

THE WANSBORO AWARD



Katherine S. Wansboro, RSCJ

In 1972, the Wansboro Award was initiated to honor individuals in the Sacred Heart family who by their lives and activities have demonstrated Confidence in the Heart of Jesus. The recipient of the award need not be a Sacred Heart alumna, as indeed Sister Wansboro was not, but the recipient must share with Sister Wansboro that strong commitment and dedication to the Heart of Jesus and Sacred Heart education.

After her graduation, Sister Wansboro needed a year to decide about her future. Being acquainted with the Kenwood Convent of the Sacred Heart for some time, she understood more deeply the spirit of the Society, believing it could bring to fruition all she was searching for in religious life: total consecration to the love of Christ. His love was her constant support during her more than 50 years as a Religious of the Sacred Heart.

As a religious, Sister Wansboro received an M.A. from Boston College and her undergraduate degree in Library Science from the State University of Albany. She frequently attended summer school to better prepare herself to meet the educational challenges in a changing world. As a teacher or coordinator of studies, Headmistress or Superior, she served in several houses in the Province, including Newton, Washington, D.C., Buffalo, Greenwich, Rochester and 91st Street. Her longest stay was in Michigan, where she spent 25 years, one at Grosse Pointe and 24 at Lawrence Avenue and Bloomfield Hills. She was Superior at Lawrence Avenue when the decision was made to establish a house in Bloomfield Hills. With only \$8,000 to buy land and build a new school, the task seemed impossible! It was clear to her that it could only be built on Confidence in the Heart of Jesus. It was through this Confidence that the project became a reality and Sister Wansboro became Superior of Bloomfield Hills, serving from 1958-1964.

Sister Wansboro insisted on excellence from her students. She endeavored to see that the Charity of Christ was the basis of all school activities. She worked behind the scenes by providing support and encouragement to her students and their families. She founded the Fathers' Club and the Janet Stuart Association to develop understanding between home and school. On August 2, 1990, Sister Katherine Wansboro celebrated her Diamond Jubilee as a Religious of the Sacred Heart. The Lord called Katherine Wansboro home on March 13, 1998.

This award is presented annually in the name of Katherine S. Wansboro, RSCJ, whose life exemplifies Confidence in the Heart of Jesus.

THE 2009 WANSBORO AWARD RECIPIENT



Margaret Mary Canty, RSCJ

As Headmistress of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills for a dozen years (1988-2000), Meg Canty, RSCJ led the school through times of great change. As is true throughout her career, Sister Canty's leadership shows trust and confidence in the heart of Jesus, great love of her community, and the careful orchestration characteristic of the musician that she is.

In her words, as Headmistress she was, a "caretaker of a sacred tradition and of these buildings which house the legacy of excellence, a deep and abiding faith, and a joyous response to the needs of the world." With an eye to the future, she oversaw the first ever capital campaign; expansion of the school's science facilities and curriculum; creation of the "3-year old program" (as the Early Childhood Program was called at the time); the addition of the Primary Wing; development of the

technology infrastructure; and the establishment of the After School Learning center, just to name a few significant accomplishments.

During her tenure at the Academy, Sister Canty also was a founding board member of the Cornerstone Schools, President of the Association of Michigan Schools (AIMS) and a trustee at Grosse Pointe Academy and University Liggett School.

Prior to arriving in Bloomfield Hills, Sister Canty spent many years at Kenwood Academy (later Doane Stuart) in a variety of roles. After leaving Bloomfield Hills, Sister Canty returned to the campus, this time as the administrator at the Kenwood community of retired RSCJ. She oversaw Kenwood's closing, facilitating a courageous transition for the RSCJ in residence.

Bridget Bearss, RSCJ says, "With courage, confidence and the attitudes of the heart of Jesus that have permeated her life, Meg Canty made visible the mission of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. With wisdom, compassion and great expectation, Meg cultivated a generation of Sacred Heart leaders who have carried the *Goals and Criteria* to every continent. I am grateful to have learned to be a Sacred Heart educator and a Religious of the Sacred Heart from Meg Canty as she taught me what it means to have a heart opened by God's love, ready to serve and expectant of the ordinary miracle in each day. Thank you, Meg, for "making memories" that are your legacy and our treasure."

For these reasons, the Alumnae and Alumni Association of the Academy of the Sacred Heart is proud to present Meg Canty, RSCJ with the 2009 Wansboro Award.