Their Foundress, Venerable Mary Potter, was graced 140 years ago to birth a congregation of women to serve the healthcare needs of the sick and dying. Our LCM Hospital, Evergreen Park, IL, founded in 1930 – always responded with courage and trust to fulfill that mission. Now in 2017, 87 years later, the question is asked... WHAT IS NEXT?

On Thursday, June 22, 2017, Sister Sharon Ann Walsh, '62, Provincial Leader of the Sisters, as well as Chair of the LCMH Board of Directors, welcomed the hospital community to a Eucharistic Celebration honoring the 140th Anniversary year of the founding of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary in 1877. Anyone familiar with the life of Venerable Mary Potter knows she faced many challenges and decisions throughout her life, but always with the intent to fulfill her mission to care for the sick and the dying with courage and trust in her God. That, in truth, is no different than what her LCM women have faced around the world, and certainly quite clearly, her Sisters in America. During the past 87 years at our LCM Hospital in Evergreen Park, IL, our Sisters and their leadership companions have been faithful to that mission. We have an opportunity now to share with the LCM Nurse Alumni, the proposed new direction to continue the Mission of Venerable Mary Potter as we move into the future securing a place of care for the sick and dying.

Dennis A. Reilly, President and CEO of Little Company of Mary Hospital, and husband of Chris Mrowca Reilly, '76, has known and respected the value of keeping the employees, physicians, and hospital community consistently informed of the process of discerning the hospital’s future and possible partnership potentials. In the February issue of ROUNDS, the hospital employee monthly newsletter, as well as a letter to the hospital physicians and employees, Mr. Reilly answered some very important questions that were in the minds and hearts of everyone. In a format of question and answer, he chose to share the latest communications, and answer some inquiries of...

WHAT IS LCMH’S FUTURE?

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Is Little Company of Mary Hospital for sale? No. However, we are considering a strategic partnership.

What do you mean by strategic partnership? LCMH may join another health system. This is the first time LCMH has actively solicited affiliation opportunities with health systems that share our non-profit charitable mission, values and culture of commitment to providing quality care. The LCM Sisters and the LCMH Board of Directors will determine the course of action in making a partnership decision that best serves our patients and community for the long-term.

What is behind the decision to seek a strategic partner at this time? During the past few years, many government and insurance mandated changes to physicians and hospital payments have occurred. Many are intended to create a more coordinated care delivery, provide preventative care, lower costs and improve quality and access to care. We also have witnessed the acceleration of strategic affiliations in the greater Chicago market as more and more physicians, hospitals and other healthcare providers join forces. In response to these trends, while anticipating even more consolidation, LCMH’s Board of Directors, working with our senior industry advisors, determined that being ‘connected’ to a larger system of care delivery may provide our community with expanded health care services right here in Evergreen Park. Positioning ourselves to be ready for the next wave of health care delivery changes is what makes ‘now’ the appropriate time to explore our options.

What progress has been made in determining an LCMH partnership arrangement? Our efforts to evaluate potential future partners for our hospital ministry is continuing. At this time (June 2017), our list of potential partners has been narrowed to a small group, and we have begun “reverse due diligence,” which is a series of initiatives that allows us to evaluate the culture, financial and operational fit with each remaining potential partner. This involves gathering and assessing detailed information, visiting hospitals operated by each potential partner for discussions with local management, physicians, board members, and continuing interaction with senior management of potential partners.

At this same time, we will be negotiating to conclusion the terms of a potential affiliation with each remaining party, in order to help identify which partner can offer an arrangement that best meets LCMH’s objectives. The combination of transaction terms, financial and operational strength and cultural compatibility will guide our LCM Sisters, the Board of Directors and the Professional Staff to an identification of the potentially best suited partner to sustain our critical mission for the foreseeable future. We anticipate the negotiation and diligence processes to consume most of the summer.

Where do you see Little Company of Mary in three years? The hospital has a special bond with this community because of the inspiring leadership of the Little Company of Mary Sisters, the unwavering commitment of our physicians and other medical professionals and the devotion of our employees. During these 87 years, many changes in both our community and the healthcare industry have occurred. New innovations, legislation and treatment models have altered the way we provide care. Each time, under the Sisters and Board, the hospital has adapted to perpetuate the healing ministry of Jesus and renewed its commitment to providing exceptional care to our community. "I see the Little Company of Mary Hospital continuing to service our community, not only for the next three years, but for many years to come."
Such Pride in our Profession of Nursing...Oh, the distance we have traveled and the progress we’ve made.”

By Nancy Olsen, ’76 and Michelle Shine Dignan, ’76

The recent newsletter from AARP on HEALTHCARE made a bold statement, ‘RESTRICTIONS ON NURSES LIFTED.’

In summary it said, “Twenty-two states have modernized laws allowing Advanced Practiced Registered Nurses (APRNs) to diagnose patients, prescribe medications and deliver other services that they are trained to provide. America’s 3.6 million registered nurses are central to consumers’ good health.” Little Company of Mary Hospital and Patient Care Services have kept up with the advanced trends in healthcare delivery, especially as it affects and promotes the continued reputation in our community – to care with Quality, Excellence and Compassion.

The Advanced Practice Provider Council (APP) was established in 2014 with the co-chair leadership of Michelle Shine Dignan, APN, and Nancy Olsen, APN, and charged with developing a program ultimately leading to ‘top of license’ performance by all APN’s at LCMH. The development of their program is dynamic and gives full support and a wide range of use of the competent skills and advancement in our profession. The program they have developed not only provides a vibrant onboarding process for nurses, but continued educational opportunities and appraisal of legislative updates. In March 2017, an LCMH representation traveled to Springfield to participate for Nurse Lobby Day. The LCMH APR Council is excited about the direction and support of administration and medical staff in their efforts to enhance nursing leadership at LCMH, as well as within the profession. As a Council, they are charged with developing and maintaining policies and procedures as they pertain to LCMH Advanced Practice Nurses, and offering mentoring, as well as credentialing tools. It is all a continual work in progress, but the established guidelines have been supported by the Joint Commission and have now gained representation on our LCMH Medical Staff Executive Committee, as well as the Credentialing Committee. They are currently adding Advanced Practice Nurse representation to the Cancer Committee, Infection Control, Medical Records, Pharmacy and Therapeutics and the Antibiotic Stewardship.

The committee consists of all ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE specialties at LCMH, including Nurse Practitioner (NP), Physician Assistant (PA), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). All are welcome at quarterly meetings. In addition, a sub-council has been developed with representation from all of the above disciplines that meet monthly for ongoing projects. We are making big strides and have even bigger goals. We are grateful for our wonderful entry level education and practice received at Little Company of Mary, School of Nursing.

An LCM Nursing School pin finds its way back home...

The note (at right) was sent to us regarding an LCM School of Nursing pin that was found. We hope to return the pin to its rightful owner. If you are or think you may know of the owner of the pin, please contact Justin Cabel, Nursing School Alumni Secretary at 708.229.5067 or jcabel@lcmh.org.

Dear ‘FR’ (initials on back of pin),

I found this pin many years ago, possibly in the ’70s. I can’t remember where I found it - maybe a parking lot in Chicago. Since then, I have moved many times and forgot all about the pin. I am so sorry for that. I recently discovered it while cleaning out “memorabilia” boxes. Through the incident, I was able to find your Nursing School Alumni Association. I hope Justin can catch up with you.

Sincerely, Jane Free
EILEEN MCMULLAN GRADY, ’42, Evergreen Park, IL

As a five year old little girl, Eileen looked out her kitchen window and asked her mother, “Who are those women in white uniforms entering South Chicago Hospital, and what do they do?” Upon hearing they were nurses who made patients better, Eileen said, “That’s what I’m going to be when I grow up.”

