

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BERNADETTE L. MAGUIRE '53: A Woman Who Cracked the Glass Ceiling with Grace and Grit



Bernadette L. Maguire's story is one of quiet triumph, unwavering faith, and deep gratitude—a woman who shattered glass ceilings not with noise, but with humility and grace, paving the way for generations of Little Flower students.

Born the youngest of ten in a large Irish-Catholic family in Germantown, Bernadette lost her father as an infant and was raised by her mother, who instilled in her children a deep faith and unshakable family loyalty. Education was both a gift and a responsibility in the Maguire home. Bernadette never forgot the sacrifices her older siblings made so she and her younger siblings could pursue school.

Her academic path began with the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters and continued at Little Flower, where she stood out for her intellect and perseverance. She earned a scholarship to Immaculata College and commuted daily, often studying on the train, showing early signs of the quiet determination that would define her.

After graduating in 1957, Bernadette launched a remarkable 35-year career at General Electric. At a time when women were rarely seen in science and engineering, she rose through the ranks, presented internationally (including



at Oxford), and published technical papers. Though she viewed the trip to England mainly as a chance to bring her mother to London. She mentored countless women in STEM, opening doors for the next generation with characteristic humility.

In retirement, she deepened her commitment to institutions that shaped her, especially Little Flower and Immaculata—offering time, leadership, and generous support. She remained particularly devoted to expanding STEM opportunities for young women.

To the world, Bernadette was a trailblazer. To herself, she was simply blessed – grateful for what she received and eager to give it back. Her understanding and grace ran deep, and her life embodied the words from the Book of Wisdom:

“Understanding passes for gray hair, and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.”

She never sought to be a role model, but became one. Her legacy lives on in every student she inspired and every young woman who dreams a little bigger because Bernadette Maguire showed it was possible.

She made a difference—quietly, powerfully, and permanently.

We are honored to share this reflection, adapted from the eulogy and tribute given by former LF president Sister Joan Rychalsky, IHM and reflections from her family and niece Pat Wise Strehle, '73.



LF Alumnae Night at the Phillies!



MEMORIAL GARDEN

1940s

Jean Barber Brightcliffe, '47
Elizabeth Barr Cassidy, '46
Elizabeth Lanigan Costello, '42
Doris Meier Fallon, '48
Margaretta McManus Kane, '49
Frances McGrath Larmour, '46
Blanche Haviland Moore, '46
Helen Slivinski Pogson, '48
Marian Birmingham Sutton, '42
Dolores O'Toole Tole, '47
Sister Dolores White, '47

1950s

Eileen Moran Blastic, '51
Charlotte Winkelspecht Clayton, '57
Maryanne Hayes Creedon, '55
Frances Fitzgibbons Devine, '51
Madeline Attanasio DiPasquale, '50
Alice Grimes Donnelly, '58
Frances Dolan Erbrick, '56
Lois Gantert John, '56
Marcy Ezbicki Klekotka, '57
Adrienne Cassidy LaValley, '51
Frances O'Neill Leininger, '50
Frances Robus Lenart, '55
Maryann Rota Lewis, '56
Joan Louise Magarity Letter, '50
Margaret Gentry Manocchio, '50
Margaret Dickson Mannix, '58
Margaret Nawn Mawhinney, '55
Joan McFadden Melnichuk, '54
Joan McMahon McCausland, '54
Sister Teresa McKenna, SSJ, '50
Gayle Purcell Mulkewycz, '59
Catherine O'Donnell Payne, '58
Patricia Yanni Reese, '58
Grace Higgins Riley, '51
Linda Forsthoffer Slaweck, '59
Catherine Slowicki, '58
Dorothea Carroll Szarko, '57
Barbara Cheski Tarasiewicz, '55
Catherine Galvin Voss, '51

With Gratitude and Remembrance

Thank you to all who made tribute gifts in memory or in honor of our beloved Little Flower sisters. Your generosity keeps their spirit alive and carries their legacy into LF's future.

