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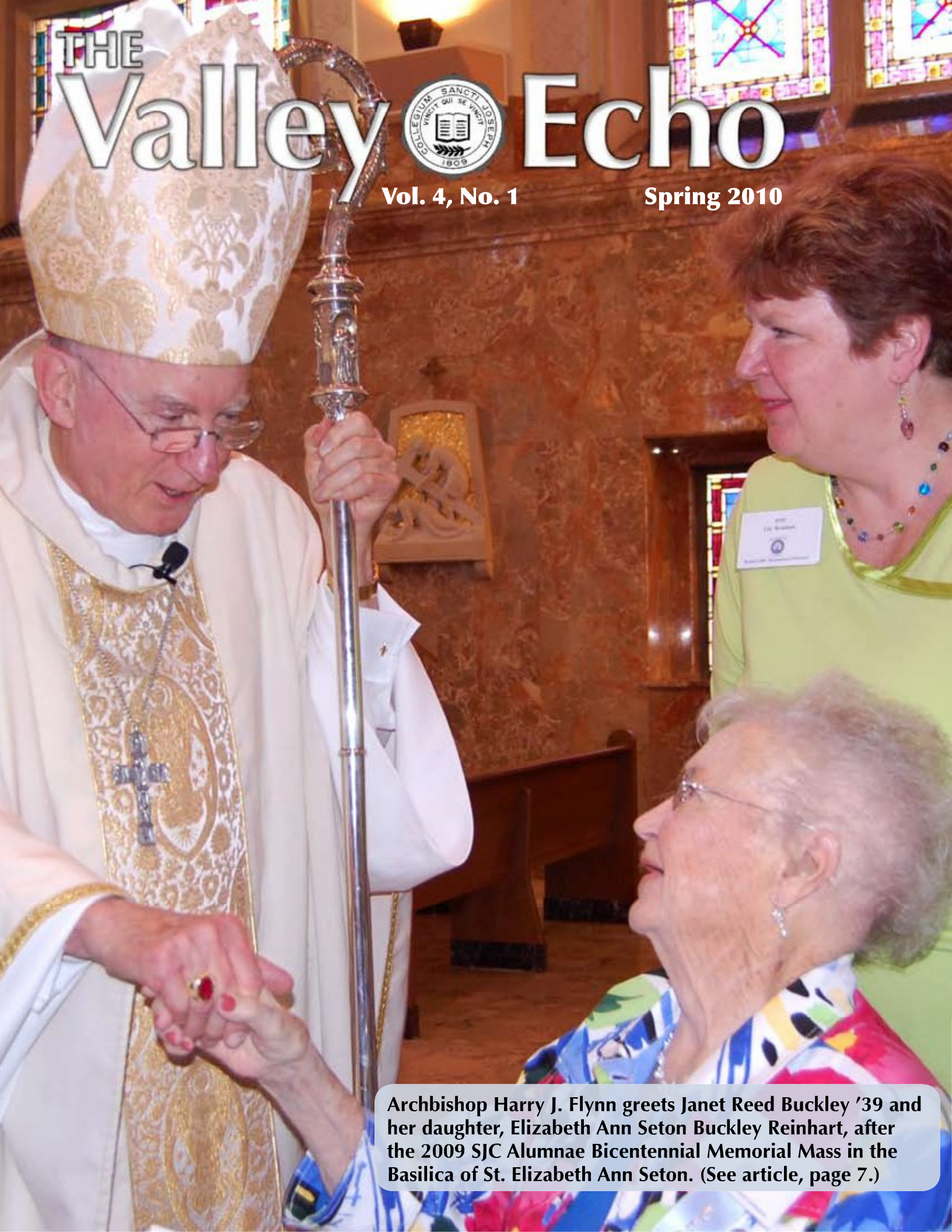
Valley



Echo

Vol. 4, No. 1

Spring 2010



Archbishop Harry J. Flynn greets Janet Reed Buckley '39 and her daughter, Elizabeth Ann Seton Buckley Reinhart, after the 2009 SJC Alumnae Bicentennial Memorial Mass in the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. (See article, page 7.)

2009 Bicentennial Reunion Draws SJC Alumnae 'All Together'



Pat Horn O'Brien '59 reads a poem, "Lessons," which she composed especially for her Class's 50th Reunion.

More than 300 graduates, former students and friends and family members of St. Joseph College Alumnae gathered in Emmitsburg and Gettysburg April 16-19, 2009 for our 112th Reunion. The assembly celebrated "Two Centuries of Women Learners in St. Joseph's Valley," dating to the arrival of Elizabeth Seton and her small band of Sisters in 1809.

One of the first Bicentennial Reunion weekend activities took place on April 17, when we gathered in the Seton History Museum to

dedicate a memorial sconce and plaque donated by our Alumnae through contributions to the Women Learners Fund. "This sconce, this beacon, represents you and me and every women learner in St. Joseph's Valley for the past two centuries," said Kathleen Graham '68, who led the service. "May all who pass by this light learn of the women of St. Joseph's; and may our flame never be extinguished."

A picnic at the log cabin on Tom's Creek followed the dedication, and that day and

throughout the weekend, Alumnae and other Reunion attendees toured the campus, now headquarters of the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an entity of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

On Friday afternoon, Alumnae visited St. Joseph's Provincial House, where they sponsored a tea in honor of the Daughters of Charity who were affiliated with the college. Early that evening, our golden jubilarians, the Class of 1959, gathered for Mass in our former campus chapel, now the beautifully restored National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel.

During the liturgy, classmates spoke endearingly of their deceased members and presented roses in their memory. Afterward, they gathered at the Carriage House for dinner and viewed a video of their class, a project begun by classmate Barbara Saganowich Quinn, and completed by her two daughters, after their mother's sudden death in 2008.

