

Saint Vincent de Paul, known as the "Apostle of Charity," dedicated himself to serving impoverished persons of 17th century France. Mother Seton embraced Vincentian spirituality and virtues for her Sisters of Charity in the United States, and so we celebrate 400 years of this Charity tradition.

Mission Statement

The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill is an international, apostolic community of women religious, baptized in Christ, and vowed o continue the mission of His hurch. In the spirit of Saint incent de Paul and Saint lizabeth Seton, the congregation conceives its purpose to be an active ministry on behalf of the Kingdom. This service is: informed by Gospel values, responsive to the needs of a changing world, guided by the prudent use of available resources, respectful of human dignity, protective of human rights, devoted especially to the poor and oppressed, rooted in faith, animated by prayer, supported by the common life, and performed in humility, simplicity

and charity. Editor:

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Front cover:

Stained glass window in Saint Joseph Chapel at **Seton Hill University** depicting Saint Vincent de Paul welcoming children

Inside front cover:

Scenery at the entrance to Caritas Christi, motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill





February, 2017

Dear Friends,

As we long for spring during the winter season, so too, spiritually we long for the Easter season which seems so far away. Yet it is in Ordinary Time that we find our God teaching us lessons for the spiritual life.

I have always thought it was unique that Valentine's Day was in February when we need the glow of love in our lives to get through the harsh winter months. This is also true of Divine Charity in our lives. God is love, Divine Love! As we look to those so vulnerable among us, it is only through Divine Charity that we can help them. Because of your constant support, we are able to care for our sisters and be part of ministries that help those who need us.

In this issue of *Celebration* you will have the opportunity to read about the 400th Anniversary of the beginning of the charism of Charity. It is this spirit of St. Vincent de Paul which informs our lives as women of Charity. When Mother Seton began the Sisters of Charity in the United States, and needed a rule for her sisters, she embraced the Vincentian rule which had its origin in 17th century France. It is the rule of Charity, the rule of giving in the name of Divine Charity!

You will also read in this issue about the Seton Family. We invite you to consider becoming a member of this group which will enrich your lives through prayer, learning, and being part of the charism of Charity.

As I end this letter, I want to assure you that all of our sisters continue each day to ask God's blessings on you for your friendship and support. May you know the joy that comes from being part of the work of Charity that we accomplish together.

In the spirit of Saint Elizabeth Seton,

de Cacpuio Meinest, d.C.

Sister Catherine Meinert, SC Provincial Superior

Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

-Journey in faith, vocation, and the charism of Charity

Sister Susan Jenny



Tith simple but heartfelt words, Miss Hyeon Nyeon Lee, a postulant with the Sisters of Charity, asked to be admitted to the novitiate of the U.S. Province. At the conclusion of her postulancy, she wrote, "As I deepened my relationship with God through prayer, I have been grateful to serve others in caregiving facilities." Hyeon had ministered for nearly a year, serving elder sisters and residents of the memory care center at Caritas Christi for the first several months. She then ministered at Elizabeth Seton Center in Pittsburgh, focusing primarily on the elderly, but helping the younger child care participants as well in this intergenerational program. This, she believes, gave her the privilege of meeting "so many of God's people. I love them, but I receive more love from them! Even with dementia or Parkinson's disease or physical pain, they always move me by their smiles and love.

> In the end, loving is the only message I want to leave." Said an observer, "She sees God in every client she works with. It's outstanding to see her joy and love in her interactions with them."

Hyeon believes that her time of living and ministering with the sisters prepared her to move forward into the novitiate, where additional study and experience of the common life will continue her formation into full membership with the community. "I am deeply grateful to all the sisters who have lovingly engaged with me and prayed for me." She has found the life "joy-filled—not just a good mood or happiness but a deep, rich, joyful life."The sisters with whom she lived at

Elizabeth Seton Convent praised Hyeon for her involvement with them in the ordinary tasks of life. "She was very faithful to prayer and joined in all our activities." "Her presence was a real gift to us." Several

commented on Hyeon's openness to sharing were secondary. "Keeping a warm her life and her dreams with them, and of engaging sisters in thoughtful conversations. degree." She began to measure her "She was an inspiration to us ... so hopeful ... so positive."

