

THE 2017 WANSBORO AWARD RECIPIENT



*Joan Tindall Watkins*⁷³

“Love aright and you will never be sad. Embrace God’s will and you will be filled with joy and peace.” St. Rose Philippine Duchesne’s words resonate today as we honor Joan Tindall Watkins⁷³, the 2017 Wansboro Award Recipient.

Joan embodies Sr. Katherine Wansboro’s legacy of attempting the impossible in service to those around her. Joan has had many roles at the Academy of the Sacred Heart: student, alumna, parent, and student advocate, all while being an active participant in all aspects of Sacred Heart life. Her dedication to the Academy of the Sacred Heart is constant and sincere.

Joan is part of a family rooted in the Sacred Heart legacy. Joan’s mother graduated from Lawrence Avenue, and she and her sisters as well as her three daughters graduated from Sacred Heart. This family legacy demonstrates a strong love and commitment to the Sacred Heart mission.

Joan raised four children of her own and positively impacted the lives of countless other children. Joan founded Together Let’s Cope (TLC), a support group for parents of premature infants, based out of St. John Hospital in Detroit. Her vocation also focused on supporting local Catholic schools and organizations, including her work on numerous boards and events over the years with Christ Child Society, Star of the Sea Catholic School, the University of Detroit Jesuit High School, Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, and the Academy of the Sacred Heart.

Joan has over 20 years of service with the Christ Child Society at the local and national levels. She has been a member of the Christ Child Society of Detroit, lending her expertise to the Finance Committee, serving as treasurer, and running multiple “Night of Angels” fundraising events. In 2012, she was named to the National Christ Child Society Board of Directors, where she helped run several national conferences, updated the organization’s web presence, and pioneered a “Treasurer’s Toolkit” program to increase financial and compliance expertise of local chapters. Currently, Joan continues her active involvement with the Christ Child Society of the Capitol Area, located in Central Texas. Joan recently secured a permanent home for her local Christ Child Society chapter on the Annunciation Maternity Home campus.

Many who know Joan recognize her love, energy, empathy, compassion, guidance, knowledge, and deep spiritual faith. St. Rose Philippine Duchesne stated, “... God does not require great achievements, but a heart that holds back nothing for self” Throughout her life, Joan has achieved meaningful accomplishments all while continuously exhibiting selfless love, compassion, and a tenacious spirit as a guiding light to all those around her.

The Alumnae and Alumni Association congratulates Joan Tindall Watkins with the 2017 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.