On Saturday, many of our "Women Learners" gathered for lunch at the Eisenhower Inn, where they heard from Sister of St. Joseph Carol Jean Vale, president of Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia. Sr. Carol Jean, who attended St. Joseph College (Class of 1967) for one year, spoke about Catholic education, which traces its roots to Emmitsburg and the first free school founded in 1809 by Elizabeth Seton.

Later that afternoon we were guests of Irene Powell, wife of Mount St. Mary's University President Dr. Thomas H. Powell, at a tea in their home on Old Emmitsburg Road. Dr. Powell, who usually co-hosts the event, was traveling on college business.

The weekend's spiritual highlight was a Mass Saturday afternoon in the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, which was planned by an Alumnae committee and celebrated by Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, retired head of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Archbishop Flynn, who graduated from Mount St. Mary's Seminary and later served as its vice rector and rector, is a friend of SJC and well known to many of us.

Clergy and seminarians from the Mount participated in the liturgy, and our Alumnae served as greeters, banner-bearers, readers and ministers of Holy Communion. The Mount St. Mary's Chorale and singers from our ranks were accompanied by professional musicians during the Mass, which memorialized deceased alumnae and commemorated the legacy of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

The Reunion banquet at the Eisenhower Inn followed Mass. Janet Reed Buckley '39 received a standing ovation as she marked the 70th anniversary of her graduation from St. Joseph's. Members of the 50th jubilee class and the 60th anniversary class presented generous financial gifts to Sr. Claire Debes, provincial superior of the Daughters of Charity Emmitsburg Province, for the benefit of the sisters, many of whom are elderly and infirm.

The next time you attend a Reunion or visit Emmitsburg, stop by the Seton History Museum near the basilica and view our SJC Alumnae "eternal flame." The sconce ensures that years from now, long after the final candle for the last living SJC alumna is extinguished, the light that was St. Joseph's College will burn brightly.



1968 classmates Joan Bruno, left, and Kathy Flanigan Balcer attend tea at the home of MSM President Thomas Powell and his wife Irene.



SJCAA Board member Susan Flanigan Conrad '65 reconnects with the Rev. Dr. David W. Shaum, who also attended our 150th anniversary celebration in 1959.

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Alumnae Memorial Sconce Honors 'Two Centuries of Women Learners in St. Joseph's Valley'

A highlight of the SJC Bicentennial Reunion was the dedication of our Alumnae Memorial Sconce in the Seton Shrine Center History Museum. A plaque placed below the sconce is inscribed with these words:

This light honors all women and girls whose education was guided by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and her Sisters of Charity.

*Presented by St. Joseph College Alumnae Association, Inc.
April 17, 2009*



SJCAA Board member Karen Mattscheck presents the Hassell Cup for the highest percent Reunion attendance to Class of 1959 representatives Joan Mehl Tolle and Sr. Marian Hamway.

Kathleen Graham '68 led the service and offered these remarks:

Thank you for being here today to dedicate this sconce, this beacon, which represents you and me, and every women learner in St. Joseph's Valley for the past two centuries.

Sacred Scripture abounds with references to light. Recall John the Baptist, a man sent from God, who came as a witness, to testify to the true light, the Son of God, who was coming into the world.

Throughout the ages, countless others have given witness to the Light.

Two hundred years ago, one of those witnesses, Elizabeth Seton, came to this valley of Emmitsburg. We know, of course, that Mother Seton, her children and her small band of sisters, endured some very dark days here, but their faith, their hope, and their belief in the Light sustained them.

And after their work was finished, others picked up the torch. This morning, we remember in a very special way so many other witnesses to the light. We remember the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the Daughters of Charity, and the hundreds of women from our St. Joseph College family who have gone before us.

And we remember other women, our mothers and grandmothers, some of whom were also students in this remote and hauntingly beautiful valley, or who worked very hard so that we would have the opportunity to be counted among the women learners of St. Joseph's.

So this morning, during this Easter week, as the alleluias of the great feast still echo, let us all raise our hands in a prayer of blessing.

Risen Lord, bless all who pass by this light and learn of the women of St. Joseph's.

Bless the women learners of St. Joseph's Valley.

May our flame never be extinguished.

And may we always walk in your light.

St. Joseph, guardian of our valley, pray for us.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, light of our valley, pray for us.

Now let us go forth in the light of the Easter season and celebrate, once again, being "All Together."



Members of the Golden Jubilee Class of 1959 at the dedication of the SJC Alumnae Sconce and Plaque (in background on blue wall) in the Seton Museum in Emmitsburg during our Bicentennial Reunion, April 2009. From left: Helen Lilly Johnson, Sr. Marian Hamway, Barbara Torrance Knowles, Joan Mehl Tolle and Ellen Mahar.



Charlie and SJCAA Vice President Maureen McPartland Smith '65 with Archbishop Harry J. Flynn at the Bicentennial Mass



Noreen Smith Reid '59 leads the entrance procession at the SJC Bicentennial Liturgy in the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.



Members of the Class of 1963 join in singing the Alma Mater at the conclusion of the banquet.



Members of the Class of 1969 at the MSM President's Tea for SJC Alumnae



Joanne McNally Downes '61, in pale green, presents the Sr. Mary Ellen Kelly Plaque to the Class of 1964 for the largest number of attendees at Reunion 2009.



Marie DeSando McFarlin '59 pays tribute to her class.

Remarks by Marie DeSando McFarlin '59 and the poem "Lessons," by Pat Horn O'Brien '59 are published in their entirety on our website, www.sjcalumnae.org.