

I am deeply honored to receive this award from Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School. As a young Sister of Mercy, I began my 21-year relationship with GMA, teaching Sixth Form on the Lower School corridor of the High School.

As a teacher and administrator, I was always impressed by the parents' commitment to provide for their daughters an excellent academic program, enhanced by competitive athletics, foreign language studies, and fine arts appreciation from kindergarten through high school.

I continue to delight in hearing the difference our Mercy women make in a world that needs Mercy values and compassionate hearts. My youngest niece, Christine Wasylenko '15 is a proud GMA graduate, so I really have never left the Circle of Mercy in Gwynedd Valley.

Sr. Rosemary Herron, R.S.M.

2018 Trocaire Leadership Award — Religion/Vocation/Volunteer (Religious)

Sister Rosemary Herron was appointed Principal of Mercy Vocational High School in Philadelphia in 1997. In 2007, she became the school's first President.

Under her leadership, several programs were added to the curriculum, athletics became more competitive, and advancement and marketing programs were expanded.

Through collaboration with scores of benefactors and quality co-op employers, Sister Rosemary has advanced the unique mission of Mercy. She has helped forge partnerships with Universities and organizations which have enriched the quality of education through artistic, athletic and environmental experiences for Mercy students.

In 2016, Mercy's name changed to Mercy Career and Technical High School to more clearly promote its unique mission as the only Catholic, co-educational career and technical secondary school in the United States. Within a 21st century environment, Mercy provides a comprehensive, academic and technical experience which prepares students for the workforce and/or post-secondary education. In the Mercy tradition, faculty and students alike live the Gospel in word and action, and promote service to others.

During Easter breaks for 13 years, Mercy faculty and student volunteers have brought their skills in the Building Trades and Technology to the survivors of Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf region, Hurricane Sandy along the New Jersey coast, and Hurricane Matthew in North Carolina.

Sister currently serves on the Advisory Boards of St. Malachy School (North Philadelphia) and Cardinal Foley School (Havertown). She is a Trustee of Gwynedd Mercy University.

In 2017 she received the Molyneux-Lilly Award from St. Joseph's University for her contribution to "innovative and transformational education for the greater service of God."



Sr. Susan Walsh, R.S.M.

2018 Trocaire Leadership Award — Religion/Vocation/Volunteer (Religious)

Sister Susan Walsh, R.S.M. is a lifelong educator who considers her five years at Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School a true blessing. Her connection to Gwynedd's Circle of Mercy links the elementary, high school and college (university) as board member, teacher and learner.

Sister Susan has brought her passion for teaching and love for children of all ages to schools in New Jersey, Florida and Pennsylvania: to schools with affluent well-prepared students; to schools with large immigrant populations, and to urban schools with all their challenges, especially St. Malachy School and Mercy Career and Technical High School, where she has spent the bulk of her ministerial

life. She has served in both primary and secondary schools as a teacher and as an administrator. She has coached teams and moderated sports clubs and parent clubs. To each of these tasks she has brought her enthusiasm, love of fun, quick wit and clever mind.

One key to Sister Susan's impact on others is that she herself is a lifelong student. She loves learning and loves sharing her learning with both students and fellow teachers. She is an enthusiastic supporter and mentor of young teachers. Her current long-term ministry as Principal of Mercy Career and Technical High School is more than a full-time job, but she still has found the time to share her skills with other schools as a member of the Gwynedd Mercy Academy Elementary Board of Trustees and of the St. Malachy School Education Committee.

Sister Susan is currently a Neubauer Senior Fellow in the Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders. Along with Sister Rosemary, Sister Susan received the Molyneux-Lilly Award from St. Joseph University. She was also inducted into Archbishop Wood's Hall of Fame for her contribution to education.

I am truly honored and grateful for this recognition from this Mercy school, for which I consider it a lasting privilege to have been a faculty member.

The mission of the school has always been a vibrant one, one which enriched students and faculty alike. My life was blessed by the students I taught as I witnessed their compassionate service to others.

As a Sister of Mercy, I am proud of this ministry and the generations of Mercy girls who bring their Mercy education to life in their professions, families and faith. As a GMA Math teacher, I taught my students to find solutions to algebraic problems. I applaud the many ways that they continue to search for solutions to the problems affecting others in our world.