As for Hyeon, she believes her own identity is being extended. "This comes through community. We share faith together in a 'family.' We can share emotions, memories, and the wisdom that comes from years of life experiences. I am expanded by being in community." family and attended a prayer meet-

In a recent presentation to the Seton Family in Pittsburgh, Hyeon shared her journey of faith and vocation. Although she had been baptized, she and her family had not actively practiced their Catholicism. While pursuing her doctorate, she felt what many graduate students feel: stress, anxiety and depression. She knew she needed "something or someone" to help her through these difficulties. So she began attending liturgy at a Catholic parish with some friends and even joined the choir. A simple, humble woman in the choir deeply impressed her, but then died suddenly. During a prayer meeting remembering this woman, Hyeon had what she calls "a conversion." She experienced "the warming of my heart. My heart was alive!" When she pondered this experience, she realized God showed Himself as love. She knew that she was loved and that her mission was to love others. At that point, she realized that anxieties about her studies

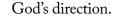
heart was more to me than any life in terms of being a Christian. "I hadn't yet begun thinking about religious life."

Hyeon completed her degree and returned to Korea, still hungry for a more meaningful spiritual life. She connected with a friend of her





ing at the Sisters of Charity Korean Provincial House. There she met several sisters who talked with her about the community and its connections in the United States. Having no desire to return to the U.S., she decided that, although the sisters were very friendly and happy, she would continue her career at the university where she taught. She still had a strong desire for something "more than the life of academia." She entered into a year of prayer asking for



Hyeon became move involved with the Sisters of Charity in the summer of 2014 when she became a translator for Sister Caroljean Willie, SC, from Cincinnati. Sister was traveling around to houses

and ministries



of the sisters of the Korean Province, and needed language assistance to exchange ideas on the environmental issues she was invited to address. Initially, Hyeon felt drawn to contemplative religious life, but as she

encountered the sisters engaged in apostolic life, she felt it might be a good fit for her. Then she met some of the American

sisters from Seton Hill. They had just completed participation in a General Chapter—an

international event to set direction and priorities for the congregation for the next five years—and were preparing to return to Greensburg. Sister Caroljean had spoken about God and religious life with energy that was very attractive to Hyeon; she felt called "to explore the possibility." Spending time with the U.S. sisters felt

natural to her. "They were so

comfortable to be with—happy and kind like my mom or my aunts. It was a very joyous time."

So she began exploring the possibility in earnest. She continued to teach psychology at Duksung Women's University in Seoul while spending time with the Korean

> community for prayer, ministry and community events. Simultaneously, she was in serious conversation with Sister Barbara Ann Smelko, vocation director for the United States Province. For reasons of age and of culture, it

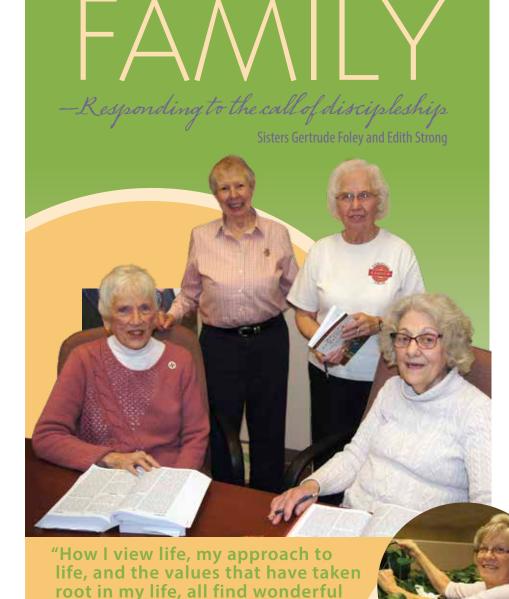


that limit. The close ties between the Korean and American sisters seemed to be just the right

milieu for her vocational home. Almost immediately she felt, "God is calling me to these sisters." She made a visit to Seton Hill and experienced the sisters as warm, happy and welcoming. "I saw in them my future."

