Alumni In The News . . .

Roseann McCarthy Keller, '68

AlumniLink features in this issue Roseann McCarthy Keller, '68, an alumna who has spent most of her health care career at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park.

As one of ten children of Ann and Michael McCarthy, it is not hard to understand how she developed early in her life a responsible and caring nature.

The McCarthy family, long time residents of Hyde Park, were well known parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle, a parish known for its cultural and racial diversity. The setting was perfect for her influence and upbringing. Roseann describes her mother as a very expansive and nurturing woman who always provided for the stranger or person in need, and found a way to share, despite her family’s own limited resources. Such an example did not go unnoticed, and has been carried on through her children, some of whom have chosen careers of public service in social work, education, law enforcement and Roseann, as an R.N., Chaplain and Health Care Ethics Specialist.

In preparing this interview, Roseann expressed the great gratitude she felt for her many years as a member of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, and, although no longer a formal member of the Community, she feels forever indebted to the Sisters for imparting, and allowing her to share in, living the vision and charism of their Foundress Venerable Mary Potter. Her educational, cultural and spiritual opportunities have deepened her love, respect and desire to participate in the Sisters’ health care mission. Her family life and early vocation choice has allowed her to make a significant contribution.

Roseann graduated in 1968 with 38 classmates. Her leadership ability was quickly recognized and she was appointed Head Nurse of the 5th Floor, a large surgical unit. Seeking to enhance her clinical skills, in addition to returning to her first love, bedside care, she transferred to the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. Roseann commented this was the perfect challenge, not only did she have the opportunity to personally care for the seriously ill, but also was in a position to teach patients, their families and the staff about post-operative care.

In 1974, the LCM Sisters were invited to staff Calvary Hospital in the South Bronx, New York, a ministry to the terminally ill and indigent patient. This was a very important assignment in Roseann’s career. Not only did she have an opportunity to care for the impoverished, a sensitivity she learned in her own home, but to offer dignity to those dying, which was since its beginnings, the hallmark of the Little Company of Mary Sisters.

Calvary was a home to those who were, for a variety of reasons, either abandoned or estranged from family. Some of the patients at one time were successful and famous people, whose circumstances, within or outside their control, propelled them to a state of poverty.

Roseann shared that it was a joy to be a part of the staff at Calvary. Great attempts were made to bring enjoyment and richness to their final days - special delights were the cocktail parties or trips to the theatre or circus. But most meaningful were the compassionate care, comfort and companionship.

Leaving Calvary Hospital after her four year assignment, Roseann returned to Chicago for further education. She received a Masters Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University of Chicago and a career opportunity to continue her care for the terminally ill as a Hospice Chaplain and member of the Pastoral Care team at Little Company in Evergreen Park, IL.

In 1984, after assuming the position of Assistant Director of Pastoral Care for two years, she was promoted to Director of Pastoral Care, a responsibility she holds to this day. One of Roseann’s Chaplain staff described her as a natural leader - gifted with high energy, enthusiasm and a creative and innovative nature that is willing to take risks.

continued on page 2
Roseann McCarthy Keller (continued from page 1)

Perhaps the most expansive and timely contribution she has made thus far is in the area of health care ethics.

In 1988, at the direction of Sister Kathleen McIntyre, LCM, current President, Roseann organized the first ethics committee at the Hospital; she interviewed and participated in the selection of not only the committee membership, but also the consulting Ethicist. Her flower­ing interest in the field of ethics and the complexity of the medical issues and circumstances led her to graduate studies at Georgetown University and a Certificate in Intensive Health Care Ethics from Rush University.

Marie McFadden Ruff, R.N., '56, V.P. of Patient Care Services at Little Company in Evergreen Park, has seen Roseann's leadership ability as Chair of the Ethics Committee and so remarked, "I have a great deal of respect for her. She has helped us to find a better understanding of the ethical dilemmas and also how these issues touch all of our lives in different ways."

The critical and sometimes futile medical prognosis for patients in the intensive care units often is the occasion for the nursing staff to seek ethical consultation in order to adequately assist families in making informed, but very emotionally difficult decisions. Eileen Eber Sullivan, R.N., '84, a seasoned nurse in Medical Intensive Care, told us that Roseann is an invaluable resource to the units with her nursing background and ethics specialty. Eileen commented, "Families are often distraught and sometimes not in agreement as to the decision of what is in the best interest of their loved one. Sometimes the patient has made his or her wishes quite clear by completing Advanced Directives (Living Will/Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care), but not always, and in crisis the burden of the decision is placed on the family to think in the patient's best interest and when you have a large family, or when there is a difference of opinion, the conflict that ensues only complicates an already painful reality."

Roseann remarked, "When I receive a call from ICU or a nursing unit, I want to do my homework. I feel families need to be served in the best possible way. Coming from a large family myself, I can well understand a family struggling to make a united decision. It is a process for them and for me. I always try and gather as much information as possible before I meet with the family. I review the medical record and speak to the nursing staff and physicians on the case. Only then do I feel ready to have a family case conference. When the multidisciplinary team can all be present at the conference it makes a great deal of difference in the outcome.

