Welcome to Celebration of Mercy

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2016

celebrating the Sisters of Mercy’s
165th anniversary
of ministering in Rhode Island
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Congratulations
Joseph R. Beretta

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GREETINGS
Jacqueline Marie Kieslich, RSM
President, Sisters of Mercy – Northeast Community

HEART OF MERCY
AWARDS PRESENTATION
Recognizing individuals who act in concert with
the principles and mission of the Sisters of Mercy
Joseph R. Beretta
RI Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea
Rev. Raymond B. Malm

FOR THOSE ATTENDING
THE KING AND I
7:30 pm curtain
Providence Performing Arts Center

Complimentary shuttle provided by Viking Tours of Newport
for travel between the Biltmore and PPAC
Joe Beretta’s connection to the Sisters of Mercy spans a lifetime – as well as his personal and professional lives. Joe spent the third through eighth grades with the Sisters of Mercy at St. Maria Goretti’s school. His sister, Marybeth, is a Sister of Mercy, and Joe and his company, RGB Architects, have supported the Mercy Community, schools and other ministries both financially and professionally.

Joe shares, “What I remember most about the Sisters of Mercy from grade school is that they led by example. Two of the most important lessons they taught me are to be fair to everyone and to tell the truth. And these are values that I try to live personally and professionally.”

For Joe, leading by example is of the utmost importance, and as the President and CFO for RGB Architects Joe is able to do just that. Not only have Joe and the firm given back to the Mercy community, Joe’s involvement in civic and charitable organizations has had a positive impact on the larger Rhode Island community.

Joe has also encouraged his employees to give back through their work as well. Joe says, “Our Intern Architects participate in a program that enables them to mentor middle and high school students who think they might want a career in construction, architecture or engineering. We love doing it. It’s incredible to have students spend time in the office shadowing us and helping them to complete their projects. It’s an extension of the community we’ve created here at RGB.”

Of the Mercy Community, Joe says the values that Mercy instills in others, particularly through schools, is important to making this a more merciful world. “They’ve devoted their lives to Christ and the church, and truly do as much for their communities as they can. It makes me feel good to support all of the good works that the sisters are doing for people in need.”
In 2015, Nellie Gorbea became the first Hispanic elected to statewide office in New England, and in her first two years in the post has improved Rhode Island’s elections system, worked to increase civic engagement, and ushered in tough legislation to increase government transparency.

Secretary of State Gorbea came to know the Sisters of Mercy when her daughters attended St. Mary Academy – Bay View, and because of that grew to love the Mercy charism. She shares, “It gave them a wonderful foundation on which to see the world. I am glad they were able to experience both the caring environment of the school, as well as a Catholicism that focuses heavily on social justice and doing for others. It’s very empowering of women. They are incredible women who do their work quietly, but with such a deep and lasting impact.”

In addition to the impact on her children’s life, Secretary of State Gorbea shares that she admires the sisters for how they’ve transformed Rhode Island. “Sisters have established many key institutions in Rhode Island. They were able to do so because they got together, recognized that change needed to happen, and they went out into their communities to meet people where they needed the help.” Secretary of State Gorbea continues, “Meeting people where they are is so important. As a public servant, that’s really what I try to do. I feel very strongly that it does me no good to be at the State House waiting for people to come to me. I need to be out and about with people, and I want people to be engaged with and see government as theirs. And, I want to provide them the tools to know that their government is here to work for them.”
As many have been, Father Raymond Malm was taught in grade school by the Sisters of Mercy, and credits the Community with helping to develop his desire to serve the poor. “The sisters had a tremendous effect on me as a child growing up. They were wonderful to me, despite how mischievous I was. I’ve been truly fortunate to have stayed connected to the Sisters of Mercy for most of my life.”

Father Ray has faithfully served two parishes in his career as a priest, first and most recently at St. Joseph’s in Newport, with a number of years in between serving at St. Michael’s in Providence. Both experiences afforded him the opportunity to grow in ministry with Sisters of Mercy with whom he served - and both of these experiences helped to focus his calling to help the poor, which includes inviting others to serve alongside him. “I spread mercy by inviting people to serve with me. I hope I’ve encouraged people to be more merciful by both my words and example. I want people to become not only aware of the problems many people in this world face, but I’d like them to get directly involved with creating solutions to the problems.”

It is through this desire that Father Ray was instrumental in founding two of Rhode Island’s most prominent nonprofit services: The Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence, which seeks to provide nonviolent solutions to potentially violent situations, and AIDS Care Ocean State, which provides quality housing, case management, medical and nursing care, and prevention to adults, families, adolescents and children who are affected by or at risk for HIV infection. Of his experiences, Father Ray shares, “I’ve been very fortunate over the years to have had people who have been able to help put my dreams into motion.”
We’d like to extend our thanks to all of our event sponsors and supporters.

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The George and Mary Agostini Family Foundation is proud to support the Sisters of Mercy. Thank you for all you’ve done and all you continue to do for Rhode Island and beyond.

And our heartfelt congratulations to Joe Beretta, Father Raymond B. Malm and Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea on being honored with the Heart of Mercy Award.
RGB congratulates the Sisters of Mercy on their 165th anniversary and Heart of Mercy Honorees: Secretary of State Nellie R. Gorbea, Reverend Raymond B. Malm, and Joseph Beretta, President & CFO of RGB.

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Joseph R. Beretta  Nellie R. Gorbea  Reverend Raymond B. Malm

on receiving the 2016 Heart of Mercy Award
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Social Justice Advocate

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Thank you to the **Sisters of Mercy** for 165 years of service to the Rhode Island community.