Carol Keller Wutzer, '57
Mary O'Donnell Zuccarini, '51

1960s

Kathleen Hallinan Barthmaier, '62
Kathleen McGinley Bretschneider, '60
Jacqueline Rudzinski Chmiel, '63
Maria Ferla Cristaldi-Guenther, '61
Rosemarie McNesby Grace, '60
Barbara Bannon Mahon, '60
E. Susan McDermott Montgomery, '60
Bernadette Sitek O'Brien, '65
Theresa Paluch Snead, '64
Susan Romanowski Toohey, '65
Mary Brennan Townsend, '61

1970s

Theresa Curran Flanagan, '70
Kathleen Hess Fanning, '73
Gerardine Kane Gavan, '77
Roseann Marino Guagenti, '73
Patricia Hamski, '75
Anne Mangan, '77
Colleen Vogelmann Murray, '71
Eileen O'Riordan, '70
Barbara Stanczak, '70
Marcella Ryan Zeoli, '71

1980s and beyond

Colleen Stephan Ahearn, '91
Mari Beth Buligon, '80
Bernadette Fleming Crossland, '80
Bianca Dougherty, '08
Jacqueline Kennedy, '84
Margaret McMenamin Kilkenny, '87
Kelly McDermott, '91
Lisa McDevitt, '80
Katherine McFadden, '81
Eileen Kane Mullen, '80
Mary Robertson, '80
Mary Hettich Stanku, '84
Margaret Burghart, Beloved Former LF Religion Teacher

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Meet the Advancement Team
We're here to strengthen the mission of Little Flower through alumnae engagement, fundraising, and community partnerships. We'd love to hear from you — whether you're an alumna, parent, or friend of LF. Give us a call at 215-455-6000.

Celebrate, Connect, and Cherish the Season with LF!

- Designer Bag Bingo: 10/18
- Day of Prayer at Villa Maria by the Sea, Stone Harbor: 10/22
- Trivia Night (LF Board-sponsored): 11/8
- Annual Alumnae Communion Mass: 11/9
- Christmas Luncheons: 12/4 (Avalon CC) & 12/7 (Brookside Manor)
- Save the Date: Spring Musical Annie!: 3/13-15

See all events and register on our website. Questions? Contact Adrienne Daukaus Cutter '87, Assistant Director of Advancement at 215-455-6000 x163 or adrienne.cutter@lfch.s.org.

Fore'er We Will Be True

SEQUEL FALL 2025

Celebrating Service, Legacy, and Community



Sister Mary Scullion, '71, co-founder Project HOME.



Dear Sisters and Friends,

As the leaves turn and the crisp energy of fall returns to Little Flower, I am reminded of the profound ways service shapes our lives not simply as something we do, but as a way of living and loving, rooted in the spirit of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

At Little Flower, we often speak of the “Little Way”, that beautiful reminder that great love can be expressed through small, meaningful acts. Our students live this truth daily, whether offering a kind word in the hallway, a helping hand in the classroom, or a quiet prayer for someone in need. Service doesn’t always demand grand gestures; it begins with showing up with a generous heart.

This fall, we highlight one of our most extraordinary alumnae, Sister Mary Scullion ’71, co-founder of Project HOME. Her decades-long commitment to ending homelessness and creating opportunity exemplifies the power of living a life of service with humility and compassion. Sister Mary reminds us that the seeds of change are planted in everyday acts of love and courage the very same values cultivated here at Little Flower.

We also celebrate the lasting impact of alumnae like Bernadette Maguire ’53, whose life of dedication, mentorship, and philanthropy demonstrates that service and leadership can leave a legacy felt across generations. Alongside these remarkable women, the generosity of families such as the Swards ensures that our mission thrives, making a Little Flower education accessible and empowering for all our students.

And at the heart of this mission are our students. Through the Klarich Center, the Community Service Corps, STEM and creative initiatives, and the Ladies in Leadership podcast, they are learning, innovating, and leading. They are proving that service, creativity, and leadership can be joyful, meaningful, and transformative. From tutoring younger students and supporting families in need, to planting seeds and creating care packages, our students are bringing the “Little Way” to life every day.

