Horizons

A PRIVATE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN, SPONSORED BY THE SISTERS OF MERCY

The 25th McAuley Gala presents...

Renaissance

April 22-24, 2021

Mount Mercy Academy
Spring 2021

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Dear Mercy Community,

As I reflect on the few short months since my appointment as administrator, I can honestly say that this has been a year like no other. There have been many challenges but together through tenacity and resilience displayed by students, faculty, staff, parents and the Mount Mercy community, we have overcome the obstacles that we have faced. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has tested our patience, we remain optimistic about a brighter future for Mercy. With the Mercy values that are instilled in us through the teachings of Catherine McAuley we continue to carry out the Mission of the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy. I have never been more proud to say that I am part of the Mercy family and the traditions that are cherished by living a life of resilience, leadership and perseverance. We will continue to pray for the health and safety of our students, staff and Mercy community as we navigate these circumstances and look forward to better days ahead.

May God bless you and your family,

Michele Sixt Melligan '92
Head of School
A Note from Senior Angelina Larivey ’21

Looking back upon my four years at Mount Mercy Academy, I am filled with sadness that my high school experience is almost over, but so grateful to have been a part of the Mercy family. I didn't realize that when I walked through those blue doors for the first time, this school and the people in it would become my second home and second family. Everyone told me that my time at Mercy would fly by, but I didn't believe them. It turns out that four years go by faster than you think.

I have grown so much, not only as a student, but as a person as well. With the many clubs and sports that Mount Mercy offers, I was able to step out of my comfort zone and take on leadership roles. Since my freshman year, I have been involved in student government and I am now the senior-class president. I have learned how to collaborate with others and take charge of events and activities, skills that will benefit me now and in the future. I have also run cross-country and track all throughout my four years here. At Mercy, we have a competitive spirit and never go down without putting forth our best effort. That is something that I admire greatly and I am proud to have been a part of these teams. The bonds that I have formed with my teammates and my coaches will last a lifetime.

During my time at Mercy, there have been so many memorable moments and experiences, including one of my favorite events, Spirit Week. This week consists of themed days where students dress up accordingly, friendly competitions, wall decorating, and karaoke. Spirit Week truly brings everyone together, and my class never fails to bring the excitement and competition every year. Another highlight of my high school experience at Mercy was traveling to New York City to run the 400-meter relay with my teammates in a track championship. We ate dinner at an Italian restaurant and explored Times Square. Memories like these are what I can look back at and smile about years from now.

Mount Mercy has provided me with the tools and support I need to accomplish my goals. I am a scholar athlete, a McAuley Scholar, and a member of the National Honor Society. I had the opportunity to take many Advanced Placement classes, which helped to better prepare me for college and improve my time management. The teachers at Mount Mercy are there if you need any help and are always more than willing to provide support. I have also done the announcements with fellow students, which helped me to become more articulate and confident in public speaking.

My parents have made many sacrifices in order to send me to a Catholic high school, but Mount Mercy has provided financial support to lessen the cost of tuition. I had the opportunity to do work study to reduce the cost as well. The person I worked for was very understanding and flexible when it came to working with me and my busy schedule, which I truly appreciate. Attending Mount Mercy has helped me to grow in my faith not only in the classroom, but also in the Church and out in the community. I have learned the value of service and living out my faith.

This past year has been a challenge for everyone due to COVID-19, but Mount Mercy rose to the challenge and made it possible for students to return to school safely. There are many safety protocols and measures in effect to ensure the health and well-being of the students and faculty. I feel safe and comfortable attending school in person during this uncertain and difficult time.

I am attending Daemen College in the fall of 2021 to study to become a Physician Assistant. I am very excited to begin this new chapter of my life, although I am heartbroken to leave my second family behind. However, I know that I won't really be leaving them behind. I originally chose Mercy because it was a quick, ten-minute ride from my house, but I cannot imagine going to high school anywhere else. I have met some of my best friends here, and have had so many experiences and opportunities that have shaped me into the person that I am today. I am forever thankful for my time here at Mount Mercy Academy, and I will carry the lessons I’ve learned and the people I’ve met around with me wherever I go.
Mount Mercy Academy proudly presents...

Join us for the virtual McAuley Gala April 22-24, 2021

Bidding starts on Thursday, April 22 at 6:00 PM and ends at 11:30 PM on Saturday, April 24th. Visit www.mtmercy.org/gala to get started!

Gala Sponsorship Opportunities:

One of the major ways we fundraise is through Corporate Sponsorships. You can help us increase our fundraising efforts in an impactful way by requesting a sponsorship, page advertisement or gift donation from your employer or family-owned business. Please contact Erin Smith Renowden ’95 at erenowden@mtmercy.org if you would like more information.

Kingdom Sponsorship $25,000
Castle Sponsorship $10,000
King Sponsorship $7,500
Queen Sponsorship $5,000
Bishop Sponsorship $2,500
Knight Sponsorship $1,000

How to Participate

To have a successful Gala to benefit the young women of Mercy, we need you! How can you become involved and participate? You can donate an item for your friends, family, and colleagues to bid on! You can become a sponsor or advertise your business in the online program (auction catalog). You can ask your employer to sponsor or advertise. Most importantly, you can bid on gift items and experience packages during Gala Weekend, April 22nd to 24th. We ask that you invite friends outside of the Mercy family to visit the online Gala. All are welcome!

If you would like to make a donation to the Gala, become a sponsor, advertise in the program, or if you have any questions, call Mount Mercy at (716) 825-8796 x311 or email erenowden@mtmercy.org. You’ll find the Gala online at http://www.mtmercy.org/gala to preview auction items and to make bids during the event.
The 2021 McAuley Gala Chair

We extend our gratitude to our 2021 Gala Chairperson Erik Bohen for his dedication, enthusiasm, and leadership in guiding the 25th McAuley Gala toward success. Erik, a Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School, St. Bonaventure University, and Canisius College graduate, is a lifelong South Buffalo resident who previously served his community as State Assembly member for New York State Assembly District 142. Mount Mercy’s former cross-country and track coach, Erik is also a Spirit of Mercy Award recipient. He was one of the founding members of the Jack’s 5K, later known as the Mercy 5K, and co-chaired the race for several years. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to the Mercy community.

The Gala Steering Committee

A Gala doesn’t happen by itself! We are grateful to our committee members who are planning the Gala, securing sponsors, acquiring unique and exciting auction items to bid on, and organizing Gift Gathering events which follow current health guidelines and protocols. They are working hard to present an array of auction items and an exciting, engaging, and interactive virtual event, improving on last year’s first-ever online virtual auction!

A special thank you to our volunteer parent, alumnæ, staff, and friends-of-Mercy Steering Committee: Jeannie Blydy, Erik Bohen, Jeanne Whelan Burvid ’83, Jennifer Hoefer Elicott ’92, Siobhan Campbell Gould ’92, William McKeever, Michele Sixt Melligan ’92, Shannon Nichols ’15, Julie Parker, Mallory Reid ’04, Erin Smith Renowden ’95, Linda Silva, and John Tobia.
Many Mount Mercy alumnae have been hard at work on the front lines, battling COVID-19 since last March. We followed up with some of our alumnae, almost a year later, to see how the pandemic has affected them and our community and how their Mercy education has helped them succeed during these tough times. We thank our alumnae, in all business sectors, who have continued to support our community through these unprecedented times.

**Leanne Folck Simpson ’02**
I have been a registered nurse at Roswell Park for almost 15 years. I work in direct patient care on an inpatient unit. Being an oncology nurse has its own challenges but adding a pandemic has made it even harder. The patients that I take care of are fighting for their lives but now have to worry about COVID on top of that. They’re doing all of this without having their families by their side, since visitors are not allowed in the hospital. It’s been very stressful as a frontline worker. We, as nurses, are their caregivers, advocates and now the only person they see day to day. I do all of this while wearing a mask for 13 hours a day to protect myself, my patients and my family. My Mercy education has definitely played a role in my career. I always knew I wanted to be a nurse. When I became a Mercy girl it became even more clear. I wanted to be of service to others just as I had learned at Mercy. I wanted to work hard and make a difference in my community. I think Mount Mercy prepared me for that.

**McKayla Burvid ’12**
Being a new nurse during a pandemic is not what I expected. It is hard to put into words what nurses deal with daily. Other than medical care, my patients and their families need kindness, compassion and someone to talk to.

**Paddi Shea Juliano ’87**
As a frontline healthcare worker I committed myself to helping my coworkers in any capacity needed during this pandemic. I’ve been working as a Registered Nurse at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center in Bradenton, Florida for the last 16+ years but when COVID-19 hit I worked everywhere and in every capacity! It was such a stressful time, but when your coworkers need you; you help! Two of the many attributes that I learned from being a Mount Mercy graduate are gratitude and service. I worked in the Emergency Department, Cath Lab, EKG, Employee Screening, COVID testing, Pre-admission testing, Employee Health; you name it; I worked there! The COVID-19 virus truly put into perspective our Mercy traditions: helping others, nurturing others, gratitude towards others, serving others and stepping up to challenges that we never thought would ever happen in our lifetime. Over this past year I have had so many mixed emotions/feelings. I have cried, been terrified, been angry and cried some more. My children, Nicolas and Isabella, were troopers during this time. When I’d come home from work they’d be there to see what I needed and have dinner for me. My husband Frank was the rock of our family during this time and always made sure I had what I needed, emotional support AND a hot shower ready! If anything, the education I received from MMA truly prepared me to work in a service industry like healthcare taking care of those in need and serving others. This is my calling!
Robin Rasp Massing ’92
I am a Physician’s Assistant (PA) working in internal medicine and since the very beginning of the pandemic, I have continued handling COVID patients most notably via telemedicine visits. It was initially quite challenging because during this timeframe we also were managing chronic medical conditions and other acute issues via virtual visits either by phone or video. This is something I had never done during my nearly 20-year career. It was like in an instant, I had to change the entire way I practiced medicine to adapt to the ever-changing era of COVID.

My Mercy education laid the groundwork of my work ethic and instilled Christian values including empathy that allows me to serve others and treat my patients everyday as if they were my family members. I am very thankful for my time at Mercy!

Lauren Dunford Kuwik ’00
I am a primary care physician in Orchard Park, NY, caring for hundreds of patients with COVID since March 2020. Mainly, I’ve tried to be a source of reassurance, while providing the most up-to-date, evidenced-based counseling for my patients who have been diagnosed with COVID. In our roles as small business owners, I and my partner, a Timon graduate, worked hard to ensure we were able to pay our staff throughout the pandemic. In the fall, when Erie County ended up designated as a microcluster zone, I found myself filling the role of volunteer medical director for COVID testing at my children’s elementary school. To this day, I still don’t think I have done as much “homework” as I did in high school. My Mercy education set me up with the ability to multitask and a work ethic that allows me to take whatever is thrown at me without becoming overwhelmed.

Kelly O’Rourke Wlodarczyk ’85
I have been an occupational therapist for 30 years. The first 12 years, I specialized as a Hand Therapist and taught as an adjunct professor at SUNY Buffalo while working at the Hand Center of WNY. The last 18 years I have worked as a home health therapist. When the pandemic hit, our agency asked for volunteers to test for the COVID virus. I volunteered immediately and established the first COVID clinic for Kaleida Health along with a coworker. It grew exponentially from that first day. It was challenging figuring out how to set up an outdoor test site in Buffalo weather conditions and wearing the necessary personal protective equipment.

It was a great way to utilize my background in OT to analyze the steps necessary to implement a testing site out of doors and in the elements. It pulled at the medical and psychological foundation I was given, as well as the Mercy value of empathy to see these people at the very beginning of the pandemic. These people were scared and very alone. They could not see medical professionals before undergoing difficult procedures as telemedicine was too new and phone calls were how they communicated with their doctors. Many of them did not even know the name of their surgeon! We were the first medical personnel they had seen. It pulled at my heart – they actually did not want to drive away from us. The loneliness this pandemic has brought on is heartbreaking. Once the clinics were up and running I went back into the field where a new set of normal had to be established, for ourselves and our patients, to prevent the spread of this virus through our many and varied contacts in the community. I utilize my position as the area Vice President for our local Union to influence the management at our agency to improve access to PPE and the vaccine.

Front Line Workers are Mercy’s Heroes

The Annual Mercy Honors event was postponed in 2020. The awarding of Mercy’s most prestigious alumnae awards did not occur.

The Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna Award is presented to “an alumna of Mount Mercy Academy who has distinguished herself as a woman of faith, knowledge, integrity, and compassion”. The Spirit of Mercy Award is presented to “those who exhibit the Spirit of Mercy in their professional and personal lives”.

We can think of no better embodiment of the ideals of both awards than all the front line workers among the Mercy Alumnae. In this issue we have included but a sampling of these outstanding women. With individual Mercy Honors awards postponed until later in 2021, we recognize all the Mercy Alumnae, anywhere in the world who served, and continue to serve, on the “front lines” during this time of loss and challenge as the Distinguished Alumnae and Spirit of Mercy awardees for 2020.
The 2020-21 school year has been anything but typical. Some students, while understanding, feel deprived of the normal high school experience due the restrictions brought on by COVID-19.

“No matter how creative we get, it’s still a letdown because it’s too much a safety risk,” Megan Reilly ’21 admits when trying to plan in-person activities or events.

Nevertheless, Mercy students continue to approach life with enduring optimism. While certain events such as class retreats and the senior trip had to be either canceled or postponed, students are looking forward to some notable events in the spring. The senior trip is especially anticipated, with students and staff collaborating to make detailed, realistic, and safe travel plans. It is expected that it will occur this May.

“COVID just adds a little bit of pressure, but it doesn’t make anything impossible,” Catherine Zak ’21 suggests.

In response to the dearth of in-person events due to COVID, Mercy students have learned to look to the ordinary and everyday to find happiness. For example, many students enjoy socializing with their peers and eating breakfast in the cafeteria during mornings. The muffins are especially well-liked. Even with COVID restrictions, students have still found ways to bond, as community and friendship at Mercy are highly valued.

Students are appreciative for all Mercy has done to give everyone an enjoyable academic year, and we hold great expectations for what 2021 has to offer.

Claire was recently accepted into Cornell University for the Fall 2021 semester. She hosted a STEAM Toys for Tots toy drive this fall and started her own card business, Clover Cards, donating half of the proceeds to the Alzheimer’s Association.
Mount Mercy Rises to the Challenges Faced During the Pandemic

Mount Mercy Academy has taken every precaution necessary this school year in regard to COVID-19. Mount Mercy students were fortunate to begin the school year with a five-day week, in-person learning due to the careful safety planning and cleaning from our faculty, staff and custodians. Stickers marking six feet are placed in hallways, temperature testing screens are on the main floor and masks are required at all times. Every morning, students must have their temperature recorded before being allowed to go to class.

Mount Mercy Academy’s nurse, Christine Collins ’86 describes how COVID-19 has affected school, “This global pandemic has introduced chaos and uncertainty into all of our lives. We have had to adjust to temperature screenings, physical distancing, face coverings, disinfecting, symptom monitoring, contact tracing and quarantining, rapid tests, as well as the ever-changing guidelines from the state and county health departments. The Mount Mercy community has come together in strength, cooperation, and resilience. We are all looking out for each other and I believe that this is why we have been successful in keeping the school open to in-person learning.”

Mount Mercy has taken the initiative and began scheduled “Mental Health Days” for students, faculty and staff. At Mercy, we understand the pressures that students are under and have designated four days throughout the year that the building is closed so that students, faculty and staff can use the day to care for themselves. “I was able to go shopping and most importantly, I was able to get to bed earlier, so I returned to school on Tuesday feeling re-energized,” English teacher Amanda Ramia commented. Assistant Principal Catherine Luhr took advantage of her Mental Health Monday as well. “I slept late, went shopping and did the essentials at home that I had not had the time to do earlier,” Luhr said. “I came back to school on Tuesday feeling renewed.”

Students shared how they spent their Mental Health Mondays with their homerooms when they returned to school on Tuesday. Homerooms have been extended this year, allowing for opportunities to enhance the students’ social and emotional well-being. There is a daily activity to allow for sharing and building a connection between the students as well as between the students and their homeroom teacher. Some of the activities that students have participated in are yoga, relaxation breathing techniques, working on self-improvement exercises, goal setting and sharing thoughts and experiences with each other.
Recent Happenings on the Parkway

Juniors Participate in Ring Day Ceremony

On February 4th, the junior class participated in the beloved Ring Day ceremony, a Mercy tradition dating back to 1916. Head of School Michele Sixt Melligan ’92 distributed the signature rings in a socially distant gathering at the Mercy Center Auditorium. The gold band represents loyalty to God, country and school. The seven pearls represent the virtues of Mary: faith, hope, charity, obedience, humility, patience and joy. Director of Admissions, Tina Scarpello Webster ’91 gave a heartfelt reflection on the Circle of Mercy, the traditions of the ring, how Mercy will always be “Home” no matter where their path leads, and to wear your ring with pride and gratitude, like the 12,000 Women of Mercy before them.

Spotlight on Art

Students created Zentangle drawings which is a way of creating a drawing with structured pattern. Featured here are designs by Rosalie Bandura ’24 and Ashley Cirbus ’24.

Virtual Guest Speaker Hosted by Women in Social Science Program

Members of the Women in Social Sciences Program listened to guest speaker Julie Palmer via Zoom. Ms. Palmer is the founder and director of PATH WNY, a faith based non-profit here in Buffalo dedicated to educating the community on human trafficking, preventing human trafficking, and restoring victims of human trafficking. Our students were able to attend both in-person while socially distanced and via distance learning.

Local Expert Visits Mount Mercy Garden Club

The Garden Club, led by Assistant Principal Catherine Luhr, had local activist and one of the founding members of South Buffalo Alive, Marge Ryan, come to assist with the education of the many plants and trees located in our gardens. Mrs. Ryan taught our young women about plant identification, proper garden maintenance and the importance of garden aesthetics.

Alumna Gives Back to Mount Mercy

The Women in Social Sciences Program had local attorney Jane Michalek Harrington ’92, a member of the school’s Board of Trustees, speak via Google Meet. She spoke about law school, skills needed to succeed in any career and stressed the importance of networking.

The Annual Mercy Day Celebration Continues

Father Bryan Zielenieski conducted an outdoor mass in Mount Mercy’s Grotto to celebrate Mercy Day on September 24th.

Happy Birthday Catherine McAuley!

Hannah Vattes ’21 celebrated Catherine McAuley’s birthday with birthday crowns and ice cream during lunch.

Let’s Go Buffalo!

Mercy faculty and students show their support for the Buffalo Bills by wearing red and blue!

Jake Miller Shares Story with Mercy Students

Ms. Rauscher’s anatomy and physiology class enjoyed their presentation by Jake Miller. This young man shared his courageous story of his traumatic brain injury and reminded all of us to “Never give up!”

Service Project at Mount Mercy Brings Holiday Joy to Local Children

Mount Mercy held a STEAM Toy Drive, organized by Senior Claire Mullen, over the holiday season. Students, faculty, staff and members of the Mercy community stopped by the Mercy parking lot to donate their toys. Every donation was given to Toys for Tots, an organization that distributes Christmas gifts to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them.
SOCCER: The soccer team made it to the B Division Championship Game before falling 0-1 to Cardinal O’Hara. The team had a successful season, finishing 7-8-1 overall with wins over Buffalo Seminary, Mount St. Mary, and Christian Central. The Magic had four players earn postseason honors. Gianna Lauciello ’21, Anna Schieber ’21, Mary Bea Lalley ’22 and Madelyn Hart ’23 were named B Division First Team All-Catholic. Rosie Bandura ’24 finished second in scoring (24 points) among all MMAA B Division players. Gianna Lauciello was 1 of 100 senior athletes to be selected as an All-WNY Scholar Athlete, while Emily Kessler ’21 and Megan Reilly ’21 received Honorable Mention recognition.

CROSS-COUNTRY: The Mount Mercy Cross-Country team ended its shortened regular season with continued individual improvement. With a young roster, five sophomores, six freshmen and only three seniors, the future looks bright for the Mount Mercy Cross-Country squad. Ellie Godsoe ’23 recorded Mercy’s top time in all four regular season races. The All-Catholic Race was a cold and rainy day, making for difficult running conditions, but our girls toughed it out. Senior Rheanna Welsh ’21 was the first to cross the finish line for Mercy. Megan Jozwiak ’21, Angelina Larivey ’21, and Rheanna Welsh ’21 were all recognized as Honorable Mention All-WNY Scholar Athletes.

GOLF: The Mount Mercy Golf team closed its shortened season with a record of 2-4, wrapping up with a win over Buffalo Seminary. Addison Barth ’24 and Lacey Sheechan ’24 represented Mount Mercy at the All-Catholic Championships at Elma Meadows. Katie Bednarz ’21 was recognized as an Honorable Mention All-WNY Scholar Athlete.

The VOLLEYBALL and CHEER seasons were postponed until March due to COVID-19.

Unity Day Celebrated on Red Jacket

Students celebrated Unity Day by completing activities about kindness and inclusion. Unity Day, the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month, has been recognized in the United States since 2011. Mount Mercy participated by wearing orange, watching videos and doing activities to unite for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to prevent students being bullied.

Fall Sports Round-Up

Ugly Sweater Day!

Ms. Rauscher’s Science Class wearing ugly science sweaters.

Class of 2024 Welcomed to Mount Mercy

Incoming freshmen were welcomed at a socially distanced orientation at Mount Mercy Academy.

Volleyball Duo Sign With Local Colleges

Congratulations to volleyball seniors Olivia Jarosz ’21 and Kate Ryan ’21 on their recent collegiate commitments.

OLIVIA JAROSZ will play for NCAA Division II D’Youville College. She has played volleyball for four years at the high school level and participated in club volleyball as well. “Olivia can play all around the court. She is able to hit, as well as make amazing defensive plays in the back row. She has the talent to make a play on any ball,” Coach Brittany Sanscrainte remarked.

KATE RYAN, a four-year member of the varsity volleyball team will attend Division II Daemen College. She earned a partial scholarship to compete for the Wildcats. Kate, a two-time Second Team All-Catholic, is also a two-time MVP of the team. Last season Kate amassed 102 kills, 11 solo blocks and 37 aces, while collecting 73 digs. Coach Sanscrainte added, “Since Kate is left handed, it makes her right-side attacks and kills an asset to any team. Kate also has an arsenal of serves that are tough for opponents to receive.”
Alumna Helps Develop Future Leaders Through the Mount Mercy Leadership Academy

Meet Suzanne Fox Overdorf ’60, the driving force behind the Mount Mercy Leadership Academy. A current Board of Trustee member, alumna, past Mount Mercy parent and now a Mercy grandmother, Sue’s commitment to Mount Mercy and developing future leaders continues. Sue’s idea of an eighth-grade Leadership Academy came from one simple conversation.

The Mount Mercy Leadership Academy began with a question from my granddaughter Brogan Rose Maloney ’23 as to “why her boy cousins could have their Grandma as their teacher in Timon’s Leadership program, but she couldn’t because there wasn’t such a program at Mount Mercy.” Needless to say, the leadership at Mercy agreed with Brogan that there should be a Mercy program and the rest is history. Approximately 65 young women have graduated from the program since its inception.

The idea behind the Academy is to attract those students who exhibit leadership potential, girls who will have a positive impact on both their school and wider communities and then through class experiences, to enhance those innate skills. Once enrolled in the program, girls can expect to learn strategies for making a good first impression, skills for better name recall, tools for making good decisions, methods for implementing a group project, effective communication skills and the process for designing a “Vision Board” as a means for focusing on their future goals. A strong emphasis is placed on public speaking throughout the classes.

A student must be nominated for admission to the Academy by her elementary school principal. Only those students who have solid grades, good character, a strong work ethic, are mature and responsible will be considered. There are 21 girls enrolled in the 2020-21 program; they currently attend local public, catholic and charter schools.

This unprecedented COVID-19 year has not allowed for in-class meetings, therefore a decision was made that Mercy would offer an on-site Summer Leadership Camp for those current eighth grade students already nominated by their principals and enrolled in the program.

One of the program requirements is that a girl choose and implement a service project. Each year their choices astound me. If I had to choose one project however, that is especially memorable, it would be a project that demonstrated a young girl’s capacity for showing love beyond her personal grief. This particularly mature young lady had lost her father the previous year and was so impacted by the concern shown to her and her family by “Grace House,” a facility located in South Buffalo that “enables families to focus on their loved ones while we focus on the well-being of those families.” She chose her project to support those at Grace House who had supported her. When she spoke of this project during her graduation speech, it was an incredibly moving and memorable tribute.