In March of 2016, she moved in with the sisters and became a postulant, the first formal step toward becoming a member. Said Hyeon, "This is the place where God wants me to grow." Now at the end of that first year, she hasn't changed her mind. "I am happy, joyful and confident. I feel that I have found the right community."

In addition, she finds encouragement in her studies and in workshops and classes she shares with other young religious. "When the Future of Charity group comes together—almost 20 of us—we are able to share faith and dreams and belief in the future." She will continue to participate in formation activities with these other younger women religious during the time of her novitiate. The novitiate places Hyeon in a more intense period of study, prayer and reflection as she moves more deeply into religious life. But her energy and joy will continue to grow. When asked what gives her such a beautiful perspective on her life, she replied that a particular Scripture text was most meaningful. "I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me." Galatians 2:20.



companions in Saints Vincent de

Paul, Louise de Marillac, and

Elizabeth Ann Seton."

These words sum up one woman's enthusiasm for her mem-Leading bership in the Seton Family. Currently, 120 Seton Family members echo her sentiments about their own experience. Gathered with others in their monthly meeting, their learning, prayer, community, and service, give focus and shape to the spirituality that longs to grow in them. Seton Family is a group of women and men who want to grow as vital members of the Body of Christ.

Fifty years ago, the Second Vatican Council called the laity to a newly active, indispensable role in the Church: to bring the Good News of the Gospel to every facet of life in our world. What could be more important than that?

The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill designed the Seton Family to support the laity in taking on their essential role in the Church. Members understand that Baptism unites them to Christ in a remarkable way: they become members of Christ's body. To put on Christ means to share His mission. And so they try to act like Christ as much as possible in His love and care for all people.

The Gospel is the lens through which a Christian sees the world. Setonian-Vincentian spirituality focuses that lens for both Sisters of Charity and the members of the Seton Family. Seton Family members learn how to respond to Jesus' call to a life of discipleship. Jesus claimed only the role of servant: "I stand among you as one who serves."

Seton Family members learn that this discipleship is a daily activity, everyday service, not a matter of any special rank, class, or commission. It comes with Baptism. With Jesus, Seton

seemed that the U.S. Province might become her home. Hyeon had earned degrees in the U.S., including a PhD from Brandeis University, and

Greensburg

"Being a Seton Family member means sharing in the Charity charism as I can live my own life in its light."





"One of the joys of being a Seton Family member is the way members feel free to share their innermost thoughts and experiences relating to their spiritual and physical lives."

Family members pay particular attention to the poor, the marginalized, and the powerless in their own times and situations.

The Setonian-Vincentian lens through which we see the world, interpret our lives, and live the gospel values becomes our characteristic spirituality. Our characteristic

spirituality shapes our response to the call to discipleship. It sharpens our awareness of situations that need the loving presence of Jesus and enables us to be that presence for others.

The Setonian-Vincentian spiritual tradition in the Church began with Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac in 17th century France. This spirituality calls us to honor our Lord Jesus Christ as the source and model of all charity. It compels a profound concern for all people, their dignity, their rights, their holy humanity, and their eternal destiny.

Elizabeth Ann Seton embraced the Vincentian pattern of life, prayer, and service to guide her as she established the Sisters of Charity in 19th century America. When she read the Rule given by Vincent and Louise to the first Daughters of Charity, Elizabeth said, "There is nothing here different from my spirit."

In the 21st century, we understand even more than during the times of Vincent,

"We begin with prayer and always remember our friends and family who are in need of prayers."





"The formation of our Seton Family Group coincided with some "church closings" in our area. . . . we all were seeking a "new community," which didn't happen overnight. Seton Family has brought us all together in unity, enabling our faith to continue to grow through sharing."

of prayer through studying scripture, reading religious books, and attending retreats..."



Pittsfield

"We explore different forms

Louise, or Elizabeth, The Sisters of that love and care for all God's creation the Setonianis integrally intertwined with love and as a gift to the whole respond to it. care for God's people. Church. We offer We recognize all of creation as one interdependent reality.

