

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

Lauralton Hall



Artwork by Isabella Munoz Jaramillo '28

HALLMARKS
SQUARED
V2.2025



As Lauralton continues its 120th anniversary celebration, this year's Mercy Day held special significance. Our community came together to honor our Mercy tradition and mark an exciting milestone — our inaugural I ♥ LH Giving Day. The day reflected the enduring spirit, generosity, and mission that have guided Lauralton for more than a century.

MOMENTUM AND MILESTONES: LAURALTON HALL LOOKS AHEAD WITH PRIDE AND PURPOSE

A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

What an exciting fall we’ve had at Lauralton Hall

Our total enrollment is the largest it has been in four years, and our freshman class is the largest in seven. That’s a milestone we celebrate—and one we could not have reached without you. Your advocacy and generosity have strengthened our beloved school, and—thanks to our donors—nearly 40 percent of our students now receive financial assistance.

Our girls are all in

Eighty percent of students participate in at least one sport, and nearly 70 percent are immersed in our vibrant visual and performing arts programs. I often refer to our students as Renaissance Women—because they truly do it all: arts, athletics, and academics.

Looking ahead with momentum

Building on the energy of the past two years, our team is actively dreaming about Lauralton’s next chapter. Guided by our strategic plan, every curricular area is undergoing a full review to ensure we continue to innovate while honoring our cherished traditions. This fall, we reenergized the Flavia P. Finucane Innovation Lab and launched the new Lauralton Hall Media Team—a group of students creating digital content that showcases life at Lauralton through their eyes. You will begin to see some of their work on our website and in some of our social media posts.

Strengthening connections near and far

We continue refining our marketing to reach mission-appropriate students who will thrive in an all-girls environment. Our “Reunions on the Road” have reconnected alumnae across the region, fostering not just Lauralton pride but meaningful networking. This January, we’ll welcome young alumnae back to campus to share their wisdom with our juniors and seniors, while parents and alumnae, well into careers, will mentor recent graduates navigating internships and job searches.

Dreaming boldly for the future

As we look ahead, we envision expanded arts spaces and additional faculty to deepen opportunities for students in the arts. We’re also focused on growing our endowment—especially for scholarships—so that our financial aid and Mercy Merit programs remain sustainable and strong. Over the next few years, we’ll be turning those dreams into action, and I’d love to talk with you about how you can help us make them a reality.

Please join us this year for one of our signature community events: **Irish Night** (February 28), the **Spring Gala & Auction** (March 28), the **Golf Tournament** (June 30), or one of our Reunions on the Road. Registration information can be found on our website:

www.lauraltonhall.org/events

Every good wish,

Beth Coyne
Beth Coyne



Photo Credit: Shades Shuttlers Photography

On Mercy Day, Lauralton Hall welcomed (former) Milford Mayor Tony Giannattasio to campus for a special presentation in honor of the school’s 120th anniversary. During a ceremony in the Chapel, Mayor Giannattasio presented a City of Milford Proclamation recognizing Lauralton Hall’s long-standing commitment to educating and empowering young women in the Mercy tradition.

I ♥ LH Day Raises Over \$130,000 for Lauralton!

On September 24, our Lauralton community came together in an incredible display of school spirit, generosity, and love for Lauralton Hall. The school’s first I ♥ LH Day was a tremendous success, raising more than \$130,000 in support of our students, programs, and mission.

This outpouring of generosity demonstrates the strength of the Lauralton community—alumnae, parents, faculty, staff, and friends—united in their belief in the transformative power of a Lauralton education. Every gift, large or small, helps ensure that Lauralton continues to empower young women to pursue their dreams, lead with compassion, and make a positive impact in the world.

The funds raised will directly enhance academic innovation, student life, and financial aid opportunities, ensuring that future generations of students can thrive within Lauralton’s halls. Your support sustains our mission and secures the bright future of Lauralton Hall for years to come.

While I ♥ LH Day has ended, the spirit of giving never does.