I take great pride in the success of this Academy, notably that as of September 2021, it will evolve into a Five-Year Leadership Academy, with the intent each year to build upon the strengths of the eighth-grade program.

In a year where many glass ceilings have been broken, we look forward to seeing the endless opportunities in store for these future leaders.
Welcome to Mount Mercy!

We welcome the following faculty and staff to the Mount Mercy Academy Family for the 2020-21 School Year! Get to know the newest members of our community.

JENNIFER HOEFER ELLICOTT ’92
POSITION: COVID Aide
FUN FACT: I LOVE music! ELO, Steely Dan, The Eagles, The Beatles, Backstreet Boys, Weezer, Post Malone - all types!
“My daughter is a Freshman this year, so it’s always sweet to see her beautiful face AND the beautiful faces of all the girls. I never would have thought I would have been back “in my old school...” but I am SO glad the opportunity arose and that I get to spend time getting to know my way back around.”

AMANDA RAMIA
POSITION: English Teacher (9th grade English and English Honors classes)
FUN FACT: I recently defended my dissertation via Zoom!
“My first day at Mercy, I felt a sense of community. I love the connections I’ve made with both students and faculty, and the positive learning environment I have the privilege of being part of.”

SIOBHAN CAMPBELL GOULD ’92
POSITION: Athletic Director
FUN FACT: My husband Kevin and I have been married 25 years and have four sons, Aidan 24, Flannan 22, Cian 20, and Fergus 19.
“Even though this hasn’t been a typical year for sports, I have really enjoyed watching our Mercy athletes make the most of their opportunities and as things begin to normalize, I look forward to watching the girls make memories with their teammates that they will hold in their hearts forever.”

SHANNON NICHOLS ’15
POSITION: Marketing Coordinator
FUN FACT: In my free time, I love to ski and try new restaurants around Buffalo!
“I’m excited to be working at Mercy to help grow our community and encourage other girls to experience being a Mercy Girl as well! Also, I love the sense of family working here.”

KIMBERLY RAUSCHER
POSITION: Living Environment / Animal Behavior Teacher
FUN FACT: I have a chinchilla named Marvin!
“Mount Mercy has welcomed me with open arms! It is a place filled with positivity, compassion and understanding. I truly am blessed to be a part of the Mount Mercy team!”

JOIN THE PTA!
The PTA was recently formed to promote community building and fundraising at Mount Mercy Academy. The group is led by President Liz Miller Bell ’01, Secretary Jennifer Hoefer Elicott ’92 and Treasurer Noelle Dulak Barth ’96. Keep an eye out for some fun, new activities and fundraisers, including the April Calendar of Raffles, Gala Gift Gathering and NCAA raffle tickets. These fundraisers will raise money to host an end-of-year picnic for the students, in addition to supporting student clubs, special projects led by the teachers, and more! Stay tuned to the Mount Mercy website and Facebook page. To get involved, please contact Liz at elizabethbell118@gmail.com.

Mount Mercy Announces Entrance Exam Scholarship Winners

ALUMNAE ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP - Four-year full tuition Academic Scholarship awarded to the Catholic High School Admissions Exam High Scorer: Abigail Kopf, Immaculate Conception East Aurora

THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP - Four-year full tuition Academic Scholarship awarded to the students who achieved a score of 690 or higher on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam awarded to: Amelia Cook, Nativity of Our Lord and Ashley Rozic, Orchard Park Middle School

PRESIDENT’S ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP - Four-year half-tuition Academic Scholarship awarded to the next highest achieving student on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam awarded to: Gabrielle Bauerlein, St. John Vianney

PRINCIPAL’S ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP - Four-year $2,000 Academic Scholarship based on the next highest achieving students on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam awarded to Erin Hudson, Notre Dame Academy and Isabelle Reaska, St. John Vianney

CATHERINE MCAULEY ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP - Four-year $1,000 Academic Scholarship based on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam awarded to: Joanna Anderson, Trinity Christian School
2020 marked the 60th Jubilee for several Sisters of Mercy and Mount Mercy Academy alumnae. We would like to send our sincerest congratulations to Sr. Elaine Franz, RSM ’60, Sr. Margaret Mary “Margy” Gorman, RSM ’60, Sr. Peggy Gorman, RSM ’60, Sr. Mary Ann Powell, RSM ’60, Sr. Eileen Steen, RSM ’60, Sr. Mary Ellen Twist, RSM ’60 and Sr. Sheila Walsh, RSM ’56, in recognition of this special milestone. Through their 60 years of ministry, they have shared their talents, leadership and compassion, making an enormous impact on both Mount Mercy Academy and the local communities. These alumnae were recognized during a special liturgy in the chapel at the Mercy Center in Buffalo on September 26, 2020. A reception in the dining room followed the Mass.

Sr. Elaine Franz ’60 served the community through multiple ministries. She taught at the elementary and college levels, and also served as principal and supervisor of education and on the leadership team of the Sisters of Mercy. Sr. Elaine recently served on the Mount Mercy Board of Trustees. Sr. Elaine passed away this past January, 2021.

Sr. Margy Gorman ’60 has had many accomplishments throughout the years and served both as an educator and leader in “The Valley” and South Buffalo communities. Her early career began with teaching 7th and 8th grade students at St. Monica’s and St. Stephen’s schools, where she also developed groups for both the youth and elderly in the community. Sr. Margy served as the Dean of Students at Trocaire College and Director of Mission and Service Learning. She taught in the Diocese of Buffalo and served on the Sisters of Mercy leadership team from 1992-2000. She served several years in parish ministry, she served as the assistant treasurer for her Regional Office at Trocaire College. Sr. Margy Gorman ’60 has had many accomplishments throughout the years and served both as an educator and leader in “The Valley” and South Buffalo communities. Her early career began with teaching 7th and 8th grade students at St. Monica’s and St. Stephen’s schools, where she also developed groups for both the youth and elderly in the community. Sr. Margy served as the Dean of Students at Trocaire College and Director of Mission and Service Learning. She taught in the Diocese of Buffalo and served on the Sisters of Mercy leadership team from 1992-2000. She served several years in parish ministry, she served as the assistant treasurer for her Regional Office at Trocaire College.

Sr. Mary Ann Powell ’60 joined the Sisters of Mercy following her senior year at Mount Mercy Academy. Since then, she has served her ministries by sharing her combined talents of art, education and administrative skills with the Buffalo community. A well-known local artist, Sr. Mary Ann taught the youth of Buffalo for 22 years. Her ministries took a turn in another direction, serving as the assistant treasurer for her Regional Community, following her teaching ministry. She also served as assistant in the Health Care Office at Trocaire College.

Sr. Sheila Walsh ’56 earned her registered nurse degree at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, where she worked alongside the Sisters of Mercy, which led to the idea of becoming a Sister of Mercy. Following her graduation from Medaille College, Sr. Sheila entered an extensive ministry in health care at Mercy Hospital, serving as nurse supervisor, then director of nursing services and was appointed associate administrator. From 1976-1992, she was the CEO of Mercy Hospital and helped found Mercy Flight, one of the first not-for-profit medical/air transport operations. Sr. Sheila had a calling for missionary work and then traveled to St. Joseph Hospital in Georgetown, Guyana, South America where she served as CEO for eight years. Sr. Sheila Walsh is a Mercy Honors Honoree, awarded for her outstanding ministry and achievements.

Congratulations to our alumnae on your 60th Jubilee and thank you for your dedication to serving our community!

These are excerpts from an article in Jubilee! by Gary Loncki. To read more about the outstanding achievements of these Mercy alumnae and other Sisters of Mercy, visit https://en.calameo.com/read/000346091718a2ef63af.
ALUMNA RECALLS RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

The Sisters of Mercy lost a beloved member of their community in September of 2020. Sister Mary Caritas Quinn, a teacher, administrator and missionary passed away at the age of 92. Sister Mary Caritas is a Mount Mercy alumna of the Class of 1946. A feature in the Harmony Magazine by Gary Loncki, mentioned an act of kindness by Sister Mary Caritas Quinn that changed the life of Mount Mercy alumna Mary Jane MacKinnon McCool ’61.

Mary Jane, a retired social worker, told her story in an email to WBUR Radio, an NPR station, that invited listeners to participate in its Kind World project by which stories of kindness are shared. Her account was published in the first issue of an email newsletter titled “The Care Package: Your Weekly Dose of Good News from WBUR’s Kind World.”

Mary Jane wrote:

“Fifty-eight years ago, I was a senior in a Catholic high school, from a working-class family with no extra money to spare. I was a good student, hoping to go to college, but with no firm plans to do so. Sitting in my homeroom class one morning in the fall of 1960, an announcement was made that all students taking the New York State Regents Scholarship exam should report to the exam room. When I did not get up to leave the room, Sister Mary Caritas took note, and came to me quietly as others left the room.”

“She said, ‘Mary Jane, why are you not taking the scholarship exam?’ ‘Sister,’ I replied, ‘I can’t take it, because I didn’t have a dollar to register for it.’

“Deep into the pocket of her habit went her hand, and up came a single dollar bill. ‘Hurry,’ she said, ‘and tell them you want to make a late registration.’ I scurried off, just a bit embarrassed, but very grateful.”

“Yes, I won a scholarship, almost full tuition, enough to attend the college of my choice. I became a social worker and spent a career working with kids in an urban school system.”

“I like to think I paid back Sr. Caritas’s kindness to me by passing along that spirit of caretaking and practicality to hundreds, maybe thousands of children through the years. Many years later, I wrote Sr. Caritas a letter of thanks, but I don’t think she will ever understand what a gift she gave me on that day. She took care of me at a time when I wasn’t very good at taking care of myself, and her tiny intervention changed my life.”

Mary Jane went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in Sociology from D’Youville College in Buffalo in 1965 and, six years later, a master’s degree in counseling psychology at Boston College. She used her skills to help youth in New York City, Boston and Brocton, Massachusetts, before she and her husband of over 48 years, Joe, moved to Bridgewater. They have two adult sons, Jason and Dan.

We reprint this article with permission from Mr. Gary Loncki. To read the full article, please visit: http://www.sistersofmercy.org/blog/2019/02/07/mercy-sister-caritas-kind-act/
July 11, 2020 to January 31, 2021