At high school graduation, she investigated South Chicago Hospital’s Nursing program, but they insisted she move across the street into their nurses’ house. While South Shore Hospital enthusiastically interviewed Eileen, they refused to admit her into their program until after January to avoid giving time off for Christmas Mass, so her mother took her to Little Company of Mary Hospital to interview with Mother Dorothea, L.C.M., who was so impressed with Eileen’s willingness to work for free and desire to become a Nurse that she accepted her immediately.

After her nursing education under the guidance of the Little Company of Mary Sisters, she took State Boards and worked as a registered Nurse on LCM’s OB/GYN floor and also on a Medical and Surgical floor.

One memorable experience Eileen had during nurse’s training on the OB floor was trying to urge a mother in labor not to push because the doctor hadn’t arrived yet, and then having to deliver the baby three minutes before the doctor arrived. When the new mother saw her the next day and said, “Oh nurse, you’re the one who delivered my baby.” Eileen tried her best to give that credit to the doctor. Eileen eventually moved to Mercy Hospital, reconnecting with the Mercy Sisters who had taught her at Mercy High School. She worked on the Medical Surgical Floor, as well as doing Private Duty Nursing. Nurses were required to keep a log of private duty hours and money owed them from the patient’s families. When she showed it to her mother one day, discussing all the patients that hadn’t paid her, her mother, Mrs. McMullan responded, “Forget about the money, if they didn’t have the money then, they don’t have it now.” Eileen didn’t care about money, Nursing was a profession she loved her entire life.

Eileen fell in love and married William F. Grady, Jr. and had six children. Her oldest son, John Daniel, was killed at age seven while riding his bike. After arriving home from the cemetery after burying Johnny, Monsignor Walsh reminded her that “Johnny is so happy where he’s at, that if he had the choice to return to your arms or stay where he’s at…he would stay where he’s at.” Those words stung, but Eileen quickly said she realized the truth in them. Her Johnny would never know pain, sin or heartache. He was with Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother.

After her children were grown and her husband died, Eileen went to work for the Cook County Public Health, working in their clinics, as well as visiting patients in their homes. At 95 years of age, Eileen still enjoys discussing nursing and medical issues with her two sons-in-law who are physicians. Most of her grandchildren are surprised that her knowledge of medicine is equal to their medical knowledge, which can only be attributed to the excellent education she received by the Little Company of Mary Sisters.

THERESÉ CARROLL KLOAK, ’47, Chicago, IL

A delightful conversation of remembering was shared with Therese and reminiscing her decades of life since LCM School of Nursing graduation. Her first job after graduation was at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in Pediatric Orthopedics. After one year at UIC, she traveled to the east...
coast to the famous Massachusetts General in Boston for another year until returning to the Midwest and working locally at St. Margaret’s in Hammond, Indiana. She married her husband, George, in 1951, but continued working as a nurse on the Indiana University campus while her husband was in school there. Her delight has been her seven sons and one daughter and presently, one of her sons, a Catholic priest, is completing his PhD in organizational psychology. Over the years, she remained close to LCM as a member of the LCMH Auxiliary, and she served a term as its President. In her Class of 1947, there were 30 students and although arriving not knowing anyone, she will always remember their kindness and enduring friendships. For 25 years, she and her classmates met monthly. Now sadly, most are gone, but definitely they will never be forgotten. Therese is now 91 and lives in Dearborn Park in Chicago and has been married to her husband, George, for 65 years.

Aileen Hare Lundy, ’52, Oak Lawn, IL
Aileen related that years earlier, teaching and nursing were the main professions open to women, and so LCM and nursing became her choice. Even though they were first year students, she can remember her clinical group working Christmas Day on the fifth floor. Aileen remembers Sr. Benedicta, L.C.M., snapping the back of some of the girl’s uniforms to make sure they had ‘prescribed garments’ (girdles) on, as she said that would prevent future back pain in such a labor intensive profession. Pediatrics was Aileen’s favorite rotation. She was especially impressed by the compassion and caring attitude of Dr. Martin Sachs, an LCMH Pediatrician and as well as the whole pediatric staff. In addition, she did extra work in the ‘dressing room’ at LCMH where IV’s and dressings were prepared and administered. After graduation Aileen worked as an industrial nurse at the Ford Motor Company.

Soon Aileen married, and she and her husband’s family expanded to five children – all cared for by Dr. Sachs and eventually, twelve grandchildren. Ultimately, Aileen retired from nursing to care for her busy family. Eventually, Aileen found her way back to LCM, as a volunteer. She first worked as assistant buyer in the gift shop. With her caring and friendly attitude, Aileen was chosen to be one of the greeters when the new LCMH West Pavilion hospital opened in 2012. Recently, she was awarded for 25 years of volunteer service to LCM, and Aileen currently serves in the Cancer Resource Center. Aileen also is a member of the LCM Auxiliary. When possible, as is the delight of so many LCM graduates, she meets her classmates for a once a month lunch, thus further illustrating LCM bonds are long lasting and deep.

ROSELLA NIBAUR
WALTERS, ’57, Chicago, IL
Rosella came from a farm town in Iowa to attend LCM Nursing School. Her sister, Violet Nibaur Huey, ’58, followed a year later. After graduation, her first employment was at Elmhurst Hospital where on her very first day she was assigned as charge nurse on the 3-11 shift. She left for California that same year and worked at a 24-Hour Clinic where all the nurses were expected to do EKG’S, as well as laboratory draws. Rosella remained at that clinic for ten years. From there she went to Imperial Valley Community College in Imperial, California and remained for thirty years as the Student Health Nurse, as well as teaching medical terminology at night. During this time, she went back to school to earn her BSN.

Some humorous memories from her nursing school years never grow old. One was being assigned to inspecting bed sheets for holes and tears and marking them so that they could be mended. Another, certainly no one’s assignment today, was emptying the ash trays in surgery. While at her Jacksonville Psychiatric rotation, the students were invited by the wife of one of the physicians to come for tea and cake while enjoying the opportunity to listen to classical music, which being so memorable, it is the music she so loves and enjoys today. Rosella retired in 1996 and returned to the southwest side of Chicago to help care for a family member and reconnect with classmates who had remained in that same area since graduation. She has been a member of the LCM Nurse Alumni Association, Board of Representation for many years and led the Scholarship Committee as its chairperson, until her retirement this past year. Rosella has four children and all of whom were born in California and, sadly, was widowed several years ago. She has eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren, who are her delight.
KAREN DURBEN
KORETCHKO, ’62,
Lakeland, FL
Karen was born in Beloit, WI, September 1941. Upon graduation from Beloit Catholic High School in 1959, she came to the LCM School of Nursing in August of that same year. She chose the LCM School of Nursing because a classmate and friend was going to study at LCM School of Radiology. Life in the dorm during those three years was anything but boring. Probably the most memorable event was a note posted on the community bulletin board informing the students that they had the afternoon off. Not all of us were fortunate to have seen the note, thus we worked and when we learned our classmates were off enjoying the afternoon, we weren’t happy. However, we soon found out that someone had mischievously posted the note and all participants were in big trouble. To this day, we have no idea who posted the note, but we have our suspicions. I could go on forever about the shenanigans that took place within those three years.

