## **NEWS RELEASE**



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Mother McAuley Blesses New Heritage Wall**

September 4, 2019 (Chicago, Ill.) – Mother McAuley High School welcomed students, faculty and staff, and special guests, including the Sisters of Mercy, for a special blessing of its new Heritage Wall. The project was underwritten by William and Anne Edwards Cotter '73 of Cotter Consulting. Anne is the former chairperson of the Mother McAuley Board of Trustees and a 2014 inductee into the McAuley Hall of Honor.

The Heritage Wall is located inside the school's main entrance, at 3737 W. 99th Street. It features panels and an illustrated timeline, including nearly 100 photos accompanied by captions. Soon to come is an interactive video with digital-search tools. English department chairperson, Sister Nancy Houlihan, RSM, wrote the introduction that is featured on the first panel of the wall, and also led the blessing of the piece.

In 1846, the Sisters of Mercy started what would become Chicago's oldest continually operating all-girls' Catholic school, Saint Xavier Academy for Females. In 1956 the school moved to its current location and became Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School. The wall highlights the school's deep connections to the Chicago community which has embraced its mission for more than 170 years. Today the school boasts 28,000 alumnae. The wall celebrates the milestones and the individuals who have brought the school to this place in its story.

Following the blessing, the McAuley community gathered for a liturgy celebrating the start of the new school year. Fr. Mark Walter, pastor of St. Linus was the celebrant. Afterward, guests enjoyed a special reception.

## About Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School

Founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy, Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School currently educates more than 900 young women in grades 9 through 12 and is the largest all-girls high school in the country. McAuley promotes a single-gender education platform that encourages young women to grow in faith, envision their future and discover their talents through a challenging and motivating academic and co-curricular program. Mother McAuley's tradition of excellence has made it a top choice for all-girls private education in the Chicago area. The school boasts 28,000 alumnae.