

THE 2016 WANSBORO AWARD RECIPIENT



*Maria Cardinale Curreri*⁷⁵

“Be faithful to the touch of the Holy Spirit upon your soul. The Holy Spirit when free, works marvels within us.” St. Madeleine Sophie Barat’s words resound today as we honor Maria Cardinale Curreri⁷⁵, the 2016 Wansboro Award Recipient.

Pope Francis declared 2016 the “Year of Mercy,” and he asks “the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.” Maria, inspired by her faith, showed commitment to her family and the strength of personal relationships by caring for her father, her mother, and her disabled brother. Pope Francis stated, “The mercy of Jesus embraces everyone in every part of the world: open your hearts!” That is exactly what Maria has done.

Maria works full time, has distinguished herself in her career, and still finds time to head an international aid organization, OCIMA, Overseas and Continental Independent Mercy Association, founded by the late Fr. Nicholas Hugo Amico. OCIMA provides critical financial assistance to support the work of local religious and lay people in providing medical, educational, residential, and nutritional care to the poor in Guatemala and Ecuador. Maria, owner, member of the Board of Directors, treasurer, and former president of OCIMA, is responsible for administrative and fund raising activities of the organization. When illness forced Fr. Nick to step down as President of OCIMA, he had the following to say about Maria: “OCIMA is fortunate to have Maria Curreri (head OCIMA) because she is a very dedicated, knowledgeable, compassionate, and competent person.” Maria also makes annual trips to Ecuador and Guatemala to maintain contact and provide assistance to the sponsored organizations. Maria is the most modest, kind, and gentle person you could meet. Her quiet determination and commitment to OCIMA truly is inspirational.

Maria exemplifies the foundation of a Sacred Heart education, which is shown in so many aspects of her life. She has internalized the *Goals and Criteria* of a Sacred Heart education as part of the fabric of her life, using that intangible groundwork to drive her mission and live her day-to-day life in the communities she serves.

Fr. Nick said it best, “I want to thank all of you for all that you have done for us through the years to make OCIMA more successful than I ever dreamed. And literally the thousands who are being helped with your help through OCIMA are very mindful of your generosity. We sincerely hope that it will continue.” Through Maria’s volunteer work, Fr. Nick’s mission of OCIMA will not just continue, it will flourish.

The Alumnae and Alumni Association congratulates Maria Cardinale Curreri on her dedicated service to OCIMA and proudly recognizes Maria Cardinale Curreri with the 2016 Wansboro Award.

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.