You can continue to make a difference today by visiting lauraltonhall.org/give or scanning:

Together, we keep the heart of Lauralton beating strong!



Photo Credit: Shades Shuttlers Photography

The incredible \$130,000 raised on I ♥ LH Day reflects the deep belief in the transformative power of a Lauralton education. These funds ensure that future generations of young women can thrive within our community.



“Every contribution to Lauralton Hall is a step toward ensuring that our values of faith, service, and scholarship endure for future generations.”

–Sister Eileen Hogan, RSM



Meet Althea, Our Beloved Therapy Dog

At just three years old, Althea—a Newfoundland—has already captured the hearts of the entire Lauralton community. Big, gentle, and fluffy in all the right places, Althea brings comfort, joy, and calm wherever she goes.

Her soothing presence helps students manage stress and find a moment of peace during busy days. Whether she’s greeting visitors, offering quiet companionship, or cheering on students at school events, Althea reminds us all of the simple power of kindness and connection.

Director of Enrollment Yvonne Fosse-Previs ’90, P’27 shared how meaningful Althea’s presence has been at admissions events, noting:

“Althea brings a sense of warmth and welcome that immediately puts our visitors at ease. Whether it’s during Mornings in the Mansion, school visits, or our open house events, she is always ready to make everyone feel at home.”

In just a short time, Althea has become much more than a therapy dog—she’s a cherished member of our Lauralton family.

Lauralton Hall Celebrates 2025 Claven Award Honorees

Lauralton Hall proudly celebrated six outstanding members of our community at the 32nd Annual Claven Awards Ceremony, held this past September during Alumnae Weekend. The event honored their exceptional leadership, service, and commitment to Mercy values as part of Lauralton’s 120th year of educating young women.

Mother Mary Augustine Claven Award—named for Lauralton’s foundress, this lifetime achievement honor recognizes women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, achievement, and service reflecting the values of a Mercy education.

- **Charlotte Evans ’64**—Retired New York Times editor and devoted alumna whose leadership as Trustee strengthened Lauralton’s mission.
- **Marianne “Mimi” Nelsen P’07**—Beloved Stratford teacher and longtime Christmas in the Mansion Decorations Chair who brings joy and compassion to all she meets.
- **Vice Admiral Joanna M. Collins Nunan, USMS, ’83**—First Lauralton graduate to attend a U.S. military service academy; trailblazing U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral and first woman Superintendent of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Reverend Peter H. McClean Award—named for Lauralton’s longtime chaplain and friend, this award honors a man whose enduring friendship, generosity, and service have enriched the school community.

- **Patrick Lagrange**—Former Board Chair and dedicated father of Anna ’19, recognized for his visionary leadership and steadfast support of Lauralton’s Mercy mission.

Reverend Cornelius J. Doherty Distinguished Service Award—recognizes devoted faculty and staff members who have given generously of themselves through years of dedicated service.

- **Peggy Doolittle McGowan**—Inspiring teacher and coach who promoted wellness and leadership through decades of education.
- **Jan Powers ’75**—Beloved Dean of Academics and lifelong Mercy educator who has guided generations of Lauralton students.

Congratulations to all our honorees whose lives embody faith, service, compassion, and Mercy in action.

Nominations for the Claven Awards and the Athletic Hall of Fame are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

To nominate an alumna, parent, trustee, retired faculty or staff member, or friend of Lauralton for the **Mother Mary Augustine Claven Award**, **Reverend Peter H. McClean Award**, or **Reverend Cornelius J. Doherty Distinguished Service Award**, please visit www.lauraltonhall.org/claven-award.

To nominate an athlete, coach, team, or friend of LH Athletics for the **Athletic Hall of Fame**, visit www.lauraltonhall.org/ahof.