Soon after graduation, I married my husband, Jim Koretchko and moved back to Beloit. During our years there, we had four children: Debbie, Steve, Mark, and Kim. In 1969, we moved to Kloten, Switzerland for Jim’s job. In 1973, we moved to Lakeland, Florida where Jim and I now reside. I worked as a Senior Community Health Nurse for the Polk County Health Dept. For 10 of my 18 years with them, I worked on a Federal Grant in the Middle and High Schools teaching Growth and Development classes and Prevention of Teen Pregnancy. In 1996, I was delighted to be awarded the Polk County Community Health Nurse of the Year. It was after that I retired from what I call ‘my real job’ and began working for the Miss USA Pageant and Miss Universe Pageant. I was the only nurse working the Miss USA Pageant and our shows were always here in the United States, most of which were telecast out of Las Vegas. This experience led to a position of becoming a part of the medical team for the Miss Universe Contest, where the women were from everywhere around the world. In preparation for the pageant, there was extensive weeks of travel, often three to five weeks to many countries: i.e. Panama, Mexico, Vietnam, Philippines, Bahamas, Brazil and in the USA, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Dural, Florida and Baton Rouge.

As Lead Nurse I held the main responsibility of checking out medical facilities in the countries we were traveling in, and determine the necessary vaccines. It also was necessary to familiarize ourselves with the various medications of the different countries. Google Translate helped me in translating them from a foreign language to English, a vital tool in my job. In addition to caring for the pageant contestants from all over the world, our medical group, which included a physician, was responsible for any medical problems of the large production crews, both TV and Pageant. Needless to say, the 13 years, I’ve been with the pageant have been the best years of my nursing career...fun, fascinating, challenging, interesting and rewarding.

PATRICIA MUNGOVAN
HERBES, ’67,
Oak Lawn, IL
Pat was born at LCMH and it has continued to be an important part of her life. After graduation, she worked part time at LCMH in the Surgical and Cardiac Intensive Care Units until her retirement in 2012. It was at LCMH that she met her husband, Dr. Oscar Herbes, who at that time was a general surgical resident, and throughout the years has continued to practice at LCMH with a very highly regarded reputation. Pat and Doctor have four children, all of whom were born at LCMH, and they also have a grandson.

Pat presently is working part time and has for the past 20 years with ENVISION UNLIMITED, a service for mentally challenged adults. Among her memories from nursing school are the fun and laughter with her classmates and frequent evenings of playing pinochle. She remembers the challenge of the ‘housemother’ who tried to keep the students in line, a full time job. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 devastating Oak Lawn Tornado, which Pat witnessed from the hospital’s sixth floor window. Unquestionably, a devastating time for the local community. One special memory that she cherishes is Ms. Lou Rill, the instructor in Fundamentals of Nursing Class. Pat description of Ms. Rill was that she was always a kind and caring person who influenced so many of her classmates.
PATRICIA LAVELLE-LEE, ’72, Lockport, IL

I entered the world through Little Company of Mary’s doors and I’ve spent my life in their service. As a teen, I was a Sunday 3N Candy Striper under the guidance of Peg Schneider. This experience and Peg’s support set me on my path to LCM Nursing School.

Oh, so many fond memories! Our class song, “White Choral Bells” still resounds loud and proud when we are able to get together. Our ‘Felix the Cat’ from A & P stayed outside my bedroom window during the Christmas break...so he wouldn’t defrost – my family and I remember. Our Cap and Pinning ceremonies still bring tears to my eyes. Though I was scheduled for fifth Floor with Ms. Chompko and Ms. Polasek, Sr. Imelda, L.C.M., choose me as the first ever new grad in the ER! What a privilege and honor to prove my new skills! Best of all: no rotations! Once you were hired for a shift, you were set.

During my early years in the ED, I achieved TNS, PNCC, ACLS, PALS, ECRN to continue my education, to best serve my patients and support my teams. My husband, Jim, and I have raised three beautiful children: two girls and a boy. I was totally committed to the Emergency Department for 30 years, until my husband retired from city service. We built our dream home and moved to Lockport. I left my home at LCMH for ten months and took a position in the Emergency Department at St. Joseph’s in Joliet, IL. It was not long before all my warm, friendly contacts that I loved so much, brought me back to LCM and the ER Fast Track.

Forty five years later, my husband, Jim, continues to support my LCMH career, which now is in LCMH Behavioral Health. I am the proud grandma of Colin (7), and Chloe (2). They reside in Los Angeles with my eldest daughter, Kate, and her husband, Scott. My son, Jimmy, is a Cook County Corrections Officer and Mary is a Board Certified Educator for Chicago Public Schools. My life has been rich in service and love. Thanks to all who have crossed my path, contributed to my career at LCMH and enriched me personally and professionally. Congratulations to all our Alumnae on their Commitment: Happy Anniversary. May your commitment and service be just as fulfilling.

PAT GROBMEIER HUDENC, ’77, Chicago, IL

Not knowing what she wanted after high school, a friend suggested Pat consider nursing because of her interest in science and anatomy. She followed that suggestion and enrolled at LCM School of Nursing and loved it from the very first day.

After graduation at the age of 19, she began her career in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where she has remained for 37 years. On her last day in the NICU, she transferred a baby weighing six hundred grams to the University of Chicago. That baby survived.

Pat remembers her nursing days as long and hard with classes, clinical assignments and then homework of care plans and drug cards. She remembers that students held parties for pediatric patients for Halloween and Christmas. Students were on the LCM float wearing their uniforms for the Evergreen Park Fourth of July parade. She has been married to her husband, Rich, for 40 years and they have two children. Their son is an aerospace engineer with Boeing and their daughter is an ecologist at Grifford Pinchot Natural Forest in Washington state. Pat is affectionately known by some as the ‘baby junkie.’ To prove she deserves that title, she baby-sits in retirement for premie twins who are graduates of the LCMH NICU.

CATHERINE REILLY MADURA, ’82, Darien, IL

Cathy chose LCM School of Nursing because it had the highest board passage rate (97%). Other nursing schools in the area could not compare to that number. After graduation, she remained at LCMH. For 34 ½ years she was in ICU and early in 2017, she transferred to the specialty IV team (Vascular Access Team) where they handle the more difficult IV starts. She also works part time at MIDC, an outpatient infusion center where she has been for the past 12 years. She received her BSN from St. Xavier University.

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THOMAS RYNNE is the nephew of Patrice “Tudie” Rynne Spinella, ’68, and son of Kathy Rynne, RN, a highly regarded and long term employee at LCMH. He is now in an accelerated BSN program at St. Xavier University after receiving his first bachelor’s degree in biological sciences from Vanderbilt University in 2013.

In November 2013, he went to work at Northwestern Memorial Hospital as a lab technologist for two years. At Northwestern, gaining so much experience as a professional helped him realize that he really wanted to be with patients rather than behind the scenes. He cannot wait to be working as a registered nurse in a few short months. Tom’s goal is to be an effective advocate for every patient entrusted to his care. His long term goal is to continue his education to become an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN).
BETHANY DEAN is the granddaughter of Mary Gartner Dean, ’46 and niece of Anne Gartner Sims, ’55. She is currently a junior in the BSN program at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. As a future nurse, she chose the field because of the passion she has for helping others who are in need. She grew up knowing she wanted to be a nurse and the influence undoubtedly came from her large family of nurses. From hearing their stories and seeing their happiness, she felt drawn to the field of medicine. As a future nurse, her career goal is becoming a Labor and Delivery nurse and working at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI. She expressed a passion for working with children and infants. In her opinion, one of the greatest moments in life is celebrating that miracle of life and being a part of it is such a privilege. Growing up, she always wanted to pay it forward and now she has that opportunity.