None of this would be possible without the generosity, time, and prayers of our alumnae, families, faculty, and friends. Your support helps our students grow in faith, leadership, and compassion, ensuring that the spirit of Little Flower continues to ripple outward into the world.

Please enjoy this edition of The Sequel, where we celebrate the extraordinary lives of our alumnae, the vibrant service of our students, and the enduring impact of the Little Flower community. Together, we are living the Little Way, and together, we are making a difference.

Together,

Kristie

Kristie Hughes Dugan ’92
President, Little Flower Catholic
High School for Girls



LIVING THE MISSION Sister Mary Scullion ’71 and a Life of Service

At Little Flower, service isn’t just a requirement, it’s a calling. Few embody that calling as powerfully as Sister Mary Scullion, ’71, co-founder and executive director of Project HOME, a nationally recognized organization dedicated to ending homelessness and alleviating poverty in Philadelphia.



Sister Mary’s journey began right here in our hallways. Inspired by our patroness, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, she embraced the idea of doing “small things with great love.” After graduation, she joined the Sisters of Mercy and committed herself to a lifelong ministry of advocacy, justice, and compassion.

In 1989, Sister Mary co-founded Project HOME with Joan Dawson McConnon, launching one of the country’s most transformative organizations addressing homelessness. Under her leadership, Project HOME has helped thousands find not just shelter, but dignity and hope, rooted in the belief that housing, health care, education, and employment are fundamental human rights.

The Seward family has been a vital partner with Sister Mary Scullion and Project HOME. In October 2024, 1515 Fairmount Avenue was named the Christopher J. Seward Residence, serving as Project HOME’s main office and a permanent supportive housing residence honoring their son Christopher, who was deeply moved by the plight of those experiencing homelessness. Beyond Project HOME, the Swards’ generous endowment to Little Flower’s scholarship program helps ensure a Catholic education is accessible to a diverse community of girls, reinforcing what makes our school truly a home.



Sister Mary’s work has earned national acclaim, including being named one of TIME magazine’s 100 most influential people in 2009. She proves that the seeds planted in Little Flower classrooms, chapels, and communities can grow into a lifelong mission of love and service.

Her example inspires our students every day. Last year, through the LF Community Service Corps (CSC), students like Camariah Fearon ’26 and Isabella O’Malley ’25 led initiatives that brought joy and support across Philadelphia, hosting events like the LF Christmas Workshop, Spring Into Action, and service projects for local children, first responders, nursing home residents, and U.S. military members. Alumnae and community partners help extend their impact, demonstrating that service at Little Flower is a shared, living tradition.

“At Little Flower, our Community Service Corps isn’t just for students—we truly operate as a body,” says Ms. Laura Stankiewicz, World Language Department Chair and CSC moderator. “Every act of service, no matter how small, can change a life. That ripple effect of love strengthens our community and lies at the heart of Little Flower.”

2025-26 Community Service Corps



From Sister Mary to today’s students, Little Flower’s legacy of “The Little Way” empowers young women to lead, serve, and innovate. As we celebrate our 2025 accomplishments and look ahead to 2026, we continue building momentum and inspiring the next generation to live out our mission of faith in action. Sister Mary Scullion ’71 remains a deeply personal example for our community, a shining model of what it means to turn faith into service. Each time our students engage in projects, volunteer in their communities, or reflect on their impact, they follow in the footsteps of alumnae like Sister Mary. Her legacy, and the generosity of families like the Swards reminds us that service is not just an activity; it is a way of life.

ALUMNAE NEWS

Dorothy Haber Clark-Kochis ’47 “Still here at 96. Need prayers but I count my blessings.” She and her husband have been blessed with 7 children, 18 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren — with more on the way!

Mary Glaser Barchman ’48 Recently traveled to Maryland, Missouri, and California to celebrate her 15 grandchildren’s birthdays. Grandchild #16 arrives in November.

Rita LaSalvia Cruice ’49 Welcomed two new great-grandchildren — Claire and Declan — bringing her total to 12 beloved great-grands.

