filled with many blessings and joys.



Bill Castile, water distribution facilities Superintendent, Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County shows Sister Vivien Linkhauer, Provincial Superior, Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, the control center for the new water pumping station located at the bottom of Mount Thor Road.

“Sounds of Charity - Sounds of Music on the Hill”

The morning of April 17, 2010, was dark and quiet after the quick, but dangerous storm which hit Greensburg and surrounding areas the night before. There was no electricity in the city of Greensburg. All the plans for the use of the Seton Hill Performing Arts Center were up in the air.



Michael Gallagher, Julie Lee and the Seton Hill Jazz Combo perform “Amazing Grace” as part of the finale at the Sounds of Charity on April 17 at Seton Hill University’s Cecilian Hall.

Fortunately, Seton Hill University *did* have electricity. **Sister Lois Sulco** consulted the staff at Seton Hill to find out if a change of venue was possible. Seton Hill was scheduled to have an admission event at 7 a.m. on April 18. Sister Lois was assured that switch could be made.

The staff worked feverishly to convert the room, while committee members set up the raffle items, the food service staff turned one side of Cecilian Hall into a flower area for the hor d’oeuvres and the performers arrived to work with Jim Henon to test the sound system. Bob Fetter worked to get the word out regarding the change of venue. **Sister Sharon Carpenter** drove the van to the Performing Arts Center to bring the people who did not get the word about the change of venue. *The show would go on.*

At 7:30 p.m., the concert began with a warm welcome by **Sister Vivien Linkhauer**. Throughout the program, the Seton Hill University staff was thanked for their support and encouragement that the Sisters of Charity received prior to the concert when the University was the Gold Sponsor and for the untiring gracious assistance in setting up in a new venue.

The audience was drawn into the evening as Michael Gallagher asked them to sing along with the chorus of one of his songs.

The Seton Hill Jazz Combo brought a wonderful sample of jazz numbers and each of the participants demonstrated their talents as their instruments were featured at various times throughout the performance.

Julie Lee entertained with a hometown flavor and quickly had the audience tapping. One of her pieces was dedicated to the Sisters of Charity.

The evening ended with all the performers and the audience singing “Amazing Grace.” The raffles were successful. *God blessed the evening with joy, love, and peace. The committee thanks all who helped to make the evening great.*

14 Congregations of women religious meet at Federation conference

The Sisters of Charity Federation met at Seton Hill University for their annual conference from June 10-14. More than 80 participants from 14 congregations attended. Representing over 4,000 women religious worldwide, all were united in their shared roots in Saints Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac and Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Sister Christine Partisano, CSJ, served as facilitator as the group discussed the theme, *Charity in Mission...At the Grassroots, Together as a Family, in the World.*

The meeting started with a look at the history of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill followed by a panel of newer members who discussed the topic: “How do you envision Charity in Mission Now and in the Future?”

As the Sisters of Charity Federation celebrates the 350th anniversary of the death of St. Vincent De Paul and St. Louise De Marillac, the worldwide Vincentian family has been invited to reflect together on the "Mission" that is shared.



Sister Vivien Linkhauer welcomes the Sisters of Charity Federation in the Chapel of the Assumption on Thursday, June 10.

“My heart melts at the thought of how dear we are to each other and the tie which binds us.” ~ Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton