



Friends of AMA Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017

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"We should ask with ardent longing that Our Lord reign totally in us and that His coming be renewed in us."
St. Marie Eugenie



Dear AMAs, Sisters, AMA Families and Friends!

Advent and Christmas greetings to you all! As we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas we pray that our lives will continue to reflect that wondrous love that was born to our broken world so long ago.

So much has happened since our last newsletter—a pilgrimage to France, an AMA concert, recruitment fairs, and planning a combined celebration for Sr. Mary Ann's 30th Jubilee and the 10th year anniversary of the Assumption Center! As I have been going through the many computer files and gathering pictures for the celebration, I continue to be in awe of the enormous scope and contributions the Sisters, AMAs and friends have made over the years through Assumption Center programs. It is clear that the ministry provided is a team effort and we have you, our donors, to thank for its continued success! I feel very blessed to be affiliated with the Religious of the Assumption, and I look forward to the new year ahead!

God bless you all this holy season, and through 2018!

-Peace, Sandy Piwko

*O King of Kings, love you bring,
The world is made anew.
O Prince of Peace, make us free,
Justice for human-kind.*

Bicentennial Pilgrimage to France

My France Pilgrimage : A Reflection by AMA alum Lee Maleno

Our France pilgrimage was a special, one-of-a-kind experience. This trip was a Bicentennial celebration in honor of the 200th birthdays of St. Marie Eugenie and Mother Therese Emmanuel, and the special friendship they shared through the Religious of the Assumption.

In prayer and silence, as well as reading, we learned about these wonderful role models and their lives in the Assumption. They dedicated their lives totally to God, the Church, and the Assumption. They are truly inspiring. It was a blessing for me to reflect upon these women of faith and meet kind, friendly pilgrims from several countries in our world. Throughout the trip, I learned about different cultures and lifestyles.

Pictured right: Lee with Kate Carew stand in the doorway of St. Segolene church where St. Marie Eugenie received her First Communion.



The cities of Paris and Lyon were impressive as well as the French countryside, which was beautiful. Creation shows us God's greatness. Also, I witnessed many young adults use and share their talents through music and dance, including our group who, during one of the cultural nights, danced to *We are Marching in the Light of God*. Our Lord certainly has a great plan for creation and for us, especially when we work together to share our gifts and build up the Kingdom.



Many of the 15 pilgrims of the USA group posing in front of the statue honoring General Patton and the US soldiers who helped liberate Metz during World War II.

Pictured left : Allyson Longchamps, Lee Mareno, Sr. Nha Trang Nguyen, Melissa Scutt, Mary Laprade, Sr. Mary Ann, Kate Carew, Sr. Akeneta, Sandy Piwko, and Yoline Scutt.

A Heartfelt

"Thank You" to all our Donors!

Your support enables the work of AMA to continue!

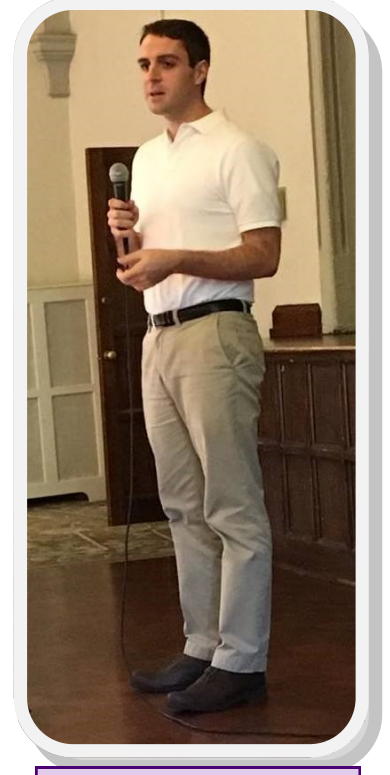
Abad, Marilou
Anastacio, Leaia
Anderson, Mary Lou
Anton, Nancy
Barfield, Robyn
Bearden, Bill & Eithne
Boughton, Kathy & Stu
Brown, Mark & Kissinger, Kraig
Buron, Kathy
Carew, Michael & Theresa
Clancy, Sarah
Clapano, Aurora & Erlinda
Cosgrove, James
Covino, Paul & Anne
Demarais, Melanie
Diodati, Gene & Fran
Derkowski, Kathryn
Dowd, Fred & Kathryn
Englander, Barbara & Gary
Franquin-Wilkerson, Christine
Furcinitti, Paul
Girard, Yvon & Linda
Glick, Monica & Bill
Gutierrez, Norma
Haggerty, Brian & Judith
Haggerty, Kyle & Theresa
Hariss, Nubia
Harrington, Mike & Sylvia
Hickey, Rich & Peggy
Hutcheson, Sally and David Biddle
Jovellana, Apolinar
Kaune, Anne & Steven
Kelly, Raymond & Kathleen

Annual AMA Concert Huge Success!

Our annual AMA fundraiser concert was held on Sunday, September 24th at the Merion Tribute House in Merion Station, PA. We had a fantastic turnout and guests were entertained once again by Jason DuPue who was joined by fellow members of The Liebesfreud Quartet. Sr. Clare and the Concert Committee worked tirelessly to put on a lovely event. After the concert, people had a chance to win great prizes and enjoy some refreshments. Thank you again to all who came out to support AMA!



Great prizes were raffled off!



Kevin reflects on his year in Chaparral, NM.



Above: The concert space was filled!
Right: Liebesfreud is composed of Geoffrey Michaels, Phillip Kates, David Ciles and Jason DuPue.



Sr. Mary Ann Celebrates 30 Years of Vows

When Mary Ann Azanza made vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the Religious of the Assumption, becoming Sr. Mary Ann of the Eucharist in her hometown of Manila in August 1987, little did she know that she'd wind up spending two-thirds of her Assumption life (thus far) living in Worcester, Massachusetts! Happily for us, however, that's what happened. After working as teacher and then principal of the Assumpta Technical High School in San Simon, while at the same time earning her M.A. in Theology with a thesis on the formation of lay volunteers (AMAs, in fact), Mary Ann found herself missioned to the U.S. Province "for three years." Twenty years later, she's still on mission, and we're very glad that she is.

This year we're celebrating not only the 30th anniversary of Sr. Mary Ann's religious profession, but also 20 years of two programs she began at St. Peter's Church. She always says that the pastor of St. Peter's, Monsignor Francis J. Scollen (who hired her after a lunch presided over by his cat) said to her from the start: "Look around and see what we can do for the people here." That "looking around" led to ESL classes and to Mentoring, the after-school program, both of which have served hundreds of immigrants and their children since their inception. Of course, programs like that need people to staff them, and so over the years, Sr. Mary Ann has invited collaboration from many volunteers, including retired teachers and grad students who've taught English, undergrads from Clark, Holy Cross and Assumption who've mentored, and of course, from the AMAs, who've been working as full-time volunteers with Sr. Mary Ann and the whole Assumption community here in Worcester since 1997. For the last 10 years, the AMAs have been living in community at the Assumption Center on Vineyard Street.

So we're celebrating a veritable Trifecta of Jubilees this year. We're so grateful to God for calling her long ago, and to Sr. Mary Ann for saying "yes" to that call in so many generous, creative, faithful and – very funny! – ways. Here's to the next 30 years!

-- Sr. Nuala Cotter, R.A., Provincial

On the Road to a General Chapter

Every six years the Religious of the Assumption holds a General Chapter. It is a time in the life of the congregation when the Sisters try to look at their life together and to consider the way they want to go forward for the next six years. Clearly, it is a time of great listening to what the Lord wills. The Chapter also has the important task of electing new leadership for the congregation: a Superior General and four General Councilors.

The Sisters will be in Chapter at the Assumption Retreat House in Lourdes, France from June 20 to July 20, 2018. The Chapter's theme is: "*Impelled by the Spirit, let us risk being at the frontiers, at the service of life.*" Please keep all the Sisters in your prayers as they walk toward this important time for the Religious of the Assumption!



Lee, Janet & William
 Mahon, Paul
 Martin, Scott & Xuan
 Trang Nguyen
 Maskarinec, Maureen &
 Greg
 McGuire, Frank & Diane
 Mendoza, Vicky Viray
 Meunier, Hubert &
 Ronelle
 Michalak, Pauline
 Modugno, Joe & Chi
 Montelibano, Mary
 Grace
 Nguyen, Khanh Trang
 O'Connell, Christian
 O'Connor, John & Julie
 Pacek, Leonard &
 Carolyn
 Patrick, Jean (for Nicole)
 Penkala, Jean & Jan
 Perron, Michael &
 Pamela
 Piwko, Mary & Robert
 Putnam, Elizabeth
 Reicolcolin, Rachel
 Reicolcolin, Rudy & Ella
 Roxas, Candi
 Schrems, Melly Tirador
 Sevilla, Enid
 Sevilla, Rosalyn
 Sheerin, Michael & Erin
 Sherman, Michelle
 Simisky, Kathy
 Szelest, David & Margo
 Tapiador, Carmen
 Thistle, Dawn
 Thompson, William
 Valdes, Teri
 Verderese, Patricia &
 Paul
 Yu, Gwendolyn and Li,
 David
 Yu, Margie Chua
 Zaehring, Madeleine

**AMA-zing
 Donors!**

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? AMA UPDATES, MILESTONES AND NEWS!