Charity recognize Vincentian Tradition Seton Family as a ministry of support and encouragement

The vocation of the laity is a secular one, making Christ alive in one's

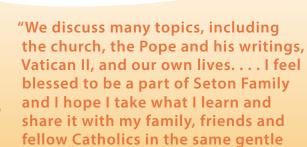
to lay women and men

who desire a deepened

understanding of their

specific call and to





way it was shared with me."







Jacksonville



We have purchased school uniforms and donated food baskets for the needy during the holidays."

"Seton family helps us to remember the importance of community in our lives. Sharing in prayer is the basis of our developing a love for others and helping others."

"We pray for all those dealing with trials and stressors, whether spiritual, emotional or physical. We pray for Mother Church that she will be protected from internal and external threats."

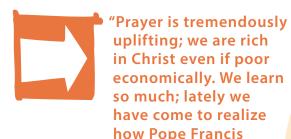
home, one's local community, and in the world of work and social action. The laity seek the Kingdom of God in temporal affairs, guided by faith. The very web of their existence is woven there.

Eight Seton Family groups currently

gather in five different states. Seventeen Sisters of Charity support and guide these groups in a particular way. Originally, Sisters of Charity facilitated all group gatherings. Now two groups have lay facilitators.

All groups foster lay leadership among

their members. Learning, Prayer, Service, and an Apostolic Spirit form the framework for group gatherings. Groups also sponsor days of retreat for their members and the broader community.



"Following Sister Claudia's presentations, we gather in the chapel at the convent to pray. Being in the chapel is always special, to me. We pray for our Seton Family prayers at each gathering."



"The most valuable aspect of the Seton Family, for me, has been trying to focus more on the counter-culture nature of Christian living. Saints Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac, and Elizabeth Ann Seton lived a counter-cultural faith in their times. It is good to be connected with them."

calls us to care for the

environment."

lucson

The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. like many other religious orders, consider those at the motherhouse to be a "powerhouse of prayer." They are sisters who have spent many years in active ministry and who now dedicate their time to a more contemplative dimension of

PRAYER PARTNERS

People often ask the Sisters of Charity to remember them for a particular intention and those requests are sent out to every sister in the Province on the sisters' daily electronic newsletter. However, there are individuals who would like a regular support person, a "Prayer Partner," so to speak.

In our Christmas card we sent out a medallion inviting others to be "together in prayer" with us. On one side was information about how to request special remembrance. In addition, we are beginning an initiative to connect individuals with a particular sister with whom they can communicate—by phone, letter, or email.

Prayer is an essential element of Vincentian Spirituality. Every Sister of Charity prays for our many friends and benefactors each and every day. In addition, we have a number of sisters who are willing to partner with you so that you will know you are being lifted in prayer especially by that person.

Your Prayer Partner may just hold your name in prayer or be more involved with you by phone or other means of communication. The choice is yours. You may email us at prayer@scsh.org or call 724-836-0406, ext. 6610 or ext. 6643. Sisters Eileen Johnston, Patricia Mary Wilson, and Mary Edmund Speer will match requestors with sister volunteers. It is hoped that our prayers for one another will strengthen all of us and bring us closer to our God. We look forward to hearing from you!



Sister Patricia Mary Wilson

Sister Eileen Johnston

Sister Mary Edmund Speer

being vowed religious.



Would you like a "prayer partner"?





Each day, the Sisters of Charity pray:

Vouchsafe, O Lord, for Thy name's sake to reward with eternal life all those who have done us good.



"We can do more together than any of us can do alone."

his belief is shared by the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill and other member congregations of the Sisters of Charity Federation of North America. Rendu Services, now in its

16th year, is a testimony to that belief. Our Sisters Dorothy Dolan, Mary Philip Aaron, and Lyn Marie Dwyer collaborate with Daughters of Charity and a Sister of Charity of Nazareth to continue and extend benefits to persons living in Fayette County. Since Fayette is one of the poorest counties in Pennsylvania (and is at the northern tip of Appalachia), the need is significant. But the mode of delivery is important. The sisters work with clients, agencies, and businesses to assure that those in need connect with those



to assure that Rendu Services empowers people by collaborating with many agencies and organizations in Fayette County without replicating services. Assistance is provided in the Vincentian tradition, a style of charity emphasizing respect for the persons served, engagement with them, and efforts to help them reach their potential.