SHALLI ANN POOTS is the granddaughter of Joan McGuire Poots, ’56 and her great aunt, Audrey McGuire Munin, ’58, and has been accepted to begin her Nursing Associate Degree at Southwest Technical College in Fennimore, WI, in Fall 2017. She has further plans for continued education to receive her BSN. Coming from a long line of nurses, it has been her dream to become one as well. She remarked that “I have learned what it takes to become a great nurse from my grandmother, who was a nurse for over 40 years. It takes compassion, patience, caring, a big heart and a good education. I want to do something in my career that is challenging, interesting, and makes a difference in people’s lives on a daily basis. It would give me great satisfaction to invest my time in a field that is expanding and enriching people lives, especially as they face difficult times of illness.”

HALEY ROGERS is the granddaughter of Sharon Kinate Schrot, ’59, and is currently in the BSN nursing program at Millikin University in Decatur, IL. She comes from a family of various medical backgrounds, including her mother, who is a Nuclear Medicine Technologist and an aunt who is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. One of Haley’s goals is to graduate with as high a GPA as possible, and she is definitely on her way with a 3.95. After graduating, she plans on working in an Intensive Care Unit for one or two years to acquire and master the refined skills learned from schooling and her clinical experience, all of which she hopes to apply to her professional end goal of becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). She shared, “I have shadowed three different CRNAs, including my aunt, and they were all amazing experiences. I think one of the main reasons I love this option so much is because I will be staying with the same patient throughout their day. I am there before, during, and after surgery. That one patient is my priority. I aspire to be the best I can possibly be, and I know if I push myself, I have great potential.”
KRISTEN KUPCZYK SEXTON, Recipient of the 2012 LCM Scholarship Award and daughter of Elizabeth Podkowski Kupczyk, ’71. Kristen shared when asked about where life has taken her since her graduation from Lewis University, she was immediately grateful for the blessing of the scholarship and highly praised her mom for her love of nursing and research. After graduation Kristen worked at Advocate Christ Medical Center on an Adult Heart Surgical Unit where she felt she was afforded the opportunity to not only hone pivotal nursing skills and critical judgment, but was taught the core values of empathy and compassion for the human condition. In the Fall of 2015, she was approached with the prospect of interviewing for a clinical research position with SAGE PRODUCTS in the New Product Development sector. Sage Products saw the value in having an RN in an integral position for product development and education. She accepted the position and started a new chapter in her nursing career as the ICU Clinical Specialist at Sage Products for new product development. Her role at Sage is liaison, interfacing between the extremely intelligent engineering team and dedicated nurses, clinicians and physicians in hospitals across the country. She is responsible for assessing novice products in development, educating the nurses and physicians who trial them and consolidate data into best practice. Sage Products prides itself in providing “Simple Interventions with Extraordinary Outcomes” for many of healthcare’s complex issues. She comments “In my nursing role, I have traveled the country to various hospitals and have met many wonderful and passionate clinicians that like myself, strive to have a lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of patients. I am blessed with a loving husband of four years, Max, and a nine month old daughter, Gracen. Our family enjoys spending time at our small business, PAWS ON PINGREE, a dog daycare, boarding and grooming facility in Crystal Lake, IL.”

MARY PIVARUNAS, Recipient of 2010 LCM Nurse Alumni Scholarship and granddaughter of Judy Norka Jagodzinski, ’60, and Dr. Ben Jagodzinski, highly regarded LCMH OB/GYN physician. Mary shared that after graduation, with a BSN from Franciscan University in Stubenville, Ohio, she worked for two years in a surgical oncology unit and then transitioned to working as a circulator nurse in the Operating Room at Tampa General Hospital. She circulates mainly in neurosurgical cases, but also in traumas cases since Tampa General is a Level 1 Trauma Center. In 2016, she was awarded the honor of being – MAIN OPERATING ROOM NURSE OF THE YEAR. Mary is one of twelve children, and two of her sisters are becoming nurses as well. What pride for their parents, as well as grandparents, Judy and Dr. Ben. Her sister, Annie, just passed the NCLEX and is starting as a float nurse at Sisters Hospital in Buffalo, NY. Her sister, Elizabeth just finished her second year of nurses training after receiving a full scholarship from Ave Maria University, FL. Mary will be married this next September 9th to Nicholas Swartzentruber and will continue living in Tampa, FL. Mary concluded and expressed her gratitude for that ‘amazing scholarship.’
There always is a special energy in the room when classmates see one another for the first time after many years. Peg Schneider, ’62, shared the delight in guiding a 1961 graduate to her classmates. She told Peg, “This is my first time back in 30 years, I don’t know if I am going to recognize anyone or they me.” As Peg accompanied her to her classmates, there was a moment of hesitancy, then a recognition, delightfully followed by an enthusiastic welcome. Thirty years understandably bring changes, but the personal treasured memories are easy to surface and the years of separation float away, as we share with each other, where life has taken us.

The Class of 1966, under the leadership of Kathy Covert Schmidt, ’66, graciously hosted the 2016 reunion, this being their class’s 50th year anniversary celebration. We were gratified to have Father Bill Kennelly as our celebrant for the MASS OF REMEMBRANCE. His dear friend of many years, Marie McFadden Ruff, ’56 was celebrating her 60th Anniversary. The Venetian Room where the liturgy was held was filled to capacity. A representative from each of the anniversary classes offered the gifts, inclusive of the gifts of bread and wine, our LCM graduation pin, cap and yearbook and an offering of a sheaf of wheat to honor the deceased members of our classes and faculty. We are gratified each year to have our music provided by Andy Perz, pianist, and Anna Belle O’Shea, flutist. It always is an extraordinary and a welcome sight to have everyone joining in on familiar songs.

The luncheon served is always delicious. At dessert time, the program begins and it is no easy task to alert everyone’s attention. The room is buzzing with vibrant conversation at every table. Nancy Rita Means Kaz, ’62, our Board Chairperson, gave an update on all the happenings of the LCM Nurse Alumni, and the inspiring news of the scholarship awards given to LCM Alumni’s relatives. Since 2005, 54 scholarships have been awarded in the total amount of $146,000. Much gratitude to all the alumni who generously donated to make the yearly scholarships available. We were pleased that two of the 2015 LCM Nurse Alumni Scholarship Awardees could be with us: Sheridan Lynch, granddaughter of Diane Ferenzi Guastella, ’61 and Ellen Marie Browne Mundo, daughter of Pat Maloney Browne, ’61. Finally, every year, Nancy gets the chorus of cheers rousing when she asks the anniversary classes to stand and be recognized. Gratefully, every anniversary year is represented, but this year, the Class of 1961 had 17 classmates stand to be cheered and immediately after, the Class of 1966 with 16 classmates. Each Anniversary Class joyfully stood with pride.
These photos capture the
These photos capture the special time had by all.