*In Memoriam*

Michael “Hippo” Allman by Joseph & Sharon Hoffstetter & Family
Margaret M. “ Peg” Feldman Anderson ’50 by MMA Alumnae Association, Kathleen Sullivan
Elizabeth D. Barnes by Margaret & Ken Staszak
Stephen E. Barnes by Margaret & Ken Staszak
Sister Joan Marie Benoit, RSM ’53 by Maureen Canney
Marion H. “ Mitzi” Benz, Ph.D. ’50 by MMA Alumnae Association
Jeffrey J. Bielecki by Bernie & Pat Kennedy
Carol Blake by Kathy Willard
Robert “Bob” Bleech by Maureen O’Neill, Terrance & Margaret Barrett, Patrick & Gail Lewis
Ann Mary Book Boardman ’63 by MMA Alumnae Association
Michael Bogner by Bernie & Pat Kennedy
Ronald Bonafede by Kathy & George Willard
Caitlyn Bouguard by Mary Lickfeld, Ann & Seamus Kilnarry
Donna Fusco Bow ’57 by MMA Alumnae Association
Elise M. Brady by Joan M. Cuthbert
Thomas F. Brinkworth by Pat & Hank Demicke & Family, Jim & Phil Gallagher
Sister Consolation Briones, RSM by Maureen Canney
James Browne by Scott & Meaghan Green & Family, Mike & Dianne Frawley
Estelle Bujnicki by Scott & Kate Dust
Norma Bure by Joan Cuthbert
Michael Burke by Jean M. Dunden, Gary & Ruth Kresser
Danielle “ Nell” Liebler Buus ’73 by MMA Alumnae Association, Jeannie (Cronin) Cassidy ’73, Moey O’Connor Oakley on behalf of Class of 1973
Suzanne Novelli Buttno ’58 by MMA Alumnae Association, Vincenetta Ventresca O’Donnell ’61, Jim & Phil Gallagher, Jennifer Gallagher ’89, Jacqueline O’Neill ’86, Al & Sue Ventresca
Ellen Hanranb Carberry Weigand ’46 by MMA Alumnae Association
Janice Vittel Cardinal ’71 by MMA Alumnae Association
Mary A. Carlson ’51 by MMA Alumnae Association
John Carney by Wes & Kate Dust, Mr. & Mrs. Terrance Barrett
Shirley Boyle Carocci ’54 by MMA Alumnae Association
Laura Castonguay by Sue & Al Ventresca, Laura Low
Tina Chiappone by Jean M. Dunden
Irene Christopher by Margaret Vettes
Theresa Dillon Ciallela by Bonnie & Nelson Cosgrove
Emmanuel “ Manny” Ciulla by Joan Cuthbert, Margaret & Ken Staszak, Kathy & Vin Bamrick
Mary Clancy by The Crowley Family, Mike & Dianne Frawley, Anita & Pat Croty
Joseph R. Connelly, M.D. by Vincenetta Ventresca O’Donnell
Eileen Courtaude ’42 by Peter & Margaretta Derby Phillips
Ellenbier “ Coach” Coyne by Jim & Phil Gallagher, Patrick & Gail Lewis
Florence Danahy by Marlene & Dave Vastola
Diane Marie “ Bun” Deacon ’73 by MMA Alumnae Association, O’Connor/Oakley Families (Moey ’73, Peggy ’75, Terri ’76)
James R. Dempsey by Leonard & Catherine (O’Neill) Copolla ’69
Kelly Denene by Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Burke
Michael DeNisco by Bonnie & Nelson Cosgrove
Theresa Derrico by The Betrus Family
Carol Gondes DeKey by The Coughlin, Quinn, Lynch & Pingelis families
Joseph Dieterich by Mary Ellen Twist RSM, Beth & Bill Fulton
Pietro DiLondardo by Margaret & Guy Latona
MaDonna Blake Dotterweich ’47 by MMA Alumnae Association
Marjorie Dowling by Mary A. Zien, Denise Berry, Jack & Norine McBride
Arlene Eglolf by Mary Lickfeld
Peter Jon Emler by Margaret & Gay Latona
June Engler by Gary & Kathie Mincher
Jen Feldmeyer by Dave & Sheila Stanchak
Bridge Margaret Fitzgerald ’83 by MMA Alumnae Association
Dana Fitzpatrick by Gail & Norm Leyh
Albina Gallivan by Susan Tlent Kuhn ’71
Mary Jo Hannon Glang ’71 by Susan Tlent Kuhn ’71
Ida Gardner by Jack & Marge Fitzgeruld
Jeffery Gardner by Jack & Marge Fitzgerald
Timothy Gill by Kathy & Vin Bartrick
Mary A. “ Jerabek ” ’48 Goold by Sharon (Jerabek) Krug
Joan Gosciak by Dave & Colleen Slusarz
Clara Hanranb by Joan Flynn
Terry Harper by Pat & Paty Lyons
Mary E. “ Mame ” Recktenwald Harsch ’49 by MMA Alumnae Association
Edward Hayes by Bernie & Pat Kennedy
Mary K. Head ’69 and her sisters: Eileen, Francie, Bernadine, Dorothy by Peter V. Daniels
Lila Hendery by Denise Berry
Sharon Herron by Mario & Karen Ross
Sharon S. Smith Heseltine ’65 by MMA Alumnae Association
Kathleen Maloney Hille by ’52 by MMA Alumnae Association, Kathie Zakocha
Regina F. Hodge by Nancy A. McCarthy
David Honan by Leonard & Catherine (O’Neill) Copolla
Edward J. Holmes by Jean M. Dunden
Russ Ipollito by Beth & Bill Fulton
Carol Ann Jones by Tom & Judy Farly
Alice Joyce by Seamus & Ann Kilnarry
Dr. Stephen Joyce by Tom & Marge Ryan & Family
Mary Ann Carlo Joyce ’55 by MMA Alumnae Association, Norine (Callahan) Kirkpatrick ’55, Tom, Maggie & Maggie Ryan, Kathie Brinkworth
Mary Walsh Keane ’53 by MMA Alumnae Association, Maureen Canney, Peggy Cronin, The Barrick Family, Mary Ellen Twist, RSM
Richard A. Keeney by Elizabeth A. Gallagher
Grace Czwojak Keller ’53 by MMA Alumnae Association
Bernetta E. Kelly ’55 by MMA Alumnae Association, Maureen Canney, Ben Spaulding, Barbara Brenn Parker, Mary Ellen Twist, RSM, Kathie Brinkworth
William J. Keohane by Guy & Margaret Latona
Mark V. Kerner by Kerry & Colleen Painter
Sharon Warning King ’58 by MMA Alumnae Association
Edward H. Klawoon by Wes & Kate Dust, Mary Lickfeld, Pat & Gail Lewis, Jeanne & Mark Cassidy, Leonard & Catherine (O’Neill) Copolla ’69
Eleanore E. Kolodziej by Bill Spaulding
Joseph F. Krusk by Guy & Margaret Latona
Francis M. Kurtz by Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Burke
Thomas Leatherbarrow by Alan & Sandy Pizzuto
Kathleen Susan O’Shei Le Blanc ’59 by MMA Alumnae Association
Ronald G. Lechner by Dave & Colleen Shusar
Martin Lee by John & Celine Crabbe
Karen Stroble Lewis by Mr. & Mrs. Terrance Barrett
Zachary Liberatore by Constance & Dick Reich
Jeanette Bussella Licata ’49 by MMA Alumnae Association
Richard Linch by Vincenetta Ventresca ’61 O’Donnell, Jean & Fred Stiever, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Brooks
McKayla McBride Lockwood by Jim & Cheryl Kane & Family
Francie Lopez by Mary Zai
John Low by Cathy Rafter, Jean Canney
Nicole Lupas by Ann & Seamus Kilnarry
Eileen Lynch by Joseph & Sharon Hoffstetter & Family
Carol Mackey by Mary Lickfeld
Elizabeth Riley Maloney ’52 by MMA Alumnae Association
Mrs. Shirley Mansell by Peggy Cronin
Rita Mascia by Barbara Mascia Kawa ’60
Robert Mascia by Kathy & George Willard
Mary F. Massaro by Dave & Colleen Shusar
Thomas McCrea by MMA Family, Peggy Cronin, Vincy Ventresca ’61 O’Donnell, Hannah Vettes
William J. McDonald, Jr. by Susan Shanks
Robert McGrath by Pat & Anita Croty
Martin McHale by Barb O’Brien ’59
Joanne O’Neil McLarney ’67 by MMA Alumnae Association
Michael James McNaughton by Elizabeth A. Gallagher
Jeanne Jackson Meier ’69 by MMA Alumnae Association
Dorothy Meyer by Jean Canney
Paul Miller by Ann Falty
Albania Murawski by John & Kathleen Keller
Edward Mussall by George & Kathy Willard
Marylouise Nana ’55 by MMA Alumnae Association, Mary Ellen Twist, RSM, Audrey Horbert, Kathie Brinkworth
Robert Nesslin by Alan & Sandy Pizzuto
Jessica Newman ’00 by MMA Alumnae Association
Carrie Norton by Ed, Moey Oakley & Family
Jim Nowocin by Pat & Patsy Lyons
Nancy Nye by Frances A. Kulik
Vincenetta “ Vincy ” Ventresca ’61 O’Donnell by MMA Alumnae Association, Tina (Scarpello ’91) & Kevin Webster, Pat (Scanlon) Ward ’61, Pat & Peggy Croty ’61 Kelly, Arlene & Wayne Engasser, Maureen & Henry Tabaczynski, Anita Durkin Crotty, Pat & Kathy Martello, Mary Alice Readon-Dumphry, Mary Alice Walz, Nancy Marshner Lee ’61
Joseph F. O’Grady by Anita & Pat Croty
Judie O’Leary by Patricia M. Graham, Jack & Noreen McBride
Thomas O’Malley by Mike & Dianne Frawley
David O’Neill by Kathleen Crowley
Rev. Msgr. Kevin T. O’Neill by Maureen Canney, June & Dennis McNaughton
Mary Alice (Keane) O’Neill by Jack & Noreen McBride, Kathy Derr & Bill McAndrew, Kathy Rafter, Pat & Gail Lewis, Tom & Marge Ryan, Leonard & Catherine (O’Neill) Copolla, Sr. Mary Ellen Twist ’60, Mary & Michael O’Sullivan, Margaret Staszak, Joan Cuthbert
Mary Panczykowski by Mary Zeis
Patricia Carr Pantera ’66 by MMA Alumnae Association
Patricia Whelan Parker ’49 by Maureen Myers
Diane Perrello by Vincenetta Ventresca ’61 O’Donnell, Al & Sue Ventresca, Jim & Phil Gallagher

A special “thank you” to those families who have designated MMA as the recipient of memorials for their loved ones.

Mavis M. Burke ’41 by MMA Alumnae Association, Sheri Swartz, Irene Lynch
Dorothy M. Bogner Devine by Alice Mackiewicz, Joseph & Sharon Hoffstetter & Family, Irene Lynch, The Coughlin, Quinn, Lynch & Pingelis families, Maureen, Billy, Kevin & Patrick McMahon
Janet E. Molloy ’51 by Mount Mercy Academy Alumnae Association, Maureen Gates, Mary Alice Walz, Jean Bechel, Carol A. (McCarthy) Goldfarb, Lyle & Jean Schwab

Memoris

www.mtmercy.org
Memorial Book of Prayers and Remembrances

A Mount Mercy Memorial Card is a wonderful way to memorialize a friend or loved one and may be used in lieu of flowers or a traditional Mass card. Those enrolled in our Memorial Books are remembered in all Masses offered at the Academy as well as in the daily prayer of the school community. Please consider enrolling your loved one. We recognize the memorial donors and the people they have inscribed in our Memorial Record Book in each issue of Horizons.

By participating in the Memorial Book you send a comforting condolence note to the bereaved and your donation to Mount Mercy is used to educate young women in the Mercy tradition. As the women of Mercy pray for your enrolled deceased, the Circle of Mercy continues.

If you would like further information and/or a set of Memorial Books mailed to you, please email Anita Crotty, alumna volunteer at memorials@mtmercy.org or call Julie Parker at Mount Mercy 716-825-8796 ext. 321.

Annual Alumnae Memorial Mass

As we continue to navigate through the pandemic, please stay up-to-date on announcements regarding the annual Alumnae Memorial Mass at www.mtmercy.org under the alumnae event tab.
UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT & 2020-21 ANNUAL FUND APPEAL

These pages present the financial support received from Mount Mercy Academy’s dedicated alumnae and its many friends in the community during the period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. We are humbled, thankful, and encouraged by the wellspring of support from our Mercy community as we band together in the common cause of providing the best in educational opportunities for our students.

The young women of Mercy, together with our faculty, achieve some of the very best educational outcomes in Western New York due to the strong foundation and resources your support provides. Mount Mercy is ranked 5th of 132 WNY high schools and 100% of our most recent graduates were accepted into college with $20 million in scholarships.

Support to Mount Mercy comes in many forms, all of which are gratefully acknowledged. There are many important and impactful ways support is extended to Mount Mercy Academy including sponsorship of events, winning auction items in the Gala, bequests, grants, memorials, scholarship donations, corporate matching gifts, in-kind gifts, and Holiday Gift Catalog purchases. However, the foundation of support for Mount Mercy Academy year-to-year is the Annual Fund Appeal. Contributing to the Annual Fund ensures Mount Mercy Academy is offering each student the resources she needs, including much needed scholarship support, to achieve academic excellence. Your gift to the 2020-2021 Annual Fund is a definitive statement of hope and an investment in the future of our Mercy students. Please consider making your gift to this year’s Annual Fund by the June 30, 2021 deadline, and if you can, build on your Annual Fund contribution by responding to the Class Challenge as outlined in our board chairman’s letter on page 20.

William McKeever
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Planned Giving

Sometimes called Legacy Giving, planned gifts are a way for philanthropic individuals to make larger gifts to charitable organizations than they could make from their ordinary income.

