

# THE 2008 WANSBORO AWARD RECIPIENTS



Walter and Sis Fisher

In 1975, the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills inaugurated one of the first Boards of Trustees for Sacred Heart schools in the United States. This was not long after the Religious of the Sacred Heart had withdrawn from 10 schools across the country, including our Academy in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. There was great concern that we would do the same thing at Bloomfield Hills and other locations and it was a very unsettled era in many areas of life in the United States. In order to prevent the further closing of schools, a group of very visionary leaders got together

from the Sacred Heart Order and pulled together a plan to enable our Boards of Trustees to take responsibility for the future of our schools. Many wonderful people were willing to help us in areas of finance, facilities, legal advice, fundraising and the like, but they insisted that we, the Religious of the Sacred Heart, develop a clear statement of our philosophy of education and provide a way for monitoring the implementation of this philosophy in our schools. Thus, over a period beginning in 1970, the Network of Sacred Heart Schools was formed.

Walter Fisher was among the very first Board Members at Bloomfield Hills. He was enthusiastic about Sacred Heart education through the long experience of his family with various Sacred Heart educational institutions. Also, his daughter, Elise, was enrolled in the Academy at Bloomfield Hills. He and Sis, overall, for many years since 1975, have been extraordinarily loyal supporters of Sacred Heart. They were among the founding families of Kensington Academy and worked hard to promote the success of that wonderful institution. It is, indeed, fitting for Sis and Walter Fisher to be given the Wansboro Award after giving evidence of so much courage and confidence over these many years.

The story of Sis and Walter Fisher and the way that God has used them as instruments of hope has begun a new chapter. It was the deep care for both Kensington Academy and the Academy of the Sacred Heart that led the Fishers to connect those who would eventually facilitate the reunion of our family through the merger between the two. With deep commitment to the *Goals and Criteria*, integrity made visible in leadership and the fidelity of the next generation of Fisher children and grandchildren, Sis and Walter Fisher continue to lead by example, commitment and the courage to take action for the sake of the children. How grateful we are for the leadership, vision and enthusiasm for the Sacred Heart that has characterized the lives of Sis and Walter Fisher, their children and grandchildren. The entire Sacred Heart family extends both gratitude and deep love for all that they have given.