● **Meghan Zack** (L'Arche Bognor-Regis, 2004-05) and Sean Cramer welcomed Zackary James on June 30, 2016. Your AMA family welcomes you too, Zackary!

● **Flannery Kearney** (L'Arche Cork, Ireland, 2010-11) married Emilién Audebrand at the Assumption College Chapel in Worcester on August 13, 2016.

● **Kristen Penkala** (Chaparral 2007-08) married Anthony Simmarano in 2016 with Assumption Sisters and friends from her AMA days in attendance. They welcomed beautiful Leila Jean on March 8, 2017, just a few days before St. Marie Eugénie's birthday!

● **Kirsten Klotz-Cobb** (Kids Kabin, 2009-10) and husband Brian welcomed little Moira Bridgid Cobb into the world on January 5th.

● **Madeleine Zaehringer** (Worcester, 2010-11) married Will Haskins, February 18, in San Francisco, CA. We're delighted that Maddie is coming all the way from California to Worcester for the Assumption Jubilee celebration. Once an AMA, always a member of the Assumption Family!

● Avery Reed Oja was born to **Jennifer Goodell-Oja** (Worcester, 2005-06) and her husband Neil on April 29, 2017. Big sisters Abigail and Makenzie are thrilled that they have a baby brother!

● **Afton Caterina** (Worcester, 2010-11) married Christopher Baker on June 24th in Beld-

ing, Michigan. Prayers and blessings for a long and happy life together from your AMA family, Afton and Chris!

● **Katy O'Brien** (Chaparral, 2007-08) married Tom Jantscher in July. All the best to you, dear Katy and Tom!

● AMA Alum **Lee Maleno** (Worcester, 2010-11) and Cana Community members Ally Longchamps and Kate Carew were three of the 15 members of the U.S. delegation to the International Youth Pilgrimage to celebrate the Bicentennial of the birth of St. Marie Eugénie and Mother Therese Emmanuel. From August 16 – 26 they were in France with 250 other young people from the 34 countries in which the Assumption is present.

● **Melissa Tran** (Kids Kabin, 2010-11) married Nicholas Cinciruk, Jr. on Sept. 2nd in Endicott, NY. Sisters Anne Françoise and Nha Trang from the Lansdale community were so happy to be with them on their special day. Afterwards, Melissa and Nick journeyed to England and visited Newcastle where Melissa served as an AMA. The Sisters and folks at Kids Kabin were so happy to welcome the newly-weds!

● **Beth Sheehan and Matt Collins** (L'Arche Bognor-Regis 2006-07) happily welcomed Teddy's younger sister, Gwen Katherine, in September.

● Madeleine Sophia was born to **Liz Clayton** (Worcester, 2006-07) and Russ Wilson on October 12th (Sr. Mary Ann's birthday!). Big sisters Abby and Ellie couldn't be happier.

● **Brendan Carey** (Mexico, 2009-10) and his wife Sara welcomed their second son, Max, this year. Another union organizer in the making!

● Congratulations and blessings on our Assumption Sisters who celebrate significant Jubilees in 2017: 60 years for **Sisters Clare Teresa and Anne Françoise**, 30 years for **Sr. Mary Ann**. Thank you for your witness and service!

● Thank you to **Kevin Molyneux** (Chaparral, 2014-15) for sharing his AMA experience during the AMA Concert in Philadelphia and **Elliot Simmons-Uvin** (Worcester, 2015-16/Philippines, 2016-17) for speaking at the AMA Mass Appeal at Assumption College. Thanks also go to **Maggie McCabe** (Chaparral, 2005-06) and **Megan Hannon** (Worcester, 2011-12) for helping at the AMA table at the volunteer fairs at Villanova and Holy Cross. We're always looking for AMAs who can help us with recruitment and fairs. Please reach out to our AMA Director Sandy Piwko if you're able to help!



Be sure to checkout our new AMA web-site at assumptionvolunteers.org.

If you have some pictures or a reflection you would like to add from your volunteer year please forward them along to Sandy at directorassumption@gmail.com

Thank you!