As a part of broadening ethics education within the Hospital community, Roseann with a team coordinates a bi-monthly multidisciplinary Ethics Forum. The topics are vital to our interest and the exchange dynamic - a perfect climate to address the deeper values facing us in life today.

A turning point for Roseann, 1995 is marked in her calendar of life as a year she will long remember and cherish. On July 1st, a sunny day, a radiant bride-to-be walked down the aisle at St. Linus Church, Oak Lawn, IL accompanied by her sisters and brothers, to exchange her wedding vows with Larry Keller, a friend of many years.

Returning from her honeymoon, she delightfully received word that in September at the Regional Convention of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains she would receive the 1995 Service Award for Illinois Chaplain of the Year, an acknowledgement by her peers of the significant contribution she has made to the Association and to health care.

It is 25 years since Rosie, as known to so many of us, began her nursing career. Her strong commitment and generosity to use her education and talents for the betterment and quality of life to those served in the health care community at Little Company of Mary Hospital, is a sterling example of the difference a Little Company nurse can make.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

The Anniversary Class of 1956 will be the hosts for this year's Alumni Dinner on Friday, April 19th at the Oak Lawn Hilton.

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Mass celebrated by Fr. Bill Kenneally, Pastor of St. Gertrude's Parish in Chicago. Liturgical music will be provided by Andy Perz, pianist, and Annabelle O'Shea, flutist. It is an opportunity to come together to remember in prayer all of our classmates - living and deceased and their families.

A WONDERFUL AND FULL EVENING IS PLANNED.
1995 Annual Alumni Dinner

Our 1995 Annual Alumni Dinner was a great success and so enjoyable. Prior to our dinner and festivities, we were thrilled that over 100 alumni gathered for Mass in the Lincoln Room. Father Bob Verstynen, a long time friend of the Class of 1955 (hosts of the evening), was the celebrant. The setting was beautiful and having the Mass at the Hilton made it possible for many more alumni to attend prior to the dinner.

Always an added bonus of the evening is our raffle and the anticipation of announcing the winners. Last year the KIWI International Airline trip was won by Janet Ryan McTighue, '70. Sr. Joseph Casey, LCM, '52 was the happy recipient of the weekend trip to Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale, IL. We congratulate the winners and hope they enjoyed their prizes. Sister Nancy Boyle, LCM, '55, was responsible for making the contacts to obtain these exceptional prizes. We encourage you to come and be a winner in April; if you don't win the prize, you will still have the delight of a great evening.

Our gratitude to the Class of 1955 who coordinated and planned in such a way that the centerpieces, decorations, favors and menu selection added so much to the dinner and evening program. All the Anniversary Classes were represented and in total 225 Alumni were present for this "hearty party." We salute the committee of Maureen McAuliffe, Sister Nancy Boyle, LCM, Joan Barowsky, Helen Brett, Hedie Alt, Violet Dwyer, Carol Foyer, Barbara Higgins, Florence Lundy, Ann Mate, Mary Mazzocco, Susanne McGrath, Patricia Mullaney, Mary Ann Nicola and Ann Sims. A very special recognition goes to Ann Mate who above all the hilarity and sharing was able to gain our attention for the program. She was a wonderful Mistress of Ceremony. Call your classmates and plan to get together for our annual gathering.

continued on page 4
Class Notes - Alumni Heard From

1930s

Marguerite Zins Cain, '37
Writes from Red Wing, Minnesota, that she recently had her 80th birthday and thanks God she has been blessed with good health and many other things.

Helen Dennehy Powers, '39
Wrote from Las Vegas, Nevada, a delightful letter summarizing her many years since leaving Little Company. “I went to work on Union Pacific Railroad as an R.N. Stewardess and it was a nice job traveling from Omaha to San Francisco. When December 7, 1941 came around, most of us joined the service. I joined the Navy Nurse Corps and went from Great Lakes to San Diego. I married a California man who had to salute me, as he was only a Corporal(!) - and I an officer. I raised four children and they are all college graduates - including a teacher, R.N. and an actor. I was away from nursing for quite some time and when I moved to Las Vegas, I became a head nurse in the emergency room and was there until 1983. My last nursing experience was as an office R.N. when I was 75 years old. Presently I’m visually impaired and had some surgeries for degenerative arthritis. I’d love a list of my classmates of ’39.”

1940s

June Sweeney Clapsaddle, ’41
Being a classmate of Mary Cannon, the feature about her career was especially exciting to me. Thank you for publishing it. The story about Sister Michael sure brought back many memories. I wouldn’t trade my three years at Little Company for anything. I retired from Orlando Regional Medical Center 12 years ago. I worked there 20 years in administration and P.C.C. I keep in touch with Lu Farrell and would love to hear from anyone from our ’41 class. You can write me at: 1367 Pacific Ct., Deltona, Florida 32725, or call (407) 574-7232.

Diana Jurkovich Poundstone, ’44
Thank you for the newsletter. I am proud to be an alumni of the best school of nursing. I send a heartfelt thank you to my wonderful classmates who have been my friends for over 50 years and have supported me through many trials. The latest was a bout with breast cancer. Mary Cannon was my idol and I enjoyed the story of her fabulous career. Monsignor Tom Obrycki was a dear friend and an inspiration.