**Class of 1951:**
**Sitting:** Lt-Rt. Patricia McKenna Allen, Mary Pat Braatz Horan, Marion Stoller Walles
**Standing:** Lt-Rt. Eileen Schwaller McGrath, Irma Trevisan Roller, Florence Paolella Stapleton, Eileen Carroll Dolehide, Mary Jane Maloney Schroeder

**Class of 1956:**
**Lt-Rt.** Laverne Strelecky Koch, Joan McGuire Poots, Judith Kudlacz Finch, Joyce Partyka Baran

**Class of 1961:**
**Sitting:** Lt-Rt. Sharon Sheridan Hann, Marian McCarthy Deardoff, Carol Juraska, Ginny Clancy Kavanaugh, Joanne Yedinak, Karen Atwell Raduenzel, Mary Ann Martin Joyce
**Standing:** Lt-Rt. Sheridan Lynch, 2016 Scholarship awardee and granddaughter of Diane Ferenzi Guastella, Sharon Hurley Laughran, Gloria Schick Kalchbrenner, Rosemary Casey Valenti, Marilyn Panoch Durcanagela, Judy Cooper O’Sullivan, Diane Bartosik Shirley, Carolyn Herbert Farrar, Stella Miziniak Wilmot, Ellen Marie Brown Mundo, 2016 Scholarship Awardee and daughter of Pat Maloney Browne

**Class of 1966:**
**Sitting:** Lt-Rt. Cheryl Ludwig Kluza, Margaret Petrik Stuadt, Susan Gruca Mazur, Denise Caneva Desanto, Joy Christine Grohar
**Middle:** Lt-Rt. Margaret Balt Blair, Catherine Malone Buckley, Kathleen Mucha Enyart, Joan Surowiec Schultz, Kathy Riordan Full, Trudy Ann Moonen Lindskog, Marrene Kurth Jenkins
**Back:** Lt-Rt. Sharon Ochota Madderom, Kathy Govert Schmidt, Janet Reed Boland, Pat Golas Webster, Kathleen Jabczynski Vilmin

**Class of 1971:**
**Sitting:** Lt-Rt. Joy Balesteri Skalka, Margaret Beyer Pepping, Marie Bennett McCann, Diane Ondriska Sosovec, Sandy Duska Vish, Karen Gaba Smith
**Standing:** Lt-Rt. Beverly Aspel O’Brien, Pat Surjan Russ, Paula Sosovec Hodkowski, Elizabeth Podkowski Kupczyk

**Class of 1976:**
**Lt-Rt.** Mary Walsh Nowicki, Virginia Lawler Russell, Lisa Barko Mencke
**Standing:** Lt-Rt. Denise McGreall Sheston, Gail Bohne Leyden, Nancy Olsen, Michelle Shine Dignan
AND THE WINNING NUMBER IS...

Cheryl Ludwig Kluza, ’66
Jack Simmerling
Sketch of LCM School of Nursing History

Kathy Covert Schmidt, ’66
Winner of the Pot of Gold

Monica Rokicki Lacny, ’72
Coach Watch

Marian McCarthy Deardorff, ’61
Waterford Vase

Kathleen Jabczynski Vilmin, ’61
Vera Bradley Travel Pillow

Denise Caneva Desanto, ’66
Carved Gourd Basket and Gift Card

Joy Balesteri Skalka, ’71
LCM School of Nursing Charm
American Girl Doll
Framed Picture of Oregon Coast

Elizabeth Berg Spannraft, ’70
Wine and Cheese Basket

Diane Bartosik Shirley, ’61
Wisconsin Cheese Basket

Lisa Barko Mencke, ’76
Gift Certificate and Murad Healthy Skin Regimen

Maryann D’Imperio, ’79
Large Vera Bradley Bag

Stella Miziniak Wiimot, ’61
Matching Brown Travel Bag, Cosmetic and Wallet

Patricia Maloney Browne, ’61
Nurse Lladro Figurine

Marilyn Malone McDonald, ’59
$100 Gift Certificate
LCM NURSE ALUMNI REUNION

LUNCHEON 2017

Call your classmates and reserve a table!

The Little Company of Mary School of Nursing Alumni Luncheon will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at the Drury Lane Oakbrook Theatre and Banquet, located in Oakbrook Terrace, IL. All alumni are invited to attend and take this opportunity to visit one another and renew friendships that have come to mean so much. We especially look forward to seeing our Anniversary Classes.

Gratitude is extended to the LCM Nurse Alumni Board of Representatives, chaired by Nancy Rita Means Kaz, ’62, for their generous willingness to host this year’s luncheon. The Mass of Remembrance will begin our gathering and it is always a beautiful experience when we can pray together in support and gratitude with and for each other.

We are delighted to have Father Dennis Spies, a priest of the Joliet diocese, as the celebrant of our liturgy this year. Father Spies, accepted the assignment by Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, to serve as a faculty member at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, to guide the spiritual formation of the Mundelein seminarians.

For the past several summers, he has taught classes to priests and seminarians at Creighton University, in Omaha, NE. However, his reputation as a charismatic preacher comes from his many years as a parish pastor, where he has been so valued and despite the change, is known as ‘parish priest at heart.’ We are grateful and privileged to have Fr. Dennis as celebrant of our Mass of Remembrance.

Musicians:
- Andy Perz: Piano
- Anna Belle O’Shea: Flute
- Peg Schneider: Cantor

Schedule:
- Mass of Remembrance: 11 a.m.
- Reception: 12 p.m.
- Luncheon: 1 p.m.

This is the eighth year to hold our luncheon at the Drury Lane Oakbrook. It has been a worthy choice because of the fine attention we receive, the excellent meal and the stable pricing. Also, another advantage is the two hotels on the Drury Lane property, Hilton Oakbrook Suites 630-941-0100 and Hilton Garden Inn 630-941-1177. The Drury Lane Theatre is available for those who would like to enjoy a taste of Broadway on the weekend.

Advanced tickets can be obtained for Rock of Ages, a musical that has received five Tony Awards. It features a mix of 28 classic 80’s hits, and a story that follows aspiring Rock Star Drew and his sweetheart, Sherri, in their struggle and efforts to save Hollywood’s Sunset Strip. Theatre and Dinner or Sunday Brunch and Theatre can be purchased by calling 630-530-0111. Delightful, never disappointing.
LCMH Perinatal Loss Committee – Support Update

The ‘Cherished Angel Garden’ is a memory garden in honor of babies who left this earth too soon. Nearly 100 family members gathered in the garden to remember their baby by name and participate in a prayerful memorial service followed by a reception hosted by the Little Company of Mary Sisters.

A CHERISHED ANGEL SUPPORT GROUP
Little Company of Mary Hospital has been known for providing to the community quality and comprehensive bereavement services for children and adults. The Heart Connection, Children’s Grief Support Group and Living When A loved One Has Died have served the community for 30 years.
On September 16, 2017, the Perinatal Loss Committee will begin a monthly bereavement support group, CHERISHED ANGEL SUPPORT GROUP, for parents who are mourning the death of their baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth and infant death. This FREE support group, to be held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon, will be led by a specialist in women’s issues, Kathryn D. Gardner, MA, LCPC.

VOLUNTEER RESOURCES/ MATERNAL CHILD HOSTED NBO Newborn Behavioral Observation Training at LCMH.
On September 20th and 21st, Ann C. Stadler, DNP, RN, CPNP, Director Outreach and Network Development from the Brazelton Touchpoints Center in Boston, MA, presented a program developed by Boston’s Children Hospital. The Brazelton Institute, and Harvard Medical School to Early Childhood Educators and Researchers, have developed a program to help parents learn about their baby’s competencies and abilities to communicate.

It was a welcomed educational program for the continued comprehensive care for our LCMH Maternal Child Services.

Physicians in the News

TOP CANCER DOCTORS
Nine physicians on staff at Little Company of Mary Hospital and Health Care Centers are named “Top Cancer Doctors” in the January 2017 issue of CHICAGO MAGAZINE. Honorees were nominated by physicians nationwide who were asked to consider such factors as clinical excellence, bedside manner, education, and board certifications.

Catholic News Service Report

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP TO AID SYRIAN REFUGEES
Dr. Bassel Atassi of Little Company of Mary Hospital, a not-for-profit Catholic Community Hospital in Evergreen Park, led 80 medical mission volunteers to offer badly needed surgeries and other medical treatments free of charge to thousands of Syrian refugees who can no longer afford basic healthcare. Dr. Atassi praised the hospital and said, “they are so appreciative of our efforts and have supported us with donated medications and other supplies needed for our mission.”
Dr. Junaid Makda joined Dr. Atassi on this mission.