Some planned gifts provide life-long income to donors. Other gift plans use estate and tax planning to provide for charity and heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor’s estate. In summary, a planned gift is any major gift, made during one’s lifetime or at death as part of a donor’s overall financial and/or estate planning. These include gifts of equity, life insurance, real estate, personal property, or cash. They can be transferred through simple bequests, Qualified Charitable Distributions from unneeded retirement accounts, distributions from charitable trusts, and other vehicles. Additional information is available online at https://www.mtmercy.org/planned-giving.

Heritage Society

The Mount Mercy Academy Heritage Society recognizes donors who have made a bequest or other planned gift, as noted above, to the Academy in their estate plans. Heritage Society members recognize the need to fortify Mount Mercy by proactively planning to provide gifts that will sustain and support the mission of the institution far into the future.

Becoming a member of the Heritage Society is easy. In fact, you may have already qualified for membership if you have named Mount Mercy Academy in your estate plans or will.

When you inform the school of your bequest or intentions, we respect your wishes for either recognition or anonymity. As good stewards, any details of your gift that you disclose are held in the strictest confidence. In addition, if the gift is for a scholarship, it can be an enduring and lasting honor made in your memory or that of a loved one.

A careful review of your assets will identify the best way to make a gift, whether the gift is of a specific asset, such as real estate or stock, or a percentage of your total estate. Donors often find a gift made through the Heritage Society enables them to use assets that may otherwise be lost to estate, income, or capital gains taxation. In this way, your legacy is a lasting memorial to your values and interests.

Memorial Scholarship Winners Announced

Pictured are the recipients of the $1,000 Gina Strianese Memorial Scholarship for 2020-21. The award memorializes Gina Strianese, Mount Mercy Class of 2002. On the left is Abbie Dziadzio ’22, pictured left to right with Head of School Michele Sixt Melligan ’92 are Olivia Fuller ’23 and Ashley Cirbus ’24. To the right is Emma Lewis ’21.
Gift Catalog Brightens the Holidays

Mount Mercy’s first Holiday Gift Catalog this winter offered a new way for alumnae and friends to support the young women of Mercy by purchasing holiday presents for the school. This new way of making a donation to the school provides a tangible connection to the students by funding the purchase of needed items for classrooms, labs, the facilities and grounds, etc. These items were chosen from an online catalog at the Mercy website. This year’s holiday catalog funded the purchase of a 3D printer, multiple computer setups, and COVID-related cleaning and sanitizing supplies. The catalog even funded three new scholarships, given in honor of family members by their donors. Look for next year’s Holiday Gift Catalog next winter!

In Memoriam

MARION H. BENZ ’50

Dr. Marion H. Benz, Mount Mercy Class of 1950, passed away October 2, 2020. Marion Benz, “Mitzi” to her friends, was an avid donor to the Annual Fund and a supporter of the past Capital Campaign. She has left Mount Mercy a legacy gift of approximately $65,000 in the form of Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designations from long-held TIAA-CREF and Vanguard retirement accounts.

After Mount Mercy, Dr. Benz graduated from Buffalo State College in 1966 with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and earned her doctorate at the University of Rochester. Her career was in education, teaching elementary education until 1972, when she joined the faculty of Buffalo State College in the Elementary Education Department, retiring in 1993. She was a generous benefactor to many charities, leaving a lasting impact upon others, including Mount Mercy Academy students, through her charitable giving.

Communicating Your Intentions

If you have provided for Mount Mercy Academy in your estate plans but have not previously notified the school of your intentions, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 716-825-8796, ext 324. Sharing your plans with us allows us to express our gratitude to you during your lifetime, ensures that your wishes will be met, and also assists the school’s long-term planning efforts.
Many of our Mercy families are struggling this year, facing unprecedented financial hardships from the unforeseen challenges of the worldwide pandemic. Unfortunately, with the rising costs of providing a quality education at Mount Mercy Academy, it was necessary to raise the tuition to maintain the financial stability of the school. For some families, covering this increase will be a struggle.

Therefore, we are counting on the Mercy Alumnae Family, those who may not have been as gravely impacted by the events of the past year, to help raise funds to be used as additional financial aid for those suffering from COVID-19 related hardships.

To give a positive new spin to the phrase “Class Struggle,” the Board of Trustees would like to challenge each class to “raise their class year” in special donations to this fund, i.e., the class of 1950 raises $1,950, the class of 1988 raises $1,988, etc.

Please note that this is a one-time pandemic related fund, a separate initiative from the Annual Fund and not intended to compete with it.

Not only will dollars raised help the young women at Mercy, your class can secure “bragging rights!” Recognition will go out for Most Dollars Raised, Most Alumnae Participating, Highest Percentage of Alumnae Participating, Highest Median Gift, Top Decade (Total Dollars, Most Participation), and Fastest to Goal. For younger alumnae concerned about raising large amounts of money, remember your class can still help, and can still win bragging rights, through total numbers participating and by percentages of participation!

Every dollar raised by the Mount Mercy Class Challenge will be applied toward financial aid for those students with great need.

We are looking for one captain from each class year to encourage as many of your classmates as possible to meet our goal before the June 30, 2021 deadline. If you can help, please contact the Institutional Advancement Office at 716-825-8796 x324 or by email at institutionaladvancement@mtmercy.org.

You can contribute directly today at https://www.mtmercy.org/challenge but make sure to include your class year!

Follow the Challenge on Facebook/Twitter and at the school website at www.mtmercy.org

Thank you all for your help!

Kathleen Linhardt, Esq. ’88
BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR

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Meet the Board of Trustees

**Eddie Bratko** joined the Mount Mercy Academy Board in 2015. He is the President of Mercy Hospital. He previously served as the chief operating officer since 2015 and joined Mercy Hospital in 2010 as director of finance. He holds a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in Financial Economics and an Advanced Certificate in International Economics from SUNY University at Buffalo. He completed a leadership program from the University of New Hampshire and an internship at Yale University School of Medicine. He is the father of three daughters and lives in Orchard Park.

**Sr. Marilyn Brewer, RSM** has been in the education field since 1965. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1963 and taught grades 1–8 in various elementary schools in the Diocese of Buffalo. She has served as principal for St. John the Evangelist School, Our Lady of Mercy School, and Annunciation School in Elma. In 1998, she began teaching Theology to freshmen and sophomores at Immaculata Academy for 13 years until retirement in 2013. Presently she is the chair of Mercy Associates in Buffalo, Erie, Pittsburgh, and Rochester Dioceses.

**Kara Rennie Caldiero ’07** earned her BSBA from Duquesne University with a dual major in Marketing and Supply Chain Management. Returning to Buffalo in 2011, she began her career with her family’s company, WNY Imaging Systems. Starting as an account executive, she has since transitioned to the role of major account manager. She and her husband Drew live in South Buffalo with son Brooks and dog Patch.

**Michael DeLellis** is the retired Director of Operations at Health Research Inc., Roswell Park division. (Not-for-profit corporation which administers research grants, contracts and Roswell Park’s technology transfer program). His daughter Kimberly graduated in 1994. Mike has served as chair of the first Catherine McAuley Gala in 1994 and chair of the athletic department fundraiser in 1993. Presently, he serves as “Voice of the Magic” for Mount Mercy basketball since 1991, chairs the Mount Mercy Athletic Department Committee, and is a member of the Board of Trustees’ Institutional Advancement/Marketing committee.

**Amelia Greenan ’14** served as a school ambassador, class president and student government
president her senior year. She graduated from Canisius College while serving as president of the Undergraduate Student Association and as a member of the Board of Trustees, Board of Regents and Alumni Board of Directors. Amelia is currently Chief of Staff to the West Seneca Town Supervisor and a Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Prior to that, she served as Director of Special Projects & Communications for Erie County Clerk Mickey Kearns and as secretary to the Ethics Board for the Town of West Seneca. She previously spent three years as a NYS Assembly aide to Kearns. She has been active in the pro-life movement having spearheaded a “Pregnant on Campus Initiative” at Canisius. Amelia also speaks to young people at local parishes about the pro-life perspective.

SR. PEGGY GORMAN, RSM ’60 was led into teaching and administrative ministries. Early on, Sr. Peggy spent years teaching at various Catholic schools, including St. Martin, St. Thomas, St. Brigid and St. Bonaventure, where she also served as principal(s). Most of her religious life was in administration. She served as vice president and president of the Buffalo Sisters of Mercy. She was the chief development officer for Buffalo, Rochester, Erie and Pittsburgh for the Sisters of Mercy. She has served as Chaplain and was named vice president for mission at the Mercy Health System and Mercy Hospital. Sr. Peggy is the current vice chair of the Mount Mercy Board of Trustees.

JANE MICHALEK HARRINGTON ’92 is a practicing attorney with an office in West Seneca, NY. Her daughters, Olivia ’18 and Grace ’20 are both recent graduates of Mount Mercy. Her son, Ryan, is currently a junior at St. Francis High School. Jane graduated from Canisius College in 1995 and SUNY University at Buffalo School of Law in 1998. In addition to being an active Mount Mercy alumna, Jane is also a trustee for Our Lady of Victory Basilica and serves on its parish council, finance council, and school board.

MARY CLARE KEENAN ’79 After graduating from St. Bonaventure University Mary Clare taught high school English for several years before becoming one of the newly created professions, that of paralegal. In addition to being a paralegal she also managed the law firm of Heimerl, Keenan & Longo, later to become The Keenan Law Firm and Lauffer Keenan, PLLC. Mary Clare is a licensed New York State Title Insurance Agent and until retirement was president of Homworth Settlement Services, Inc.

SR. MARIAN MULLEN, RSM believes, as Catherine McAuley did, that “Education makes possible a life of dignity and self-worth.” Sister Marian has spent much of her educational ministry at Trocaire College where she has served in various roles in the Student Affairs Division. In her current position as coordinator of the Global Achievements Program she welcomes students who were born beyond the continental USA. Sister Marian previously served on the leadership team of the Sisters of Mercy and on the boards of Gerard Place and CHS Long Term Care. She is a current board member of NativityMiguel Middle School. Sister Marian is eager to share the good news of Mount Mercy Academy and its achievements with the broad WNY community.

KATHLEEN LINHARDT ’88, has been on the Board of Trustees since 2016, serving as the board chair since 2017. She is a lifelong resident of the area, currently living in South Buffalo. She earned her bachelor’s degree in English Literature with a minor in German from St. Bonaventure University and her Juris Doctor from SUNY University at Buffalo School of Law in 1995. Kathleen is in-house counsel with Ellicott Development Company, where she currently holds the position of vice president/administrative counsel. She is a founding board member and current board secretary of South Buffalo Charter School, serving since 2000. She is a member of the New York State Bar Association and the Real Property Committee of the Erie County Bar Association.

MICHELE SIXT MELLIGAN ’92 became Mount Mercy Academy’s 16th Principal in summer 2020, becoming Head of School later that year. Michele holds a master’s degree in Education and an Advanced Leadership Certificate, both from Canisius College. She has over 20 years’ experience as a school counselor in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda school district and is the former executive director of Empower Girls Buffalo. Michele is a native of South Buffalo, where she currently resides with her husband and three girls, one of whom currently attends and two who are future Mercy girls!

THOMAS SELLERS is Vice President of Charles J. Sellers & Co., Inc., an Insurance Agency/Broker/Third Party Administrator located in Hamburg, N.Y. and celebrating 100 years in business. Tom is proud to be the father of four Mercy graduates. He is a graduate of Canisius College and SUNY University at Buffalo School of Law.
Mount Mercy Academy Annual Report

2019-2020

The Mount Mercy Academy Annual Fund supports scholarships and classroom improvements. Any gift makes a difference for the lives of our Mercy girls. Thank you to all of our donors who help us to educate young women in the highest quality Catholic education rooted in Catherine McAuley’s vision.

Please note, donors listed in this report represent donations to Mount Mercy Academy between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Gifts received after June 30, 2020 will be listed in the next report. We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask that you report them to Julie Parker at 716-825-8796 ext. 321.
Every January since freshman year, my mom reminds me of the call she received from Ms. Cronin three months after the entrance exam. Not only had I been accepted to Mercy, but I had been awarded a full scholarship (‘The Alumnae Scholarship is a full, four-year tuition awarded to the student who scores the highest on the Catholic High School Entrance Exam'). The feeling of euphoria I experienced in that moment is a rare one in life, and I am fortunate that every day I am able to attend a school with such an uplifting community.

