

## The 2001 Wansboro Recipient

The Alumnae Association is very pleased and proud to award the 2001 Wansboro Award to Sister Barbara Kearins, RSCJ.

Although she was born in Chicago, Sister Kearins has spent most of her life in the Detroit area. She began as a student at the Academy in Grosse Pointe when she was in second grade. Sister Kearins heard the call of her religious vocation during a retreat in the Second Academic. As she says, "I became a religious because I fell in love with Our Lord and wanted to spend my life with Him doing whatever He wanted." Sister entered the convent at Kenwood in Albany on August 14, 1951 in a class of novices that eventually numbered 100 women. She made her final vows in Rome on July 29, 1959.



*Barbara Kearins, RSCJ*

Sister Kearins has taught and nurtured hundreds of Bloomfield Hills alumnae. There are many examples of generations of Sacred Heart alumnae who were in Sister Kearins classes. In summers, she has worked in a variety of tutorial and enrichment programs for needy children in the City of Detroit. Before it closed, she often provided opportunities for the boys from St. Francis Home to visit and enjoy the grounds at Bloomfield. She has taught CCD classes at both St. Paul's in Grosse Pointe and at St. Hugo's in Bloomfield Hills. Until this year, Sister was still teaching social studies in the high school and tutored young women studying for a college degree in SWEEP. Obviously, Sister Kearins is truly a natural-borne teacher. She speaks of her teaching in these words, "The young people I have taught have always been a source of joy for me and hope for our world. Through them the great work of building a world where all are loved and turn their faces back to our Heavenly Father with love and confidence will continue."

Sister has devoted her life to working with young people. She appreciates that all children want to be accepted. Her hope is that all children could live, as children should, safe in homes with families to care for them.

Sister Kearins has a beautiful philosophy of life. As she says, "You can never trust God enough. God will make your life good. Children and young people today find their way to God through service to the downtrodden. If that prevails over selfishness, it will be a good world." What beautiful words of inspiration to all of us.

This year also marked Sister Kearins' Golden Jubilee as a Religious of the Sacred Heart. She had many members of her family here to celebrate in a beautiful and joyous celebration. Now we are celebrating her life again in the very well deserved award. Congratulations Sister Barbara Kearins, RSCJ.