Photo Credit: T. Sullivan Photography

Blankets of Mercy

During the month of September, our religion classes poured their hearts into a special project: creating no-sew fleece blankets. Each blanket was crafted with care, compassion, and a deep sense of purpose, reflecting our commitment to living out the Mercy tradition in concrete, meaningful ways.

On Mercy Day, these vibrant, handmade blankets surrounded the altar during our school-wide Communion service, a powerful and visible reminder of the work of our hands and hearts. As part of the celebration, Caroline Paine ’26 led the community in a heartfelt blessing over the blankets, praying:

“May those who receive these blankets know they are seen; they are valued, they are part of your beloved family— not strangers, but neighbors beneath the same merciful cloak.”



Photo Credit: Shades Shuttlers Photography

Following Mercy Day, the blankets will be donated to IRIS, a New Haven–based non-profit that welcomes, supports, and empowers refugees and immigrants as they begin new lives in our community. These blankets will accompany families during their resettlement journey, offering not just physical warmth, but comfort, dignity, and a sense of belonging in an unfamiliar place.

Each blanket is more than a service project—it is a message of love and solidarity, a tangible reminder that mercy is not just a word we say, but an action we take. In making and blessing these blankets, we follow in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley, who urged her community to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable with compassion, courage, and joy.

From Lauralton to NASA: Margo Katz ’23 Reaches for the Stars

This summer, Margo Katz ’23 took her passion for STEAM to new heights—literally—through an internship at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. Working within the Systems Engineering Department, Margo contributed to projects focused on future lunar development and exploration technologies.

During her time at JPL, Margo:

- Completed a market study of the lunar economy
- Conducted a comparative analysis of industry and JPL technologies
- Developed Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) requirements for future lunar technologies
- Recommended development priorities to help JPL better support industry partners
- Supported industry visits to the JPL campus

Reflecting on her experience, Margo shared, “Everyone at JPL had a genuine passion for their work, and their love of learning created a culture of openness and teaching. I learned so much and had an awesome time doing it!”

Margo credits her Lauralton education for helping her feel prepared for this extraordinary opportunity.

“Thank you, Lauralton, for showing me my love of STEAM. I felt extremely prepared for NASA, and I know that these fundamentals were instilled at Lauralton Hall. Beyond an amazing education in math and science, Lauralton allowed me to refine my skills in English and communication—skills that have been critical to my success as an engineer, student, and person.”

She adds, “Lauralton produces well-rounded young women equipped to conquer diverse challenges with grace and poise. Thank you to Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Sarrafpour, and the Wright Sisters for making this possible. Engineering has opened so many doors for me, and I’m so excited to see what the future holds!”

Do you have news to share? We want to hear! Visit www.lauraltonhall.org/classnotes today!



Please keep us up-to-date on
your latest moves at:
LAURALTONHALL.ORG/MYINFO

For a list of Lauralton loved ones who have
passed away in the last year, please visit:
LAURALTONHALL.ORG/INMEMORIAM



“The Big Sister/Little Sister program provides a path of opportunity for the underclasswomen to discover the direction of their own confidence, while also cultivating the courage to shape their future,” shared Peer Mentor Moderator Christine Miller.

Supporting Our Freshmen: The FYE and Peer Mentor Partnership

Since its launch in 2018, Luralton’s Freshman First Year Experience (FYE) program has guided incoming students through four essential areas: practical competencies, emotional wellness, physical health, and academic planning.

A cornerstone of this program is our thriving partnership with the Peer Mentor program, which continues to grow stronger each year. Peer Mentors actively participate in FYE lessons, leading discussions on academic planning, building relationships, and effective study strategies for midterms and finals. By sharing personal experiences and practical tips, these mentors offer freshmen invaluable guidance from a peer perspective.

The support extends beyond the classroom. Each freshman is paired with a dedicated Peer Mentor Big Sister, who serves as a role model and supportive guide throughout the year. Big Sisters check in regularly, provide encouragement, and help students navigate the challenges of their first year. Together, Big Sisters and their freshmen attend monthly workshops focused on building confidence, fostering connections, and strengthening our school community.

