

Sr. Francis tells CSE Class of 2012: pledge to make a difference

MORRISTOWN—Nearly 500 diplomas, one of the largest classes in the 110 year history of the College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE), were awarded May 12. The college graduated 264 undergraduates from its Women's College and adult undergraduate programs and 233 graduate students, including 15 who received doctorates in Educational Leadership.

CSE President Sister Francis Raftery, S.C., encouraged the graduates to "move forward with great joy. You have the possibility of being such an influential person that the world will be better because you were here. Pledge to make a difference."

"The theologian Meister Eckhart said: 'if the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is thank you—that would suffice.' This whole day is a prayer. This whole day is a thank you," Sister Rosemary Moynihan, S.C., general superior of the Sisters of Charity and chair of the CSE board of trustees, told the Class of 2012.

Adult undergraduate and graduate students were represented by Monina A. Franco-Tantuico who received a Master of Science in Nursing Education. A native of the Philippines, Franco-Tantuico obtained a bachelor of science in medical technology from College of the Holy Spirit in Manila and graduated magna cum laude from New York University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She is the assistant faculty advisor to the Student Nurse Association and the coordinator of Learning/Simulation Center at Trinitas School of Nursing, where she coordinates and oversees the daily operation of the center.

Sister Margaret Ann O'Neill, S.C., M.A., Ed.D., the director of Centro Arte Para la Paz (Center of Arts for Peace), delivered the commencement address. The organization is a regional educational cultural center promoting peace through dance, art, and theological reflection, in Suchitoto, El Salvador. In recognition of her humanitarian work CSE awarded Sr. Margaret Ann the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

CSE awarded Doctor of Laws to Maud Peper Dahme, a Holocaust survivor and the subject of a documentary film, "The Hidden Child." She is the past president of the New Jersey State Board of Education, where she served from 1983 to 2007. A member of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education since 1982, Dahme has dedicated her life to the Holocaust and genocide education.



Submitted photo
College of Saint Elizabeth graduates (left to right) Manpreet Sidhu of West Caldwell and Mellisa Madail of Linden are all smiles as they await their diplomas.