Syrian refugees arrive at a camp after crossing into the Jordanian side of the northeast Jordan-Syria border near Royashed. CNS photo/Jamal Nasrallah, EPA
LCMH Physicians Remembered for Their Dedication

DR. JOSEPH GALLAGHER, OB/GYN – died January 13, 2017 and the Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at St. Germaine in Oak Lawn, where Dr. Gallagher had lived for many years with his wife and family. He is not only remembered for the hundreds of babies he delivered at LCMH, but also for being a magnificent musician. He was a special member of the DOCTORS’ BAND in the ‘60s, playing his saxophone and an amazing oboe musician. He always said YES to every opportunity to share his gift of music. For many years, he graced the LCM Nurse Alumni Reunion Mass of Remembrance with this generous talent.

DR. JOHN BARON, INTERNIST/ONCOLOGIST/VICE PRESIDENT OF LCM MEDICAL STAFF – died March 16, 2017 and the Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at St. Alexander in Palos Heights. Dr. Baron partnered early in his practice with Dr. John O’Neil, and he was saddened by his partner’s early death. He furthered his education, not only as a lawyer, but continuing education in Oncology. In his final years before retirement, LCMH was blessed by his gifts as he joined the administration as Vice President of Medical Affairs and as a member of the Hospital Board of Directors.

DR. ROBERT F. DRESSEL, FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN – married for 66 years to one of our LCM Nurses, BERNARDINE MALONEY DRESSEL, ’48. He died on June 26th and the wake and Mass of Resurrection were at St. Bernadette in Evergreen Park. His prayer card says it all and is a poignant reminder of our healthcare mission and gift. “I’ve followed the healers path God laid out for me. The fulfillment of which I am compensated now; for the serviceable and full life that time would allow, with my family, colleagues and friends supporting along the way. I will go home content to see; the One who instilled a worthwhile life for me. From my patients and family that He will grasp how much I’ve cared and prayed for in the past. For my family and patients that God will know how much I will pray and care for tomorrow.”

DR. FRANK HOWARD, ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON – a remembered surgeon at LCMH in the ’60s and ’70s, we have learned a Memorial Mass was celebrated for him at Our Lady of the Woods Parish in Palos Park in June 2017 by Bishop John Gorman. There are many memories of Dr. Howard’s fine skills, but in particular, the amazing gift of friendship to Monsignor Tom Obrycki, a young priest rendered a quadrilegic in a car accident. Dr. Howard’s encouragement that a surgery could allow Monsignor hand function gave him back an independence, which included being able to offer Mass daily in the LCM hospital chapel. Another gift that has blessed LCMH was the contact made by Mother Dunstan, L.C.M., to Fr. Tom, that he had an invitation to a home and care at LCMH for the rest of his life. LUCILLE OBRYCKI FARRELL, ’42, was Monsignor Tom’s sister and an LCM graduate as well, celebrating her 75th Anniversary this year.

LCMH Crystal Heart Ball Award Dinner – February 4, 2017

The 2017 Venerable Mary Potter Humanitarian Award was presented to a courageous couple, Ed and Amy McNicholas – founders of the Live Like John Foundation. In 2010, their son, John, at 15 years of age, was diagnosed with a brain tumor and died on January 7, 2011. Ed and Amy’s mission is to work toward advancements in both the care and treatment of pediatric brain tumor patients by facilitating coordination of information between patients and providers, improving the quality of life for patients, funding, specifically targeted pediatric brain tumor research and treatment options to achieve their ultimate goal – the eradication of pediatric brain tumors.

The 2017 Sister Nancy Boyle Award for Excellence was presented to Father Charles Rubey, a Chicago priest, who in 1979, founded a Chicago Catholic Charities Program, LOSS: Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide, after working with families who had gone through grieving the loss of a child from suicide. Countless families have been helped by LOSS that offers a safe, non-judgement environment where survivors can openly talk about feelings and experiences. There are programs throughout the city and suburbs for both children and adults and a quality professional staff working with Fr. Rubey to companion families to a measure of healing.

AARP in your Community: Chicago

For ten years, Patricia Morley, a Little Company of Mary Hospital employee, has walked on Mother’s Day through the historic tree-lined streets of the Beverly neighborhood on Chicago’s far southwest side, past houses decorated in pink and the residents who come out to cheer and offer lemonade. Along with other breast cancer survivors, Morley, who has twice survived the disease, stops at some point on the three-mile route to get a sash or crown during the annual Beverly Cancer Walk, the largest in the Chicago area with more than 14,000 participants. It’s a chance for her to connect with other women, share hugs and remember people who died from a disease that affects 1 in 8 American women, according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The Beverly Breast Cancer Walk, which started in 2000, has raised more than five million dollars for diagnosis and treatment at Little Company of Mary Hospital.
Alumni We’ve Heard About and From...

Agnes Radtke Germak, ’42, Evergreen Park, IL. On August 15, 2016, Agnes wrote, “I wish to thank you for the article you had written in the LCMH Alumni Newsletter. You wrote everything in exactly the way I said it. In fact, I felt like I heard myself talking! Thank you for all the effort you put into writing the article.” This was Agnes’s 75th Anniversary as a graduate of our LCM School of Nursing and she was unable to be with us. On September 30th she wrote, “Yesterday, I received a lovely surprise – a basket of flowers from the LCM Alumni, they are so beautiful and I do appreciate them and thank you for remembering me.”

Maureen Barrett Chambers, ’51, Palatine, IL. I love receiving the beautiful newsletter – with all my lovely classmates pictures. I want them to know I pray for them daily. My husband passed onto heaven August 20, 2015 after twenty five years with Parkinson’s. I am now spending time flying around the country visiting my six children and all my grandchildren and loving it. I am now retired. My first job was at St. Anne’s Hospital as a Maternity Supervisor and my final job was working in the Cardiac Cath Laboratory, North West Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, IL.

Mary Roller Parry, ’51, Rockford, IL. Irene Trevisan Roller, ’51, wrote that her classmate, friend and sister-in-law, Mary Roller Parry, ’51, passed away on February 26, 2016. She shared that Mary and her husband, Ed, raised five children and provided a warm, nurturing and temporary home to twenty six foster children.

Eileen Schwaller McGrath, ’51, Tinley Park, IL. My education at LCMH has been a tremendous benefit to me, my family and friends and still helping. My faith was strengthened to see Christ in all our patients/clients.

Mary Roller Parry, ’51, Rockford, IL. Irene Trevisan Roller, ’51, wrote that her classmate, friend and sister-in-law, Mary Roller Parry, ’51, passed away on February 26, 2016. She shared that Mary and her husband, Ed, raised five children and provided a warm, nurturing and temporary home to twenty six foster children.

Dolores Schmidt Lomasney, ’53, Mokena, IL. A classmate shared the obituary article of Dolores who died on February 8, 2017. She was the loving mother of five children, proud grandmother of twelve grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Her husband Ken and two grandchildren, Colleen and Michaela, each preceded her in death. Dolores was so highly regarded as a wonderful head nurse on 3 North at LCMH, but she also worked many years as a nursing supervisor at Oak Forest Hospital. Dolores had a beautiful spirit and was so faithful to her classmates and so often attended the Annual Nurse Alumni Reunions.

Patt Reidy Stapleton, ’54, Crestwood, IL. Many thanks to all the alumni who work on the Alumni Link, Alumni Association and the Scholarship Fund. I enjoy the “Link” ever so much. My husband Steve and I celebrated 60 years of marriage on September 8, 2016 with our five children, their spouses and thirteen grandchildren. Our daughter, Sue Maple, RN, BSN, is in her 37th year of employment at LCMH.

