



# Circle of Charity



## Our efforts in the Work of Charity

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Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

Winter 2008

### Immigration to be topic of Sister Mary Schmidt lecture on February 21

As part of the Sister Mary Schmidt Lecture Series, on February 21, Susan Forbes Martin, who is the Donald G. Herzberg Chair in International Migration and serves as the Director of the Institute for the Study of International Global Migration in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, will discuss "International Migration: Challenges for the 21st Century."

The Sister Mary Schmidt Lecture Series is sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in collaboration with Seton Hill University. Its purpose is:

- ✦ to support the Catholic identity of the University;
- ✦ to engage both communities in learning and dialogue on timely topics of social and environmental justice with global impact;
- ✦ to develop an understanding of Catholic Social Teachings and how they pertain to this dialogue.

Sister Mary Schmidt, SC, served as President of Seton Hill College from 1971 through 1977 after serving one year as Acting President. During her tenure as President, a number of new programs were begun, including the creation of several cooperative educational opportunities between Saint Vincent College and Seton Hill College.

Yet, she is best remembered because of her wisdom, kindness, goodness, joy, and her ability to inspire students to reach beyond the ordinary and provincial.

*See Sister Mary Schmidt on Page 2*

### Spend Laetare Sunday with the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

You are cordially invited to attend the 2008 Lenten Prayer with the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill on Sunday, March 2, 2008, at Caritas Christi. The visit and refreshments will be from 2:30-4 p.m. Solemn prayers and music will begin at 4 p.m. We hope you will attend this event with your family. Please RSVP by **February 25** at 724-836-0406, ext. 647.

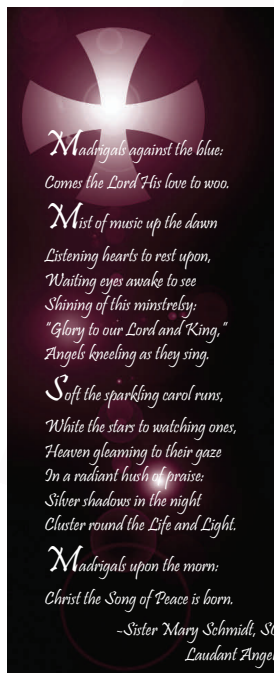


### Successful Christmas Appeal because of your support

The Sister Support 2007 Christmas appeal proved to be very successful for the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

To date, we have reached 92% of our goal for 2007-2008. This would not be possible without the generous support from you, our benefactors and *Partners in the Work of Charity*.

Our 169 sisters in active ministry, who work in education, social service, and pastoral care, are transforming lives. In addition to the work of our sisters in active ministry, we are honored to care for our 88 retired sisters living at



Caritas Christi, our motherhouse. These sisters committed their lives to helping others. Now they find themselves in need of special care and attention.

Each sister relies solely upon our Community to fulfill her needs, as she has taken a vow of poverty. Our 169 sisters in active ministry do not keep their salaries but give them to the Community to offset our operating budget, including the cost of caring for our retired and infirm sisters.

Our active sisters' salaries will cover 80% of our annual operating budget. The generous contributions from you to our Sister Support Fund help us acquire the remaining 20%.

Thank You for making our Sister Support such a success this year and for sharing your love with the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

Your love and support lift the spirits of our sisters and sustains life-changing work performed in humility, simplicity, and charity.

# Thank you

## Sister Mary Schmidt



Sister Mary Schmidt  
1943

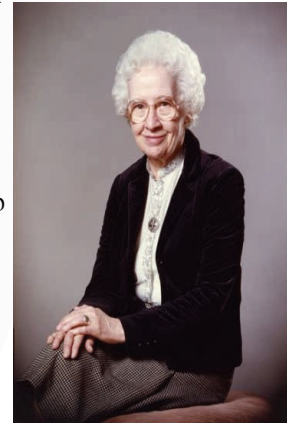
Sister Mary earned a BA from Seton Hill College in 1932 and an MA in English from the University of Pittsburgh in 1934. She also earned a Ph.D. in English Language and Literature from Yale University in 1943. Sister Mary entered the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in 1934 and began teaching in the English Department at the College in 1936, attaining the rank of Professor.

In addition to teaching for more than 20 years, she served as faculty moderator of the *Setonian* and the quarterly literary magazine. In 1957, she was appointed Assistant to the President and Dean of the Faculty. From 1961 to 1970, she served as Executive Vice President of the College. From 1977 to 1991, she continued to serve the College as Director of Alumnae Relations until she retired.

Sister Mary is most remembered for her ability to teach, to encourage, and to love. The words spoken by Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey at the 1993 Commencement are an appropriate summary of her life:

"Sister Mary Schmidt was quiet witness to the old and beautiful unchanging truth . . . that we make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

The lecture on February 21 will be held in Lynch Hall on the campus of Seton Hill University, at 7 p.m. There is no fee to attend. All are welcome.



Sister Mary Schmidt  
1976

## Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill plan to develop Peace Garden

The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill plan to develop a Peace Garden. The purpose of the Peace Garden is to provide a quiet, aesthetically pleasing, natural setting which inspires and invites reflection, meditation, contemplation, and other peace-filled activities.

The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill initially expressed an interest in developing the Peace Garden in 2002 to compliment their commitment to land development and conservation. Inner peace and right relationships are central needs in our world. People long for justice, peace, and communion. They hunger for spirituality and meaning. The hardships, injustices, and inequity in access to basic resources are ever present in today's society and call us to prayer, reflection, and personal transformation.

The creation of a Peace Garden will address these needs. The public, Seton Hill University students, faculty, and staff, and the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill will utilize the space to foster peace in their own hearts and pray for peace in the world. It will be a quiet place of reflection and meditation for all faiths.

*"Among the numberless favors it has pleased God to bestow on me thro' you—  
well may I pray for you—but he alone can recompense you."* -Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

## Christian & Jewish Travelers Visit the Holy Land Together

In the fall, Sister Lois Sculco, SC, vice president for mission and student life at Seton Hill University, and Rabbi Sara Perelman, leader of the Congregation Emanu-El Israel in Greensburg, PA, led a group of 20 members "to walk the Bible by visiting Christian and Jewish holy sites in Israel with a group of travelers from both faiths."



Additional Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill joining Sister Lois in this interfaith trip to Israel included Sister Mary Philip Aaron, Sister Patrice Hughes, and Sister Lyn Dwyer. The group was met in Israel by Sister Gemma Del Duca, SC, co-director in Israel of the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education.

The trip included visits to the coastal plain, Caesarea, Nazareth, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt. Zion, the Dead Sea Basin, Yad Vashem (Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Authority), Bethlehem, the Israel Museum, and Tel Aviv.

"We were not tourists," stated Sister Lois. "We were pilgrims who traveled to Israel not only to see the Holy Land, but to appreciate the sacred sites."

"Our journey was back into a very old world of Scripture. Each participant reacted to the experience in different ways, religiously, emotionally, and even physically," said Sister Gemma.