This is especially notable in 2017, when men and women religious of the Vincentian Family celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism of Charity. Collaboration among branches of the Vincentian Family (Sisters and Daughters of Charity, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Ladies of Charity and many others) keeps the charism alive and visible. Originally, Rendu Services was a ministry of the Daughters of Charity, but quickly involved









Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill staff members. Sisters from the three communities comprise the Member Board and sit on the Board of Trustees as well.

A mobile health van provides noninvasive tests and health education at sites around the county. A new dental program gives people access to basic services that also help to prevent systemic illnesses. At the monthly Food Pantry distribution in Dunbar, many clients also serve as volunteers. The atmosphere is welcoming and choices are offered to clients as much as possible. Work with the Human Services





Council and the Fayette County Housing Authority results in the successful summer Family Fun Fest and supportive services for families and children in several housing projects.

But involvement in Rendu Services benefits in both directions. As Sister Dorothy reflected recently, "Most of my years as a Sister of Charity were spent working as a teacher and principal. Rendu Services has been quite a different experience for me. Although I did serve in many schools in poor areas, it was nothing like actually working side-by-side with those who have few material goods. I have ministered at Rendu for seven years, and I find working here gives me new life. I loved teaching, but working here has a different kind of reward. I find people here bring a whole new perspective to my life."

As the Sisters of Charity mark the 400th Anniversary of the Charism inaugurated

by the work of Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Louise de Marilliac, Frederick Ozanam, and Sister Rosalie Rendu, we remain committed to service to and with persons living in poverty.

For more information on the Vincentian Family, go to famvin.org.

Learn more about the Sisters of Charity Federation of North America at sisters of charity federation.org.







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11.11.2016

INTERVIEW WITH DR. INA BAZLEY, M.D

by Julia Trimarchi Cuccaro, Esq., Director of Development for the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

This is the fifth in a series of *Celebration* interviews that applaud the remarkable accomplishments of some of our friends, contributors, partners, and volunteers. These are people who in some way demonstrate a great appreciation for their communities and for the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. This interview is with Ina Joubert Bazley, MD, who is a retired public health service physician. She and her husband, Michael Bazley, reside on their farm in Derry, Pennsylvania, where they have practiced organic farming for many years. Ina is a member of the Wellness Team that plans and organizes the sisters' annual Citizens of the World Wellness Conference. She has worked over the years with Dr. Safdar Chaudhary, MD, and his wife, Zahida Chaudhary, MD, both of whom are psychiatrists and who have been co-hosts and panelists of our Citizens of the World Wellness Conference. This year's conference will be held at Caritas Christi on May 5, 2017, and the topic will be "Lifespan Rhythms, A Focus on Memory, Hormones, and Vitality." All are welcome to attend!

- Q: Dr. Bazley, you were born and raised in Los Angeles, California. How did you end up in southwestern Pennsylvania?
- A: My husband and I came here because I got a job in Cresson, Pennsylvania, shortly after I finished medical school at Howard University in Washington, D.C. After finishing my residencies in Washington and Baltimore, I joined the National Health Service Payback Program and became a public health service physician. I worked for three years at the Federal Correctional Institution at Loretto, Pennsylvania, as a staff physician. They have a beautiful chapel there. Then, from 1992 until I retired in 2014, I worked at the Torrance State Hospital, near Blairsville, in general practice. That's where I met Dr. Chaudhary. Mike and I bought our farm in Derry in 1994, and Mike became a professional farmer. We met as students at Gardena High School in Los Angeles, and the school had a large agriculture department that was really great. Before we bought the farm, Mike was an Agriculture Extension Agent for the state of Maryland. So he got to put all of his ideas about farming into practice.
- Q: You have a beautiful farm in Derry Simplicity Acres! You are active in the Westmoreland County farmers markets, and you and Mike were named 2015 Farmer of the Year by the Westmoreland Conservation District. Your website emphasizes organic and sustainable produce, and you are very enthused about your natural Texas Longhorn grass fed beef. What is the real advantage of this type of food?
- A: Good nutrition, and it tastes better. It's about trying to keep yourself at the optimum level and preventing disease as much as you can.
- Q: Did you learn about this in medical school?
- A: Well it's more about how I grew up. My parents moved from Louisiana to Los Angeles because of jobs. Both my parents were teachers and were part of the Los Angeles public school system. My dad taught math. City schools partnered with one of the first HMO's in the country called Kaiser Permanente. It was started by an industrialist and a doctor who focused on preventive care, so we were always being screened and tested. When I came east to medical school, I was surprised because people seemed less inclined to go to a doctor until they were sick! Wellness must begin before you become ill. Most medical doctors are coming around to the idea that traditional medicine is only one aspect of wellness. There are lots of practitioners out there now that offer non-pharmacy solutions, like chiroprac-



