



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARY EASTERDAY TO RECEIVE ST. ANNE'S 2017 HEART OF THE HOME AWARD

MILWAUKEE ... The residents of St. Anne's Salvatorian Campus would not be surprised to learn Mary Easterday is a retired nurse. Her warmth and caring nature is evident through the compassionate pastoral and spiritual care she provides them. So it would also come as no surprise that Mary is this year's recipient of St. Anne's Heart of the Home Award.

The award recognizes dedicated volunteers who embody the values of St. Anne's and provide exceptional service to its residents.

Mary's journey began in June of 2014 when she decided she needed a purpose and a new direction in life. She chose to volunteer at St. Anne's because she felt a special connection between St. Anne's and her alma mater, Divine Savior High School (both are sponsored by the Sisters of the Divine Savior).

Mary started her volunteer career at St. Anne's in the activity department, assisting with music and sing-alongs and tending a campus courtyard. After meeting Sister Darlene Pienschke, SDS, Director of Spiritual Care, Mary began assisting the pastoral staff by transporting residents to chapel for Mass and became a lector and Eucharistic Minister twice a week.

By June of 2015, Mary was volunteering four times a week, tackling additional tasks such as attending to resident needs during worship and handling the duties of a chapel sacristan: setting up for Mass, ordering liturgical supplies and publications, and scheduling the liturgical calendar. In January 2016, Mary was officially recognized as St. Anne's Sacristan.

What started as a once-a-week search for purpose has blossomed into an almost daily labor of love at what Mary calls her "home away from home."

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“Mary exemplifies the meaning of the award by living St. Anne’s mission of caring for the elderly through her goodness and kindness in the image of Our Savior,” said Sister Darlene. “Mary creates a sense of belonging in her perceptible response to the needs of residents and family members.”

Said Mary, “I am thankful for the superb support the staff has given me. Volunteering at St. Anne’s gives me so much joy, purpose, and life!”

Mary will receive her award on July 26 during the campus’s celebration of the Feast of St. Anne. As you might expect, Feast Day is an especially meaningful annual event for a campus named after St. Anne. Among the planned festivities are a special Mass celebrated by Bishop James Schuerman, dinner, and music and entertainment in St. Anne’s park.

Mary is excited to share her special day with her children, Mark and Annemarie, friends and classmates, and all who have come to know and appreciate her generosity.

Feast Day will commence with Mass at 3:30 p.m. The award ceremony will take place in the chapel following worship.

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St. Anne’s Salvatorian Campus, Milwaukee’s oldest Catholic senior care facility, is a continuing care center that blends its heritage with modern, innovative solutions. St. Anne’s offers options for assisted living, enhanced assisted living, skilled nursing, memory care, rehab, and respite care. Founded 141 years ago, St. Anne’s is a nonprofit sponsored by the Sisters of the Divine Savior.