Congratulations to **Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, Joseph Beretta, and Rev. Raymond Malm** on being recognized with this year’s Heart of Mercy Awards.

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**Sheldon Whitehouse**

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Paid for by Whitehouse for Senate.
We, the Parish of St. Joseph’s, Newport, wish to offer congratulations to Father Raymond B. Malm as he receives the Heart of Mercy Award.

We thank him for his years of leadership and his continued presence in our Parish.
   He is a blessing to us.
   We celebrate with you!!
We offer our congratulations to Joseph Beretta and Nellie Gorbea as well!
The St. Xavier Alumnae Association in its 110th year has a membership of several hundred women who are faithful supporters of the SXA Association.

Our alumnae continue the excellent characteristics developed from the academic and spiritual education received by the beautiful Sisters of Mercy. The alumnae’s faithful, generous loyalty to the annual St. Xavier Catholic High School Scholarship Fund helps reduce the tuition cost for many young women and men and their families.
congratulations to all award recipients
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Rev. Raymond B. Malm
Social Justice Activist

Joseph R. Beretta
President and CFO
Robinson Green Beretta Architects

Nellie R. Gorbea
Secretary of State of Rhode Island

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Dear Sisters,
A heartfelt thank you for your years of faithful service to the people of Rhode Island.
Frank and Hope Darigan
MINISTRIES ROOTED IN MERCY

For the last 165 years, in response to the needs of the time, Sisters of Mercy have been instrumental in founding and staffing many ministries throughout Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts.

Among these ministries rooted in Mercy are many schools and social service agencies. Some have since closed, but many remain a vibrant part of the Mercy mission. We honor their contributions to making Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts a better place for everyone.

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Amos House, Providence
Dorcas International, Providence
Market Ministries, New Bedford
McAuley Ministries, Providence
Mount Saint Rita Health Centre, Cumberland
Nazareth Hall, Attleboro
Nazareth Hall, Cape Cod
Nazareth Hall, Fall River
Pine Harbor, Pascoag
Re-Focus, Providence
St. Aloysius Home, Greenville
St. Vincent’s Home, Fall River

SCHOOLS

Bishop Feehan High School, Attleboro
Greater Woonsocket Catholic Regional School, Woonsocket
Holy Family High School, New Bedford
Holy Family School, New Bedford
Holy Name School, New Bedford
Holy Trinity School, West Harwich
Immaculate Conception School, Westerly
Mercymount Country Day School, Cumberland
Mount St. Mary Academy, Fall River
SCHOOLS (continued)

Newport County Catholic Regional School, Newport
Our Lady of Mercy School, East Greenwich
Salve Regina University, Newport
Sophia Academy, Providence
St. Anthony School, West Warwick
St. Augustine School, Newport
St. Brendan School, East Providence
St. Edward School, Pawtucket
St. Edward School, Providence
St. James School, West Warwick
St. John and Paul School, Coventry
St. John School, New Bedford
St. Joseph School, Fall River
St. Joseph School, Pascoag
St. Joseph School, Pawtucket
St. Joseph/Cleary School, Providence
St. Kilian School, New Bedford
St. Mary School, New Bedford
St. Leo the Great School, Pawtucket
St. Margaret School, East Providence
St. Mary Academy – Bay View, Riverside
St. Mary School, Fall River
St. Mary School, Newport
St. Mary School, Pawtucket
St. Mary School, Tarkiln Hill, New Bedford
St. Michael School, Providence
St. Patrick School, Providence
St. Patrick School, Valley Falls
St. Peter School, Warwick
St. Theresa School, Pawtucket
St. Timothy School, Warwick
St. Xavier Academy, Providence
Sts. Peter and Paul School, West Warwick
Tyler School, Providence

We hope we’ve included all ministries rooted in Mercy.
However, if we’ve left off a valued ministry, kindly let us know by calling Beth Watson, Director of Development, at 401-333-6333.

Thank you!
On March 11, 1851, Mother Frances Warde and four Sisters arrived in Providence from Pittsburgh at the request of the Bishop of Providence. Fearing the wrath of the city’s anti-Catholic Know-Nothings, they dressed in lay clothing and entered at night. Moving into a small house on High Street, now Weybossett Street, the small band of Sisters established the first permanent convent in New England by celebrating Mass there the following day. Immediately the Sisters began visiting the poor, establishing an orphanage and St. Xavier Academy for girls. The tension between the Sisters and the Know-Nothings reached a climax in 1855, when posters appeared announcing an attack on St. Xavier’s. The bishop and the mayor of Providence sent 400 men to come to the Sisters’ aid. The Sisters are still supported today for their acts of mercy in the community. Sisters can be found at Mercy-sponsored ministries including McAuley Ministries, Mercy Ecology Center, Mercymount Country Day School, Saint Mary Academy- Bay View, and Salve Regina University as well as numerous other organizations rooted in Mercy such as Sophia Academy, Amos House and the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence. Sisters continue to be actively involved in various other ministries such as hospice, pastoral care, religious education, and other parish work assisting with the critical needs of Rhode Island’s most vulnerable populations.
ABOUT THE SISTERS OF MERCY

The Sisters of Mercy are an international community of Roman Catholic women who dedicate our lives to God through the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service. For more than 180 years, motivated by the Gospel of Jesus and inspired by the spirit of our founder Catherine McAuley, we respond to the continually changing and unmet needs of the times. Through prayer and service, we address the causes and effects of violence, racism, degradation of the Earth and injustice to women and immigrants.

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