Through this collaboration, the FYE and Peer Mentor programs play a vital role in helping freshmen successfully transition into their Luralton Hall journey, laying the foundation for a meaningful and fulfilling four years.

A Season of Grit & Growth— Fall 2025 Athletics at Luralton

This past fall, Luralton student-athletes displayed resilience, teamwork, and Mercy-driven leadership across the board. Our halls and fields have been alive with action, determination, and a spirit that carries beyond the scoreboard.

In the words of Athletic Director Chris Lindwall:
“Luralton is truly a special place where young ladies achieve incredible success in the classroom and in athletic competition.”

We saw our program grow with the addition of a freshman volleyball team, and a junior varsity soccer team. Participation on the swim team grew by 20%, field hockey by 15% cheer by 30%, and our cross-country team doubled in size. Our young cross-country team also celebrated its strongest State Meet finish since 1997 and will hold the title of Milford City Girls Cross Country Champions for the next year.

As we move toward winter season, we’re proud of these young women who showed up—with heart, with passion, and with the knowledge that athletics is more than a game; it’s a formative experience that teaches empathy, resilience, and community.



Photo Credit: Germiniani Photography

“The Luralton Hall soccer team has embraced me and made me feel at home in every way possible. I feel a part of a family that always has my back and is willing to work hard in every practice or game. I am so proud of this year’s season, and I look forward to what next season brings!”
—Madison Eisenhandler ‘29



As we work to strengthen connections with our Alumnae near and far, we are excited to introduce new ways for sharing experiences beyond the Luralton gates...

Networking Reception for Recent Alumnae

We’re excited to welcome back our college and recent post-grad alumnae for a special Alumnae Reception on Thursday, January 8, 2026! This annual event is the perfect time to reconnect with classmates and faculty during the holiday break.

The afternoon begins with a College Life Panel, where current LH college students will share insights and advice with our juniors and seniors about the transition to college life.

Afterward, our Career and Networking Session will feature seasoned alumnae professionals and parents offering guidance on résumé writing, job and internship searches, LinkedIn strategies, and more—perfect for young alumnae preparing for internships, first jobs, or career changes.

If you’d like to participate as a career alumnae speaker, please contact Mrs. Kelly Eyler in the Counseling Office at keyler@luraltonhall.org.

Watch your inbox and Luralton’s social media for registration details—we can’t wait to see you back on campus!

Call for Speakers: Luralton for Life Series

Are you a Luralton alumna or professional with expertise to share? We’re seeking dynamic speakers for our **Luralton for Life** series—programs designed to support our alumnae through every stage of life.

Topics include career development, financial planning, leadership, wellness, education, family life, and smart ways to give back. Whether you’re a seasoned expert or passionate about sharing your story, we’d love to hear from you!

If you’re interested in speaking or recommending someone, please contact Mrs. Kelly Eyler at keyler@luraltonhall.org or visit luraltonhall.org/alumnae to learn more.

Let’s inspire and empower the Luralton community—together.

SAVE THE DATES

January 8, 2026
Recent Alumnae Networking Reception

February 28, 2026
Irish Night

March 15, 2026
LH + FP Family Mass

March 28, 2026
Spring Gala & Auction

April 23, 2026
Reunion on the Road: Boston

May 30, 2026
Graduation

June 29, 2026
Golf Tournament

July 2026
Concert on the Lawn

September 24, 2026
Athletic Hall of Fame

God preserve and bless you and grant you all the
graces and precious gifts reserved for this holy season.
—Catherine McAuley

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Artwork by Kennedy Jennings '27

“A Look Back at Lauralton” Trivia



Flashback to the 1980s! These Lauralton students are taking
part in a long-cherished—but now discontinued—fall tradition.
Alumnae, do you remember what it was?



Lauralton Hall is a sponsored ministry of the Institute of the Sisters
of Mercy of the Americas and is a member of Mercy Education.