Joan Quinn Shannon, ’55, Surprise, AZ. A special thank you to my classmates who were so generous and sent prayers for my grandson who has been diagnosed with cancer (SNUC). He is still in treatment but doing well. Jane Clark Peck ’55 is his ‘grannie’ too. We are both so grateful to our LCM ‘girls’.

Dolores Hamlin Randall, ’55, Oak Harbor, WA. I will miss the reunion. My husband will be celebrating his 65th anniversary from high school on Oct. 1st in Mountain View, CA. My deepest thanks to all the people who work on the newsletter and arrange the details of the luncheon. It is wonderful to receive the Alumni Link and hear about all the nurses and the other news. As we get older, traveling is more difficult, but we hope to attend a few more luncheons. The Alumni Link brings back all my great memories of LCMH.

continued on page 19...
Alumni We’ve Heard About and From…

Judy Tubbs Johnson, ’62, Valparaiso, IN

Nancy Rita Means Kaz, ’62 and Pat Sheehan Foster, ’62, attended the February 2017 funeral in Judy’s home parish church. They shared what a privilege it was to celebrate the life of this gentle, warm and beautiful woman and the eulogy her son, Mark, gave to his mother brought tears to everyone’s eyes.

Josie Ebner Kampner, ’62, Evergreen Park, IL

Following graduation from LCMH, Josie did not move far away with her husband and children, but remained a long time resident of Evergreen Park. With great courage and optimism, she battled cancer on and off for many years following her initial diagnosis. One of her nursing positions was a surgical nurse at Mercy Hospital’s Outpatient Services in Hickory Hills, IL. Her classmate and friend, Barb Sefsik Mulchrone, ’62, shared that she died peacefully at Elmhurst Hospital.

Christine Dubiel Lovero, ’62, Bolingbrook, IL

Kathy Warren, ’62 and Pat Sheehan Foster, ’62, attended the Mass of Resurrection for Chris, where her husband is a Deacon for the Diocese of Joliet. Due to illness, it has been awhile since Chris was able to join her classmates at the reunion, but the memories of how much fun she was will always be cherished.

Sister Renee Cunningham, L.C.M., ’71, Jasper, IN

When you are called to serve in ministry for 40 years, you become well known and loved by those people whose lives you have touched. Sister Renee celebrated her 50th Jubilee as a Little Company of Mary Sister at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph Parish, in Jasper, IN. The church was filled to capacity with LCM Sisters, family, friends, hospital employees and administration and the many parishioners she has cared for as a beloved Hospice RN.

After graduating from our School of Nursing, Sr. Renee went onto prepare herself academically for the many challenges ahead of her in her nursing career and ministry. After she graduated from the LCM Diploma Program, she went on to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing from the University of Evansville, followed by a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University in New Orleans. With this amazing education, she has contributed to so many aspects of healthcare. Beginning as a staff nurse, the world of responsibility and capability opened up to her, as well as becoming a gift to LCMH. She soon was responsible as a supervisor, palliative care nurse, secretary of Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center’s Board of Directors, Chair of the Hospital’s Mission Committee, a member of the Finance and Ethics Committee, parish nurse and an amazing hospice nurse, who traveled in her van to her patients’ homes in the company of her precious dog, Isabel.

Over all these many years of service, she has brought, not only her professional skills, but an open and discerning heart, so generous to all the lives she touches with comfort, joy and peace.

Our wish for Sister Renee is that she is the recipient in her life of all those same gifts she so generously offers in the name of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary and their healthcare mission.

Mary Ann "Sissy" Houlihan McManus, ’68

by Peg Schneider, ’62

There comes a time in each of our lives, ‘Eternity,’ I believe, when we are called to ‘make an account’ of our life. Did we generously serve others with the gifts we were given, not for just our own delight, but to share with others? Then perhaps, the question: **How did we make a difference in this world?** Personally, I would have liked to have been an ‘Angel on a Cloud’ when Mary Ann came to that moment. My guess is that she would have been very humble, and said, “**Well God, I did my best.**” Those of us who knew her, loved her, and were so often filled with inspiration and admiration of her beautiful ways would have said, “**God, we can answer that question. Sissy McManus, we knew her well, yes, she was the best and shared her all with the abundance she was given.**” She may dismiss the impact that her life had on her family, legion of friends, neighbors, faithful classmates, and the many cherished children she nursed to health or comforted in their sorrow after the death of their loved one, but the deepest answer to that question and without a moment hesitation would be, “**Mary Ann, was not just called Sissy, her name was ‘LOVE’ to all of us.**”

Born in 1947 to DR. JAMES HOULIHAN, a long time and highly regarded family practice physician at LCMH, and DR. LORRAINE HOULIHAN, a practicing pediatric physician, until their wonderful family expanded to six children. Their love gave life and meaning to an extraordinary woman. One could easily say her parent’s influence destined Mary Ann to a blossoming healthcare career. Her husband, JIM McMANUS, an educator by profession, enjoyed telling how they met at a party he was giving at his home in Clarendon Hills. He invited his cousin to attend the party, and she brought along her friend, Mary Ann. Well, as the saying goes, **LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.** They were married 41 years, and the sacred joy of their life was their precious daughter, KRISTEN, who in countless ways has made them so proud. Kristen graduated from Colorado State University at Fort Collins, CO, with a Masters in Music, and since that time has gone on to bring her gift of music to children all across the city. At her mother’s prompting, the greatest gift to the HEART CONNECTION, the LCM Children’s Grief Support Program founded in 1995, was the amazing way Kristen could help the children in any age group find meaningful sharing for the deep heartache and grief they were experiencing at the death of their loved one. The lyrics written to familiar songs came from the children’s expression of their love and loss of their cherished loved one.

Mary Ann, a facilitator in Heart Connection for over 15 years, always led the very youngest group of grieving children (four - six years old) with her partner, Rosemary McGinty. Rosemary, when asked about the difference Mary Ann had made in the lives of these children, affirmed Mary Ann’s unique presence and care. “**Children were drawn to her, and each child’s story was important, and it was not unusual to see a child sitting in her lap because they were so sad and in need of comforting. At the end of each Heart Connection night, Mary Ann would get on the floor with the children and roll a ball of yarn to one of the children and make a personal wish for the child’s coming week. That wish often referred to something the child personally shared in the group, maybe a struggle. She then invited that child to do the same and send the yarn to another child, offering a wish, until each child had not only received a wish but had an opportunity to offer a wish. At the conclusion of this exercise, the children with Mary Ann and Rosemary, had a beautiful yarn web representing how connected and supported they were of and to each other until they met again the next week.”** If there was a picture that best depicts The Heart Connection, it would be a picture of Mary Ann and the hearts she helped to heal with her partner, Rosemary.

Mary Ann’s nursing career was devoted to children and her last position was as a school nurse at Incarnation Catholic School in Palos Heights. Not only attending to the daily nursing needs of the grammar school children, she also led the RAINBOWS Children’s Grief Support for children who were experiencing a widowed or divorced parent, each with its grief heartache. The reoccurrence of Mary Ann’s cancer, which had metastasized from her original breast cancer, created a real void in this school community. **continued on page 21...**
The children wrote notes of love and support and how deeply they missed her. As a tribute to her years and the gift of her caring presence, a plaque was created in her honor and is now in a garden of the school.