Despite already being a senior and having applied to college, I still am unsure with where I want to go in life. I haven’t known, not since I was in eighth grade and looking at high schools. One of the main features of Mercy that drew me to the school was the combination of a challenging curriculum and engaging extracurriculars.

I am proud to say that I believe I have played a role in developing Mercy’s overall diversity as a school this year by working to start a GSA, or Gender and Sexuality Alliance at Mercy. This is something I felt nervous about working on, but it has been one of the most rewarding endeavors throughout my time at Mercy. I completely credit the fact that I developed a plan and drafted a proposal letter to my time at Mercy. What my teachers have taught me, much more than calculus or English, is that after high school, you have to be an advocate for yourself. My freshman year self would never have believed that four short years later I would be unafraid to go to my teachers with any concerns I have and even to begin a club advocating for other students not yet ready to stand up.

My aunt, Katie Rhoads McDonald ’91 and cousin, Sarah Van Note Parker ’01 both attended Mercy for high school. Family gatherings are always very fun because we trade stories about our favorite classes and teachers that have been a staple at the school across generations. Math has been one of my favorite subjects to take at Mercy, because I have always enjoyed puzzles, and that’s exactly what math is. This year I am taking calculus and the content of the course is really interesting. The small class size makes it one of my favorites to go to because we always find something new to bond over, whether it be Grey’s Anatomy or derivatives.

While I am looking forward to college, this year has been bittersweet as well. Sitting with the knowledge that my classmates and I will soon be parting ways to attend colleges in different states is a concept that’s hard to grasp for me, despite only meeting them a few years ago. However, I do find comfort in the knowledge that we will always be united by not just a ring, memories of Spirit Week karaoke, or studying in homeroom, but rather a Mercy education. It’s easy to get caught up in college applications your senior year, as well as AP classes, clubs, and even a job, but what keeps me grounded is knowing that I have the best community in the world supporting me.

Like many of my peers, I don’t know what comes next. What I like to focus on is that I know good things are coming my way. I began working at Tim Hortons in the summer, and recently started the process of training to become a supervisor! As of the last week in January, I have also been accepted into two of my top three schools, the University at Albany and John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. High school isn’t easy, no matter where you choose to go. The same holds true for Mercy. But, the real world isn’t easy either. I personally believe that Mercy prepares students for the real world with an education unlike any other, but most importantly builds a community that can last a lifetime.
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- Patricia Cooney Graham
- Florence Raoul Notto
- Sister Donna Marie Paolini, RSM
- Charleen Keller Spicola
- Total $23,319

**1955**
- Patricia Hillery Crowley
- Patricia Russell Fiorella
- Margaret Lawson Garvin
- Nancy Kelleher Gray
- Margaret Gorman McGrath
- Rosemary McKibbin O’Connell
- Suzanne Park Snegelove
- Mary Reilly Stark
- Total $2,151

**1956**
- Maureen Canney
- Elizabeth Weir Clark
- Margaret Sheehan McGorry
- Maureen Gatta Shanbacher+
- Margaret Burke Schwartz
- Total $500

**1957**
- Josephine McLaughlin Bos
- Barbara Zilliox Breidenstein
- Patricka Collins, RSM
- Jane Schmidt Fodero+
- Marian Ziel Green
- Total $925

**1958**
- Mary Linnan Whisenhan
- Rosemary Wright Sheehan
- Total $1,670

**1959**
- Mary O’Connell Power
- Total $1,000

**1960**
- Margaret Balkin Kelly
- Judy Jenkins Kilroy
- JoAnn Sullivan Lyons
- Judith Kreuzer Reese
- Total $480

**1961**
- Jean Jordan Canney
- Eileen Leatherbarrow Clough
- Alice Ryan Frank
- Mary Lou Donohue Knox
- Nancy Schwanndt Kryszczuk
- Total $950

**1962**
- Mary Ann Crowley Riga
- Total $1,419

**1963**
- Margaret Hillery Crowley
- Loretta McDonald Hughes
- Ann Kuebler McCarthy
- Nancy Wolfe McCarthy
- Margaret Barrett McMorrow
- Mary Moore Ryan
- Maureen Ryan Wirth
- Helen Brown Zack
- Total $23,319

**1964**
- Carol Kolb Anderson
- Sandra O’Hara
- Total $50

**1965**
- Mary Ann Crowley Riga
- Total $1,419

**1966**
- Margaret Balkin Kelly
- Judy Jenkins Kilroy
- JoAnn Sullivan Lyons
- Judith Kreuzer Reese
- Total $480

**1967**
- Jean Jordan Canney
- Eileen Leatherbarrow Clough
- Alice Ryan Frank
- Mary Lou Donohue Knox
- Nancy Schwanndt Kryszczuk
- Total $950

**1968**
- Mary Ann Crowley Riga
- Total $1,419

**1969**
- Margaret Balkin Kelly
- Judy Jenkins Kilroy
- JoAnn Sullivan Lyons
- Judith Kreuzer Reese
- Total $480

**1970**
- Jean Jordan Canney
- Eileen Leatherbarrow Clough
- Alice Ryan Frank
- Mary Lou Donohue Knox
- Nancy Schwanndt Kryszczuk
- Total $950

**1971**
- Mary Ann Crowley Riga
- Total $1,419

**1972**
- Margaret Balkin Kelly
- Judy Jenkins Kilroy
- JoAnn Sullivan Lyons
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- Total $480

**1973**
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- Alice Ryan Frank
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**1974**
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- Total $1,419

**1975**
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**1976**
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**1977**
- Mary Ann Crowley Riga
- Total $1,419

**1978**
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- JoAnn Sullivan Lyons
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- Total $480

**1979**
- Jean Jordan Canney
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- Total $950

**1980**
- Mary Ann Crowley Riga
- Total $1,419
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$500-999
Lynn Prendergast Huckins
$250-499
Jeanne Tyczka Alfiero
Kathleen Quinn Gilmartin
Helen Cullinan Szvoren
$100-249
Catherine Ritzel Andrews
Mary Ellen Jackson Becker
Susan Leary Cain
Christine Hasselback Gibbons
Laurie Colarusso Josefik
Christine Cuddy Krajevski
M Colleen Stahr Lavin
Maureen McGurn
Deborah Macna Turkovich
Claudia Molenda Zurbrick
$1-99
Mary Rothenberger Anderson
Judith McNamara Comerford
Karen Kruse Crouthamel
Heidi Huber Ginal
Ann Wilson Hayden
Mary Leary
Joanne Gannon McCabe
Kathleen Manaher McCarthy
Mary McNamara
Judith Czwojdak Zvijac
Maureen McNaughton Munzert
Colleen McGuire Painter
Anne Bishop Reukauf
Mary Ann Donohue Riedy
Susan Manley Wagner
Total $4,290
CLASS OF 1972
$1,000+
Christine Scherer Drapuc
Kathleen Kaczmarek Mehlretter
$100-249
Bernadette Boinski
Jacquelyn Coyle Cichon
Susan Strobele Giambroni
Theresa Stephan Hains
Mary Coughlin Quinn
Joanne Herman Wakefield
$1-99
Jeanne Saumby Contino
Carla Muczenski Hood
Carol Kuzniarek Latona
Margaret O’Brien McLane
Barbara Messenger
Patricia Murray
Helen Smith Porter
Mary Cooley Wierchowski
Total $2,230
CLASS OF 1973
$1,000+
Eileen Leary
Janet Suchan Vasquez
$500-999
Coleen Hanna
$250-499
Maureen O’Connor Oakley
Denise Muczenski Oliansky
Mary Cullinan Simons
$100-249
Anonymous
Margaret Flanagan Barrett
Eileen Branicki
Teresa Donnelly Burbank
Sandra Hock Galante
Anne Sullivan
$1-99
Denise Jackson Broffman
Debra Cuddy
Veronica Balicki McQuade
Deborah Jordan Munson
Theresa Breidenstein O’Connor
Jennifer Carabelli Paluch
Regina Barnick Vetter
Total $4,190
CLASS OF 1974
$1,000+
Jeanne Kazielski Federico
Darlene Nowak
$500-999
Nancy Wutz Ware
Lynn Clarke
$100-249
Sheila Bauer Appleby
Mary Ellen Donovan Ashe
Diane Grant
Barbara O’Brien Luchette
Nancy Bruch McKay
Eileen Hanley Noworyta
Patricia McDonald Rahill
Kathleen McDonald Reid
$1-99
Margaret Meaney Conlon
Maryllyn Castiglia DiCara
Jo Ann Jackson Goraj
Patricia Nowady Janicki
Mary McCarthy
Maureen Pericak Sikule
Mary Sullivan
Susanne Sullivan Waters
Total $4,510
CLASS OF 1975
$1,000+
Paula Harris Penepent
Margaret Cuthbert Staszak
$500-999
Susan Doyle
Sharon Porcello
$250-499
Patricia Perry Werneiwski
$100-249
Anonymous
Suzanne Cullen Hohl
Gail Galantowicz Lewis
Mary Meebuis
Patricia Makey Raab
Margaret Shalloe Recktenwald
Mary Beth Doney Roberts
Christina Stasiuk
$1-99
Kathleen Klink Aiello
Mary Finley Blosat
Margaret Meckle Boorady
Susan Janus Defrose
Karen Slivinski Hamp
Deborah Scheier Haer
Katherine Quinn Hourihan
Debra Purcell Jackson
Margaret Minich
Margaret Lailey Morgan
Joanne Browne Quinn
Margaret Sullivan
Andrea Luba Waag
Total $6,335
CLASS OF 1976
$1,000+
Linda Kobi其 Grandits
$500-999
Lisa Scirri DiGate
Gail Czwojdak Zvijac
$250-499
Margaret Cronin
Kelly Thompson Denz
Mary McManus Gallagher
$100-249
Colleen Colpoy Dowd
Maureen Farrell
Barbara Kelleher Fitzgerald
Eleanor Donovan Givan
Lynn Garvin Huntley
Paula Francolini McMeen
Michele Erolino Pagliaroli
Susan Petty’s Path
Julie Ann Breier Relosky
Michelle Herr Scandra
Joanne Mattimore Vivian
Sheila Wiles
$1-99
Anonymous
Virginia Wohlbrag Hogan
Karen Maturksi
Kathleen Amicone McCarthy
Katherine Riedy
Carol Leary Roche
Diana Suffoletto Schwab
Margaret Nowadays Serafini
Barbara Smith Walczak
Total $4,610
CLASS OF 1977
$1,000+
Margaret Hempling McGlynn
Kathleen Pace Murphy
$500-999
Margaret Lillis Snajczuk
$250-499
Denise Cullen
Pamela Krawczyk Greene
Ann Marie Sromka McGraw
Karen Ryan West
$100-249
Joy Sheehan Bristol
Rosemarie Benz Ericson
Marguerite McDonald Garrison
Susan Breidenstein Goldberg
Sharon Kelly Hanley
Alice Kavanagh
Ellen McGrath
Lou Ann Mustillo
Theresa Varga Sheo
Patricia Reedy Washabaugh
$1-99
Kathleen Blake Appler
Kathleen Bauer
Kathleen Naporra Gregero
Lori Luba Jaeger
Nancy Slivinski Lynch
Kathryn Cuthbert Milligan
Eileen Herbst Needham
Margaret Smith Potter
Claire McGrath Savini
Molly Heidinger Sayler
Nora Gleason Specht
Lorie Deacon Steinwald
Total $6,335
CLASS OF 1978
$1,000+
Patricia Reilly Panara
$250-499
Rosanne Finucane Stolzenburg
$100-249
Anonymous
Janet Cochrane
Kathleen Crowley
Kelly Glavey Hallinan
Jeannine Bowser Hong
Kathleen Sheena Kenon
Mary Hogan Schaus
$1-99
Sara Hellinger Bucki
Maura Kane Flynn
Sheila O’Toole Stanchak
Kathleen Kelly Sullivan
Total $2,650
CLASS OF 1979
$1,000+
Barbara Smith Walczak
Diana Suffoletto Schwab
Carol Leary Roche
Diana Suffoletto Schwab
Kathleen Byrnes Mearns
$500-999
Margaret Cronin
Kelly Thompson Denz
Mary McManus Gallagher
$100-249
Colleen Colpoy Dowd
Maureen Farrell
Barbara Kelleher Fitzgerald
Eleanor Donovan Givan
Lynn Garvin Huntley
Paula Francolini McMeen
Michele Erolino Pagliaroli
Susan Petty’s Path
Julie Ann Breier Relosky
Michelle Herr Scandra
Joanne Mattimore Vivian
Sheila Wiles
$1-99
Anonymous
Virginia Wohlbrag Hogan
Karen Maturksi
Kathleen Amicone McCarthy
Katherine Riedy
Carol Leary Roche
Diana Suffoletto Schwab
Margaret Nowadays Serafini
Barbara Smith Walczak
Total $4,610
CLASS OF 1980
$100-249
Ann Schmidt Andriaccio
Marianne Forsy Kotwica
Mary McCafferty
Margaret Astyk McCall
Mary Murphy  
Ann Marie Athans Quinn  
Kathleen Quinn  
$1-99  
Mary Kilcoyne Brown  
Nancy Houli Forsys  
Madonna Stutz Kane  
Mary Pat Ziemer Lawson  
Mary McGrath  
Total $1,050.10