tors, massage therapists, acupuncture specialists, personal trainers, and nutritionists. We can't eliminate disease, but the idea is to build health so you can function optimally at any age and heal better if you do get sick.

- Q: Does spirituality play a role in healing? Can you name a person or persons who has played a large spiritual role in your life?
- A: Yes it plays a big role! Definitely Jesus. No one is fortunate without God in your life. That's the message of Dr. J. Vernon McGee.
- Q: The radio minister from Los Angeles?
- A: I know this is kind of weird, but after the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, I couldn't believe it. I was so sad. That wasn't the city I knew. At that time, I carpooled to work, and I started listening to his program on Word FM Called "Through the Bible". I did his whole five year program. I also love a radio program broadcast on WAOB, "We Are One Body", and I frequently listen to the naturopath Joe DiMatteo on his show "Ask the Pharmacist".
- Q: In anticipation of our upcoming Citizens of the World Wellness Conference and your work with Dr. Safdar Chaudhary, MD, one of our conference co-hosts and key note speaker for two years, could you tell us how he influenced your work in integrative medicine?
- A: He is one of the first psychiatrists I worked with early in my career. He served as an educator for the entire staff to give us knowledge to help our work environment. His training about the best possible ways to practice integrative medicine and empowering patients and providers was truly instrumental for us.
- Q: At this year's conference, what type of topics can we expect to learn about?
- A: We will focus on mindful living and how we can minimize health risks by practicing remedies that combine traditional medicine, spiritual awareness, and foundational thinking about how we live our lives in a stressed world. One of our topics will be memory loss, its underlying causes, how we might mitigate its effects, treat it, and boost our vitality as we age.

Thank you, Ina. Memory care is one of the sisters' greatest concerns, as expressed in their support of the Elizabeth Seton Memory Care Center at Caritas Christi. We are expecting to have a highly informative conference on May 5, 2017, and we hope our readers will join us!





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Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

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JANUARY 1, 2017 - FEBRUARY 28, 2017 LUCKY SPRING CASH TICKET-MARCH

Available for purchase DePaul Center, Greensburg 724-836-0406, x6646

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017 LENTEN VISIT AND VESPERS

Caritas Christi, Greensburg 2:00 p.m. - Visit and Refreshments 3:30 p.m. - Solemn Vespers 724-836-0406, x6643

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 SOUNDS OF CHARITY CONCERT

Benefit the Ministries of the Sisters of Charity 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. McKenna Center Seton Hill University, Greensburg 724-836-0406, x6615

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017 SISTER MARY SCHMIDT LECTURE

Bishop Gerald Kicanas, Bishop of Tucson Seton Hill University, Greensburg

APRIL 1, 2017 - MAY 31, 2017 SUMMER FUN CASH TICKET - JUNE

Available for purchase DePaul Center, Greensburg 724-836-0406, x6646

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017 WELLNESS CONFERENCE

Third Annual 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Caritas Christi, Greensburg 724-836-0406, x6640

JULY 8 - 9, 2017 **JUBILEE WEEKEND**

Greensburg



Silent Auction, Cash Bar

Music & Dancing Begins at 7:30 p.m.

Free shuttle service available from parking lot E.

www.scsh.org

All proceeds benefit the mission and ministries of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

S50 Tickets

15 Students

Reservations for groups of 8 or 10 are available for early-bird patrons.

> Call Terri Murphy at 724-836-0406, ext. 6615.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available!