Margaret Mullee Burns, ’40
Margaret (Peg) is full of enthusiasm and enjoys making baby clothes for unwed mothers.

THE SEARCH CONTINUES...

We would be grateful to anyone that can help us locate:

Marilyn Jordan Hickey, ’54
Marilyn designed our distinctive nursing cap and is living somewhere near Woodland, California. Contact AlumniLink if you can help us. We trust some Classmate or Alumni knows her whereabouts.

Thank you!
Eileen McMullan Grady, ’42
Eileen is a retired county public health nurse. She formed and directs “Illinois Nurses for Life.” In addition to volunteering for Pro-Life activities, she enjoys her children and twenty special grandchildren.

Annabelle Malone Mayer, ’42
Annabelle retired from Little Company’s Nursery in 1986. She belongs to Illinois Nurses for Life and is a Eucharistic Minister at St. Linus. Her husband, Basil, passed away in February of 1995 after a long illness. Annabelle was his devoted caregiver.

Betty Ewers Wetzel, ’46
Betty is chairman of Pro-Life in her parish. She volunteers and counsels expectant unwed girls in the Courage Program. She also assists the charitable works that are done at the Port Shelter at 51st and Ashland Ave. by gathering clothes and gifts.

1960s

Sister Mary Jane Feil, LCM, ’63
Sister has retired from active nursing. She also volunteers at the Port, also, and works in the soup kitchen and does some home visiting. She is touched by the many poor and lonely people she meets. She is doing the work that the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary did when they first came to America.

2nd Annual Ladies Golf Outing

A fun time was had by all 35 golfers at our 2nd Annual Ladies Golf Outing on June 13th at Green Gardens Course in Frankfort, Illinois. It was a magnificent day. Low Gross Team for the day was Pat Harmening, ’60, and her partner Edna Joslyn. Low Net #1 Team this year was Pat Supple, ’47, and her partner Gerre Klementzos; #2 was Mary Fitzgerald, ’48, and her daughter, Pat Draguesku; #3 was Marilyn Lipuma, ’56, and Barb Connors, ’58; #4 was Terry Coakley, ’70, and Mary Gorman. All enjoyed receiving cash prizes, as did Barb Connors for longest drive and Bern Dressel, ’48, for closest to the pin.

Our 3rd Outing is on the books for June 10, 1996 (second Monday of the month). We love to see our numbers grow every year. Consider this fun opportunity and MARK YOUR CALENDAR.
Our deepest condolences are to the family of Judy Quaid, and her classmates on her very recent death. She was a very special person and will be greatly missed.

Standing Left to Right: Gerry Urycki, '48, Jayne Morris, '46, Bernadine Dressel, '48, Sally Shannon, '48
Seated Left to Right: Jean Walsh, '48, Mary Jane Meyer, '48

Standing Left to Right: Emily Fields, '51, Joan Dubrick, '51, Pat Allen, '51, Mary Jane Schroeder, '51
Seated Left to Right: Lorraine Humphrey, '51, Marlon Walles, '51, Joan Rigg, '51, Pat Horan, '51

Standing Left to Right: Annette Hughes, '61, Stella Wilmot, '61
Seated Left to Right: Carol Juraska, '61, Pat Browne, '61, Eleanor Deluca, '61

Standing Left to Right: Loretta Cook, '41, Florence Zimmerman Styx, '43, Ethel Misuraca, '42

Standing Left to Right: Dorothy Augustyniak, '57, Mary Herlihy, '57, Marge Savage, '58
Seated Left to Right: Diana Krawczyk, '57, Barb Connors, '57, Felicia Lachat, '57, Barb Bertucci, '57, Kay Swift, '58
Golf Outing (continued from page 5)

Mary Fitzgerald, '48, Honor Green, Bernadine Dressel, '48, and Peg Draguesku

Luncheon enjoyed by all.

Marilyn Lipuma, '56 and Barb Connors, '58

Marge Savage, '58, Sr. Margaret Christina Hoben, '60 and Diana Krawczyk, '58

We Want To Hear From You

Please contact us, so we can stay in touch with you. Annual dues for 1996 are $10. Please mail as soon as possible. Dues will be accepted at the April Alumni Reunion Dinner. We count on your generosity to continue production of AlumniLink, and to keep our association viable.

Gratefully,
The Nurse Alumni Board of Representatives

PLEASE PRINT

Name: __________________________ Maiden Name: __________________________ Class: ______________

Street Address: __________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________ ZIP: __________

News or Comments: __________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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 a bi-yearly publication of the Little Company of Mary Nurses Association. It is published in the Fall and Spring. Please notify us if your address has changed.

Leadership: Little Company of Mary Nurses Alumni Board of Representatives
Logo Design: Mark Scott, artist and teacher
Newsletter Committee:
Peg Schneider, Chairperson, ’62; Carol Andrews, ’60; Sara Flaherty, ’60; Lois Stout, ’44; Joan Klein, ’59; Christine Palucki, Little Company Marketing Specialist

Diane Guastella, ’61 and Sharon Hann, ’61