CLASS OF 1981  
$1,000+  
Patricia Farrell  
Mary Kate Long  
$100-249  
Mary Waters McDonald  
Kathleen Robertson Mulcaire  
Diane Whelan Sullivan  
Lynne Cunningham Thomson  
$1-99  
Anonymous  
Mary Jablonicky Buhrer  
Diane Paczuz Clancy  
Donna Donohue  
Lisa Klas Guarino  
Elizabeth Blake Heidinger  
Maureen Browne Kirchmyer  
Jeanne O’Brien Kohl  
Lisa Fox Martin  
Sheila Coughlin Pingelski  
Patricia Kline Shriver  
Martiana Stachowski  
Total $2,832

CLASS OF 1982  
$500-999  
Michelle Daly Monaco  
Amy Coyne Drebot  
Mary Jo Gavin  
Grace Gannon Jackson  
$100-249  
Ann Paolucci Brown  
Janet Makey Frego  
Mary Lasota  
Patricia Keane Marren  
Sharon Lillis McCormick  
Maureen Carden Shriver  
$1-99  
Ann Sheehan Bevilacqua  
Kristina Podrza Connell  
Colleen Gill Kelleher  
Mary Meaney Kurzanski  
Maureen Shea Pinterpe  
Kathleen Webber Taggart  
Total $2,102.44

CLASS OF 1983  
$1,000+  
Patricia Leary Emhof  
$250-499  
Anonymous  
$100-249  
Jeanne Martello Archilla  
Jeanne Whelan Burvid  
Kathryn Whelan Gal  
Mary Paczuzi Hassetz  
Elizabeth Bering Kim  
Tammy Stulick Lail  
Lynda Sartini Maywalt  
Total $1,813

CLASS OF 1984  
$1,000+  
Barbara Ferman Monaco  
$500-999  
Mary Regan Pietrowski  
$250-499  
Margaret Kilcoyne Frank  
Nancy Napor Hammond  
Barbara Ruff  
$100-249  
Josephine Arroyo Kogler  
Karen Lynch Pappas  
MaryEllen Kresse Rutowski  
$1-99  
Ann Kuzina Burke  
Melissa Byrne Doctor  
Barbra Dodds  
Joyce Africano Fruth  
Debra Pittner Gossel  
Amy Martin Gusek  
Robin Rush  
Janice Heppel Schmidt  
Kathryn Baudl Zawisa  
Total $2,975

CLASS OF 1985  
$500-999  
Colleen Eagen  
$250-499  
Maureen Evans  
$100-249  
Mary Hilmy  
Maria VanRemmen  
$1-99  
Kathleen Glavey Dougherty  
Rosanne Fessler Kowalski  
Jane Sullivan O’Sullivan  
Eileen Curran Schara  
Lynn Hogan Sherk  
Nora Connors Welsh  
Total $1,397

CLASS OF 1986  
$500-999  
Eva Evaldi Byrne  
$250-499  
Anonymous  
$100-249  
Kathleen Courtney  
Elizabeth Eckert Miller  
Ellen Taylor  
$1-99  
Anonymous  
Nancy Roemig Lawler  
Total $2,162

CLASS OF 1987  
$250-499  
Rebeca Long Larson  
Laura Meyer Prendergast  
$100-249  
Maureen Callahan  
Maureen Casey  
Bridget Feeley Hudson  
Amy Kirsch Kobler  
Jacquelyn Baran VanBrunt  
$1-99  
Lynda Rysziewicz Halligan  
Megan McMorrow  
Mariette Lillis O’Brien  
Total $1,360

CLASS OF 1988  
$1,000+  
Susan Snajcuk James  
$500-999  
Kathleen Linhardt  
$250-499  
Lisa Burczynski Kessler  
Susan Lang  
$100-249  
Mary Jo Carlo  
Mary Kate Schuster Catlin  
Renee Brayson Gaume  
Teresa Barrows Lewandowski  
Caryn Schwarzmueller Reid  
$1-99  
Mary Morawski Palmeri  
Kim Fitzgerald Rotella  
Lisa Picone Shalloe  
Jody Neil Shaughnessy  
Total $2,890.88

CLASS OF 1989  
$250-499  
Lisa Mendonza  
$100-249  
Marcelene Majzg Burkett  
Kim Szabliski Hutter  
Total $450

CLASS OF 1990  
$200-249  
Bridgette Mulderig Spero  
Total $100

CLASS OF 1991  
$1,000+  
Maryellen Diggins  
$250-499  
Tina Scarpetto Webster  
$1-99  
Denise Bless Kiener  
Total $1,181

CLASS OF 1992  
$250-499  
Kim Donovan Lickfeld  
$100-249  
Kim Schweitzer Chilcott  
Jennifer Willis Lane  
Natalie Leswing Recktenwald  
$1-99  
Mary Barrows  
Jennifer Gonisorek  
Wendy Matyja Hartman  
Dina Palmer Shaffer  
Total $690

CLASS OF 1993  
$500-999  
Shelly Halloran  
$250-499  
Christina Seggio Fecio  
Margot Penfold Schoenborn  
$1-99  
Jodi Giambone  
Alicia Ventresca Miller  
Total $1,140

CLASS OF 1994  
$100-249  
Colleen Lalley Smith  
$1-99  
Mary Wall  
Total $105

CLASS OF 1995  
$100-249  
Beth Gys Antonius  
Renata Smith Doerr  
Rosann Lana  
$1-99  
Erin Smith Renowden  
Total $325

CLASS OF 1996  
$100-249  
Laura Prabucki Calandra  
Mary Pat Overdorf Maloney  
$1-99  
Anonymous  
Noelle Dulak Barth  
Total $501

CLASS OF 1997  
$100-249  
Katherine Grucella Mineo  
Alice Zebracki Stage  
Total $200

CLASS OF 1998  
$1-99  
Karen Schwartz  
Marie Smith Voorhees  
Total $113

CLASS OF 1999  
$100-249  
Jill Soroka Gore  
Mary Farrell Cullinan  
Total $120

CLASS OF 2000  
$250-499  
Jennifer Masterson Ketchum  
Lauren Dunford Kwik  
Total $667

CLASS OF 2001  
$500-999  
Kathryn Pavlik Sexton  
$250-499  
Sara Mehlertretter Drury  
$1-99  
Melissa Parker Leonard  
Total $910

CLASS OF 2002  
$500-999  
Gina Smith Pozdevec  
$1-99  
Ashley Moore Stoller  
Total $275

CLASS OF 2003  
$1-99  
Lauren Crenan Groff  
Total $25

CLASS OF 2004  
$1-99  
Bridget Jakubowski  
Margaret Shea Sperber  
Total $140

CLASS OF 2005  
$1-99  
Anonymous  
Megan Hoare  
Beth Iliche  
Total $130

CLASS OF 2006  
$100-249  
Mary Michaela Jannetta  
$1-99  
Molly Barrett  
Margaret Klavon Cannan  
Katherine Danahy Durnan  
Melissa Conti Mazza  
Total $308

CLASS OF 2007  
$100-249  
Gabrielle Schwab Heidinger  
Claire Kelley  
$1-99  
Kara Rennie Caliero  
Total $300

CLASS OF 2008  
$100-249  
Shaylyn Sullivan Crombie  
Alyssa Fuller Olsen  
Branna Wilson  
$1-99  
Olivia Schlager Piegay  
Bridig Sullivan  
Total $450

CLASS OF 2009  
$100-249  
Megan Pericak  
Total $100

CLASS OF 2010  
$1-99  
Margaret Higgins  
Total $25
Bishop Quigley Graduates who donated to the Annual Fund
Mary Ellen Dashnaw
Sheila Dennehy
Elizabeth Gainey
Helen Hennigan
Patricia Hren
Sally Nadeau
Kathy Schendel
Dorothy Tarnowski
Total $455

Friends and Family
$1,000+
Maureen Diggins
Ellen Koessler
$500-999
Fred and Lisa Kirsits
Thomas and Mary Jo Sellers
$250-499
Leslie Fox
Scott King
Charles and Christine Krauss
Alfred Luhr
MGr. Thomas Maloney
Robert Michalski
Paul and Dawn Thomas
$100-249
Bryan and Patricia Bernard
Paul and Barbara Brown
Jean Calmes
William Carey
Kelli Carrigg
Thomas Caulfield
John Cleary
Richard DeAnthony
Gerald Eberl
Sister Mary Francine Fasano, RSM
Michael and Kathleen Fitzgerald
Elizabeth Gainey
James Gainey
Ronald and Carolyn Hagedonk
Patricia Hren
Joseph and Mary Hughes
Senator Timothy Kennedy
John and Jean Kline
Linda Lemisko
Brian and Wendy Lewandowski
Catherine Luhr
Douglas Lum
James McDonnell
Nancy Pillard
Thomas Quinlivan
Daniel and Margaret Redmond
Thomas and Marjorie Ryan
Sister Diane Swanson, RSM
James Waligur
David and Patricia Wozniak
Rev. Richard Zajac
$1-99
Anonymous
Mary Bell
Frank Billitter
Erik Bohm
Catherine Brozyna
Patricia Burns
William Call
Lillian Callahan
James Carr
Sister Joan Chachula, RSM
John Curtin
Sister Mary Alvareta Memorial Award
Anonymous
Kathleen Ottos Barone Memorial Scholarship
Bigelow Family Scholarship
Elaine Ridder Bonacci & Deacon Anthony C. Bonacci Scholarship
David & Dorothy Borchard Memorial Scholarship
Maureen Canney Fund
Collins Sisters Scholarship
Matthew Colpoys, Sr. Scholarship
Eileen Crotty Connors Memorial Award
Dr. Julia M. Cullen Scholarship Award
Jack Donohue Memorial Award
Maureen Talty Franz Scholarship
Catherine Gorman Award
Kathleen Michaels Gronborg Award
Helen Hammond Award
Kathleen G. Kearns Award
Barbara Massett Kelleher Scholarship
Evelyn Kruse Award
Karen Kwiatkowski Memorial Award
Leek Scholarship
Monsignor Dino Lorenzetti Leek Scholarship Award
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The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Verizon Foundation
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National Fuel Gas Distribution
National Fuel Gas Distribution
Davis Selected Advisers-NY, Inc.
Estate of Anna G. O’Brien Award
Margaret Hunt Lyons Scholarship
Joseph & Gertrude Mahoney Scholarship
Maureen Talty Franz Scholarship
Maureen Talty Franz Scholarship
Mary Ellen Dashnaw
John Dedloff and Elizabeth McCabe
Sheila Dennehy
Andrea Tyypak Kendres
Heidi Finneghan
Joseph and Mary Flanagan
Donald and Gayle Gleason
Donald Gorey
Brianna Wilson ’08
Jennifer Gonsiorek ’92
Jennifer Mastenson Ketchum ’00
Rebecca Long Larson ’87
Jane Sullivan O’Sullivan ’85
Lisa Pineone Shallone ’88
United Way Donors
Eva Evalli Byrne ’86
Donna Donohue ’81
John Dedloff and Elizabeth McCabe
Sheila Dennehy
Andrea Tyypak Kendres
Heidi Finneghan
Joseph and Mary Flanagan
Donald and Gayle Gleason
Donald Gorey
Brianna Wilson ’08
Jennifer Gonsiorek ’92
Jennifer Mastenson Ketchum ’00
Rebecca Long Larson ’87
Jane Sullivan O’Sullivan ’85
Lisa Pineone Shallone ’88
Image 324x23 to 585x168
Beverly Palisano Leek Award
Sister Mary Eloise & Paracleta Award
Jeanne & Mary Belle Petty Memorial Award
Sister Clare Powers Award
President’s Discretionary Award
Irene Recktenwald Award
Alexander and Arlene Rola & Janet Sieckmann Scholarship
Kathleen Romance Memorial Award
Heather Ann Schwabi Memorial Scholarship
Schwartzott Family Scholarship
Sherry Family Scholarship
Mary Ann Simonick Scholarship
Marge Smeeding Bequest
Margaret Szwajcuk Gift
Karen Ann Talty & Maureen Talty Franz Scholarship
Sister Assunta & Nancy Ann Thome Award
Rosemary Maloney Twist Scholarship
Van Dyke Scholarship Fund
Walz Family Scholarship Fund
Kathleen McCarthy White Memorial Scholarship

