



## *Bicentennial Women Learners Fund*

July, 2008

Dear St. Joseph College Alumna,

In the summer of 1809, Mother Seton traveled from Baltimore to Emmitsburg. After spending six weeks in a cabin on Mary's Mountain, her small community settled into the Stone House near Tom's Creek where classes began at once for two female boarding students and Elizabeth's three daughters.

Our Alumnae Association is an anchor and a pivotal part of the 200 continuous years of education of female students in St. Joseph's Valley. We will commemorate this connection when we gather at next April's SJC reunion to celebrate "Two Centuries of Women Learners" and the arrival of Elizabeth Seton in Emmitsburg.

To mark this historic year, St. Joseph College Alumnae Association, Inc. is establishing a ***Bicentennial Women Learners Fund***. Its purposes are three-fold. First, the fund will help sustain the vitality of the Alumnae Association and its financial well-being. Second, it will enable the association's philanthropic outreach which includes Vincentian charities and other groups that help meet the needs of the poor.

Finally, the fund will provide a special memorial gift to the Seton Shrine. An antique brass sconce with an electrified candle will be installed in the Museum area of the Shrine. The sconce, along with a special plaque noting that the gift is from St. Joseph College Alumnae Association, will be dedicated during our 2009 Reunion weekend. The association's gift is a symbol of the traditional candle-lighting ceremony during our Reunion Memorial Mass. It represents all the women whose lives were both illuminated and inspired by what they learned in St. Joseph's Valley.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of St. Joseph College Alumnae Association, we ask you to make a donation to the ***Bicentennial Women Learners Fund***. There are no pledge cards or minimum requirements. We simply ask for a gift from your heart. Whatever you can give will be an important contribution to our association, its needs and its work.

Thank you for your generous response. We look forward to seeing you at Reunion, April 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg.

Cordially,

Jacquie Nemetz Van Meter '68  
President

Maureen McPartland Smith '65  
Vice-President and Chair 2009 Reunion