Lifetime friendships are always a treasure. Mary Ann unconditionally offered this gift and received full measure the privileged friendship of so many. Two very special friends and classmates from LCM, Michele Foertsch O’Donnell, ’62, and Barb Lucas Winstofer, ’62, each a friend for more than 50 years, shared their touching memories. Michele lived just a few blocks away and smiled as she shared the memory of the neighborhood walks with her husband, Tom, and their dog, Guinness. Mary Ann also had her routine morning walk, and the minute Guinness saw her, he bolted to greet her. How instinctively he knew he had a friend. Michele remarked, “Her strength and character was never more evident than with grace, dignity and peace she accepted her illness, never complaining or asking, ‘Why Me?’” Barb worked with Michele in Pediatrics at LCM and knew right from the beginning, “She loved being a nurse and was so dedicated to her ‘little patients.’” They had the joy of being bridesmaids in each other’s weddings and their daughters, being the same age, so many opportunities to share their life joys and on occasion challenges. The true meaning and gift of friendship was to be always there, and they were there for each other through thick and thin.

This powerful quote of Maya Angelou, which was on Mary Ann’s funeral booklet, says so much of who she was for all of us.

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

And I would say for all of us who knew her and loved her – we remember it all, what she said, what she did, and unquestionably, how she made us feel. She will never be forgotten. At the Communion Meditation, Kristen, with inspiring courage offered a beautiful tribute to her mom, by singing a duet with a dear friend from the Broadway Show, Wicked, with the touching lyrics, Because I knew you, because I knew you, because I knew you, i have been changed.

Because we had the privilege to know and love Mary Ann ‘Sissy’ McManus, ’62, We too, have been changed!

Little Company of Mary Hospital Nurse Honored as “Pinnacle Leader” at 2016 Power of Nursing Leadership Event

On Friday, November 4th, Michelle Shine Dignan, ’76, was honored as Little Company of Mary’s Pinnacle Nurse Leader at the 19th Annual University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Power of Nursing Leadership Event. A pinnacle leader is defined as an extraordinary nurse leader selected by his or her organization for their outstanding service in nursing and for making positive, lasting changes in their profession while serving as a mentor for colleague nurses. What began in 1998 as a gathering of highly influential nurse leaders in Illinois, the UIC Power of Nursing Leadership Event is now the premier gathering of the most innovative nurse leaders from academia, health systems, government and businesses in Illinois.

Lisa DiMarco, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, Vice President Patient Care Services/CNO at LCMH, said: “Michelle is truly an exceptional leader who always leads by example in all she does for our patients, her staff and the community at large, and we are so proud to have such an extraordinary leader as Michelle as a part of our LCMH Family.”

Michelle graduated from the LCMH School of Nursing in 1976, and immediately began her role as a Labor and Delivery/Postpartum Staff Nurse at LCMH. In 1993, she earned from Loyola University, a Masters in Nursing (MSN), as a Perinatal Clinical Specialist, where she served in this role at LCMH until 2000. Since she totally believed that nursing offers a large window of opportunity, she moved forward and received her Masters in Business Administration (MBA) and then became the Obstetrical Clinical Nurse Specialist and Business Manager for the Family Birth Center. Personally, she said, “Maternal/fetal medicine was always what appealed the most to me. I feel absolutely privileged and blessed to be able to walk alongside someone during what is such a profound time in one’s life.” In response to this great leadership honor, Michelle said, “I am filled with gratitude and I am completely humbled to be chosen as a 2016 Pinnacle Nurse Leader. I feel truly blessed to be able to play a role in shaping the future of nursing and to mentor future nurses along their journey.”
The Board welcomes with delight...

Diane Ferenzi Guastella, ’61

The Board would like to express our deepest gratitude...

Rosella Nibaur Walters, ’57

for her wisdom leadership as chairperson of the LCM Nurse Alumni Scholarship Committee.

The Board welcomes with delight...

Diane Ferenzi Guastella, ’61

The Mission of our LCM Nurse Alumni Association is Three Fold:

1. To continue to nurture the traditions and philosophies of Little Company of Mary Nurse Alumni Association.

2. To promote the unity, loyalty, spiritual well-being, and socialization of the graduates of the Little Company of Mary School of Nursing.

3. To encourage the support of nursing education through providing nursing scholarships.

The LCM Nurse Alumni Board of Representatives consists of 14 members, and they meet quarterly at the hospital.

Members:

Nancy Rita Means Kaz, ’62, Chairperson
Betty Fehrenbacher Tuscher, ’58, Treasurer
Mary Alice Cullina, ’72; Joan Storek DesLauriers, ’72; Michelle Shine Dignan, ’76; Elise Mower Farrell, ’70; Patricia Sheehan Foster, ’62; Diana Ferenzi Guastella, ’61; Marianne Whalen Heinzil, ’67; Sr. Margaret Christina Hoban, L.C.M., ’61; Ginny Clancy Kavanaugh, ’61; Nancy Olsen, ’76; Peg Schneider, ’62; Kathy Warren, ’62

The Board of Representatives mourns the death of our amazing LCM Nurse Alumni Secretary, Cindy Prepura who died after a reoccurrence of cancer. She and her husband, Jeff (lead electrical engineer) both long term employees, met here at LCM. They have one son, Joey who is 13 years old. We remember her with deep gratitude for her generous and caring ways and know God received her with blessings for her goodness.

In attendance for the Spring Nurse Alumni Board meeting were Michelle Shine Dignan, Mary Alice Cullina, Ginny Clancy Kavanaugh, Betty Fehrenbacher Tuscher, Diana Ferenzi Guastella, Kathy Warren, Patricia Sheehan Foster, Marianne Whalen Heinzil, Elise Mower Farrell, Peg Schneider, Nancy Olsen, Nancy Rita Means Kaz.

Not pictured: Sr. Margaret Christina Hoban, L.C.M., and Joan Storek DesLauriers
**LOST ALUMNI**

Lost Alumni: We are always eager to find our lost alumni – the LCMH website has been invaluable. If you meet classmates who have been out of touch with the LCM Nurse Alumni Association, please encourage them and invite them to call our LCM Nurse Alumni secretary, at 708-229-5067 or visit our website:

**LCMH.org/NursingAlumni**

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**CURRENT ALUMNI STATISTICS**

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**OUR LCM NURSE ALUMNI – ALWAYS REMEMBERED**

Each year in our Little Company of Mary Hospital Chapel, on the 1st Tuesday of May at 3:30 p.m., a Mass is offered with the intention of remembering all of our deceased LCM Nurse Alumni and Classmates.

“The ones we love and lose are no longer where they were before, now, they are wherever we are.” St. John Chrysostom

It is the gift of our faith that gives us comfort and this expression so clearly reminds us that our deceased classmates will always be carried in our hearts and our deepest memories.

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord.*

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**THE LCMH SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATE WEBSITE**

Find us on the web.

The website can be accessed in one of two ways:

1. Directly enter . . .
   www.LCMH.org/NursingAlumni or

2. Visit the Hospital website . . . www.LCMH.org:
   a. Click on the “Foundation” menu
   b. Choose the “Nursing School Alumni” option
We Want to Hear From You!

Please contact us so we can stay in touch with you. Annual dues for 2017 are $20. Please mail as soon as possible. For those attending the October 7th Alumni Reunion Luncheon, dues will be accepted with registration or at time of luncheon. We count on your generosity to continue production of “AlumniLink,” and to keep our association viable. Please notify us of a change of your address and any of your classmates.

PLEASE PRINT
Name: ____________________________ Maiden Name: ____________________________ Class: ____________
Street Address: ____________________________ City: ____________________________ State: ____________________________ ZIP: ____________
Email: ____________________________
News or Comments: We love hearing from you!

Please return your valuable news, comments and dues to:
Little Company of Mary Nurse Alumni Association, 2800 W. 95th Street, Evergreen Park, IL 60805

AlumniLink is an annual publication of the Little Company of Mary Alumni Nurses Association. Please notify us if your address has changed.

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