

2026 Hall of Honor Spirit of Sophie Award Recipient Helen Moran Locke '53, P'85, '86, '87, '92, GP'22



A lifelong educator and leader in Catholic education, Helen Moran Locke '53, P'85, '86, '87, '92, GP'22 has devoted more than five decades to serving students, schools, and faith communities through teaching, administration, and ministry. Her distinguished career has been marked by a deep commitment to academic excellence, spiritual formation, and servant leadership.

She earned a Master of Science in Pastoral Counseling from Neumann College and a Master of Arts in Religious Studies and Moral Theology from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, where she was among the first lay women to graduate from the program. She also holds a Teacher of Religion Certification from the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Clergy in Vatican City and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Manhattanville College. A proud

alumna of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, her Sacred Heart education has remained a guiding influence throughout her life and career.

Her professional experience includes serving as Principal of St. Norbert Parish School in Paoli, Pennsylvania, Department Facilitator in the Religion Department at Bishop Moore Catholic High School in Orlando, Florida, and Theology, History, and History Department Chair at Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in Bryn Mawr. She later taught Religion and Language Arts at St. Elizabeth Parish School before continuing to serve students as a substitute teacher at St. Elizabeth and St. Norbert Parish Schools.

Throughout her career, she has been recognized as a pioneer and leader in Catholic education. In 1975, she became the first lay woman in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to be appointed a Eucharistic Minister by Cardinal Krol. She later served on the Board of Trustees for Country Day School of the Sacred Heart and was among the first lay women to earn a master's degree from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. She also chaired accreditation teams for the Middle States Association and completed the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Elementary Principals Development Program.

Her many honors include induction into the Foundation for Catholic Education Hall of Fame in 2016, the **7 Over 70 Award** from Lower Merion Township in 2022 for her dedication to community service and civic engagement, and the University of Southern California's Widney Alumni House Award for Volunteer Excellence.

Through every role she has held, **Helen Moran Locke '53, P'85, '86, '87, '92, GP'22** has remained dedicated to forming young people of faith, intellect, compassion, and purpose, leaving a lasting impact on countless students, families, and colleagues.