Special Permanent Endowment Awards
Ellen Plunkett Memorial Award
Estate of Lydia Whipple Woods
Hauser Rauber Scholarship
Mary V. O’Connor Work Study Award

Term Scholarship Awards Distributed in 2019-2020
Benefactor Term Scholarship
Bishop Quigley High School Scholarship
Call from the Heart
Class of ‘70 Scholarship in Memory of Deceased Classmates
Cosgrove Women of Mercy Scholarship
Molly Finucane DeZastro Memorial Scholarship
Madonna & Gerald Gawronski Scholarship Fund
Hempling Family Award for Values and Service
Marie Tunney Kmieck Scholarship
Victor and Ann Kolb Memorial Award
Catherine A. Luhr Scholarship
The Frank J. McGuire Scholarship Fund
Tammy Mink Scholarship
Catherine Murphy Award
The Murphy Family Award
The Vincent and Harriet Palisano Foundation Scholarship
Sisters of Mercy Tuition Award
Terrence J. Smerka Memorial Scholarship Award
Sister Sally A. Walz, RSM Scholarship
Gina Srianese Memorial Scholarship

Monetary Gifts Made Toward Scholarships
Anonymous
Julia Alesi
Jeanne Tyczka Alfiero ’70
Carol Kolb Anderson ’59
Mary Rothenberger Anderson ’70
Will Arey
Mary Ellen Jackson Becker ’70
Col. Jane Bigelow (RET) ’62
Rev. William Bigelow
Ronald and Gail Boersma
Mary Buchinder Brennan ’70
Mary Burke Buchanan ’70
Patricia Burns
Susan Leary Cain ’70
Kate Callahan ’70
Jeanne Cronin Cassidy ’76
Mary Kate Schuster Catlin ’88
Joan Colen
Donna Conley
Margaret Kelly Cordrey ’70
Karen Kruse Crouthamel ’70
Timothy DeZastro, M.D.
Maryellen Diggins ’91
Maureen Diggins
Kathleen Dolan
Mary Ann DuBois
Katrina Dzierzanowski
Joanne McNamara Farrell ’79
Mary Farrell ’70
Maureen Farrell ’78
Patricia Farrell ’81
Colleen Flynn ’07
Conor Flynn
Kathleen Foote ’75
Rory Fowler
Christine Hasselback Gibbons ’70
Kathleen Quinn Gilmartin ’70
Trish Higgins Gloze ’70
Sister Peggy Gorman, RSM ’60
Susan Smynket Hogan ’70
Noreen Holleran
Lynn Prendergast Huckins ’70
Joseph and Mary Hughes
Laura Finucane Kirchgraber ’97
Michael and Nancy Kmieck
Patricia Knab ’70
Susan Leahy ’82
Mary E. Leary ’70
Sheila Ryan Lemkpo ’55
Grace Cosgrove Martorana ’67
Joanne Gannon McCabe ’70
Patricia Czeczkowski McCarthy ’61
Margaret Hempling McGlynn ’77
Maureen McGurn ’70
Annette Lukaszek Mudd ’70
Judith Czarnecki Muller ’70
Dennis Murphy
Lori Murphy
Thomas Murphy
William and Elizabeth Murphy
Katherine Nutille
Vincencetata Ventresca O’Donnell ’61+
Joanne Farrell Oscadal ’71
Colleen McGuire Painter ’70
Kathleen Quinn ’80
Mary Ann Donohue Riedy ’70
Renée Romance
Elaine Rothfus
Alicia Louise Rullan
Patricia Lonergan Russell ’75
Dina Santos
Eileen Crotty Sendor ’74
Marie Cosgrove Shea ’61
 Linda Sieckmann Dugan ’76
Robert Simnick
Sister Nancy Hoff, RSM ’61
Carole Smerka
Julie and Philip Snyder
Timothy Spence
Helen Cullinann Szvoren ’70
Deborah Macna Turkovich ’70
Susan Manley Wagner ’70
William and Anne Moran Walz ’61
Mary Alice Walz ’51
Mary Wode Williams ’70
Melissa Williard
Eileen Wirth
Kathleen Murphy Zimmer ’72
Claudia Molenda Zurbrick ’70

Class of ’70 Scholarship in Memory of Deceased Classmates
Jeanne Tyczka Alfiero
Mary Rothenberger Anderson
Mary Ellen Jackson Becker
Mary Buchinder Brennan
Mary Burke Buchanan
Susan Leary Cain
Kate Callahan
Margaret Kelly Cordrey
Karen Kruse Crouthamel
Mary Farrell
Christine Hasselback Gibbons
Kathleen Quinn Gilmartin
Trish Higgins Gloze
Susan Smynket Hogan
Lynn Prendergast Huckins
Patricia Knab
Mary Leary
Joanne Gannon McCabe
Maureen McGurn
Annette Lukaszek Mudd
Judith Czarnecki Muller
Colleen McGuire Painter
Mary Ann Donohue Riedy
Helen Cullinann Szvoren
Deborah Macna Turkovich
Susan Manley Wagner
Mary Wode Williams
Claudia Molenda Zurbrick

The Collins Sisters Scholarship
Mary Carr Bonszak ’72
Jeanne Cronin Cassidy ’76
Sister Patricia Collins ’53
Jean Pauly Coyle ’66
John and Margaret Cronin
Margaret M. Cronin ’78
Mary Farrell Cullinane ’99
Joanne McNamara Farrell ’79
Mary Farrell ’70
Maureen Farrell ’78
Patricia Farrell ’81
Colleen Flynn ’07
Conor Flynn
Michael Gluc
Mary Clare Keenan ’79
Mary Keller
Diane Kozlowski
Barbara Clark Kuzina ’63
Elizabeth Lewis
Mary Teresa Kane McCarthy ’81
Mary McNamara ’70
Maureen O’Connor Oakley ’73
Nancy McGrath Ogorek ’81
Catherine O’Neill Coppola ’69
Joanne Farrell Oscadal ’71
Denise O’Dee O’Shei ’69

In Memory of
Patricia Kosikowski Call ’60+
William Call
Colleen Conroy Carrigg ’46+
Kelly Carrigg
Jean Coppola DeAnthony ’62+
Richard DeAnthony

Deceased Classmates of 1982
Kathleen Webber Taggart ’82

Deceased Classmates of 1971
Maureen Myers ’71
Mary Honan Fitzgerald ’45+
Michael and Kathleen Fitzgerald

Mary Ann Mcnamara ’70

Mary Mahoney Fleckenstein ’61+
Nancy Manschner Lee ’61

Carol Brinkworth Glockner ’77+
Mary Jo Hughes Sakraida ’77+
Patricia Reedy Washabaugh ’77

Eleanor Conley Greenan ’58+
Amelia Greenan ’14

Colleen Kennedy Grochala ’90+
Louise Decker Senn ’64

Marianne Kozak Gulczewski ’61+
Jean Kozak Wroblewski ’60

Margaret Redmond Hayes ’87+
Jody Nel! Shaughnessy ’88

Kathleen Hourihan ’67+
Mary Hourihan ’70+
Eileen Shea ’80+
Helen Cullinann Szvoren ’70

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M. Ellen Kavanagh ’74+
Alice Kavanagh ’77
Kathleen Krempasky ’66+
Nancy Pillard
Michael Lang+
John and Jean Kline
Dick Lenahan+
Diane Savage Lenahan ’63
Joseph E. Malay+
Grace O’Neill+
Kevin J. O’Neill+
Mary Anne O’Neill Malay ’47
Peg McDonald
David and Patricia Wozniak
Pamela Nelson McDonnell ’66+
James McDonnell
Margaret Kurch Mirasola ’51+
Franklin Mirasola
Madelyn Mahoney Mullins ’58+
Charles Mullins
Mary Petty ’76+
Susan Petty Pasch ’78
Edward R. Prabucki
Laura Prabucki Calandra ’96
Catherine Meisel Reilly ’29+
Michael Reilly
Mark Schanbacher+
Maureen Gatta Schanbacher ’52+
Mary Snyder+
Mary Duke Steinmetz
Patricia Murphy Wahl ’59+
James Gainey
Anne Kulik Waligur ’47+
James Waligur
Sister Sally Walz, RSM ’56+
Beatrice Maloney Sear ’56
Judith Ryan Wynne ’55+
Alice Ryan Frank ’58
Barbara Moore Yates ’46+
Paula Moore Wagner ’47
Callahan and Elizabeth McDonnell
Mary Ann McDonnell Scheiber ’54
In Honor of The Class of 2008
Shealyn Sullivan Crombie ’08

The Class of 2020
Mr. Joe Hallinan
Molly Gasuk
Donna Donohue ’81
Rose Magistrale Hyland ’46+
Mark Dean Hyland
Sheila Lempkos
Margaret Fink Connors ’66
Catherine Luhr
Christopher Vuturo
Carraig Reilly Nowak ’96
Brenna Reilly ’05
Catherine Reilly ’99
Michael Reilly
Mary Snyder ’21
Maryanne Snyder ’67
Sister Mary Ellen Twist, RSM ’60
Angela McNerney Twist ’64
Ms. Pat Burns
Ms. Ruth Howard
Miss Catherine Luhr
Mrs. Kate Lynch
Mr. Steve McCrea
Mr. Doug Webster
Ms. Jacqueline Welch
Mary Michalow Jannetta ’06
Bequests
Mary Jane Becker ’57 Estate
Anne Keefe Raiche ’45 Estate

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Buffalo Sabres Tickets Raffle
Donated by Generous Mount Mercy Contributor
Buffalo Sabres vs Chicago Blackhawks Ticket Raffle
Donated by David Constantino,
The Legend Group

Gala Gift Gathering Parties
Faculty & Staff Party
Hosted by Mount Mercy Academy
Board of Trustees Cocktail Party
Hosted by Mount Mercy Academy
Gala Gift Gathering Parties

Alumnae Gift Gathering Party
Hosted by: Beth Grys Antonius ’95, Lynn Marie Maj Bala ’88, Catherine Wards Bender ’81, Eva M. Evaldi Byrne ’86, Margaret M. Cronin ‘78, Rozanne Granville Flammer ’66, Ann Muldoon Galli ’76, Claire Kelley ’07, Mary Lou Letina-Land ’99, Joan Klipfel Lillis ’53, Leanne Maloney ’05, Patricia Keane Marren ’82, Mary C. Waters McDonald ’81, Margaret M. Kelly McFarland ’80, Kathleen Kazmerek Mehlertter ’72, Beverly Mutka Miilietello ’76, Maureen O’Connor Oakley ’73, Vincenetta Ventresca O’Donnell ’61, Laura V. Ortiz ’83, Joanne M. Schwartzott ’54, Linda Sieckmann-Dugan ’76, Mary Alice Walz ’51, Tina Scarpello Webster ’91.

Mercy Mimosas
Hosted by Kate Daley Dust ’73 and Peggy Flanagan Barrett ’73

2020 McAuley Gala Gift and Monetary Donations
Adventure Landing
Albright-Knox Art Gallery
Ms. Bridget M. Allman
Anderson’s Frozen Custard
Anonymous
Mrs. Beth Ann Antonius
Ms. Jessica Bakkila
Mr. and Mrs. Chris and Kimberly Bandura
Mrs. Katie Barrett
Mrs. Margaret Barrett
Batavia Downs Gaming & Hotel
at Batavia Downs
Mrs. Julie M. Beale
Rev. William Bigelow
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