Elizabeth Halbherr Nutting ’52 Celebrated 71 years of marriage in November and enjoys time with her growing family in Annapolis, MD.

Elizabeth S. Smyth Ensslen ’53 Loving life at the shore in Ocean City, NJ with her 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

Mary B. McKernan Mahon ’54 Married for 67 years and retired for 25, she’s a proud mom of 9, grandmother of 27, and great-grandmother of 20. Winters in Ocala, FL.

Dolores DiSalvo Anthony ’54 is celebrating 68 years married and cherishing 5 great grandchildren.

Margaret Hockenbury Harte ’57 Doing well and recovering from shoulder surgery after a lengthy rehab.

Eleanore McNamara Moretti ’57 Grateful for her Little Flower education and doing well at age 86.

Irene Kreiger Wade ’58 Sends love to her classmates and fellow Glee Club members (1955–1958).

Phyllis Branton Lytle ’58 Living in Hendersonville, NC, surrounded by her 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

Maryellen Hughes Stockman ’58 Hosted a special alumnae luncheon at Wesley Enhanced Living this spring.

Eileen McKillip Moore ’60 Proud matriarch of 15 children, 36 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Her husband Frank passed in 2016.

Mary Louise Horahan Toms ’60 Became a great-grandmother again, twice in January!

Joan Mucerino Mundy’s ’61 Remembering her beloved husband Joseph, who passed away in June after 60 years of marriage.

Wanda Cendrowski Kaminski ’61 Loves her Wildwood summer home and always runs into LF sisters when out and about.

Mary R. Winters Marcellino ’61 Retired nurse and proud grandmother of two, now singing in her community choir.

Leona Luszczak Wright’s ’61 Granddaughter Grace graduated in June and will attend the University of Pittsburgh this fall.

Elizabeth Hamelton Lynn ’62 Celebrated 59 years of marriage and is excited to welcome her first great-grandchild.

Helen Crompton Seeger ’63 Mom of three (two are Philadelphia firefighters!) and grandmother of five.

Susan Gratz Picardi ’65 Enjoyed alumnae gatherings in Venice Beach and Clearwater, FL.

Geraldine McLinden Lyons ’65 Celebrating 50 wonderful years of marriage this November.

Dorothy Lloyd Griffith ’65 Granddaughter Lauren graduated with honors from Gwynedd Mercy in Respiratory Therapy.

MaryAnn Lavery Hornberger ’66 New homeowner and proud mom and grandmom to 3 children and 4 grandkids.

Anne Marie Dugan Palinkas ’67 A proud grandmom who wants to congratulate her grandson Kyle Palinkas for following his father and grandfather’s path as a Philadelphia Police Officer. He was issued his grandfather’s badge number at his graduation ceremony.

Marie Curran Conway ’68 Enjoying retirement in Florida with husband Jerry — married almost 20 years.

Linda Halbe Paul ’71 Checked Antarctica off her travel list in January 2025!

Donna M. Jurgelewicz Talley ’72 Remarried at 70, living in North Carolina with her husband and Bichon, Nash. Hot air balloon ride planned for August!

Donna DiGiacomo Giulian ’75 Attended this year’s Commencement as a Golden Girl and celebrated her well-earned retirement.

K. Sue Mehl Reiley ’75 Proud of her son Peter, recognized for Distinguished Early Career Contributions by the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology. He’s a retired Air Force vet, now teaching and consulting.

Patricia Ingram Laib ’75 Welcomed her first great-granddaughter in October and celebrated her grandson’s graduation from Suffolk University in May.

Stella DeSantis ’77 has been a Certified Financial Planner for 29 years and continues to work as a Senior Director at Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. She has been married to her husband Robert for 10 years, has three children, and proudly became a grandmother in March.

Kathleen McCarney Pantalone ’78 has been married to her husband Jim for 44 years. Together, they have 3 children and 4 grandsons. She is looking forward to retiring in the near future.

Mary Dooley Finch ’80 retired after 30 years of teaching and recently moved with her husband into a 55+ community, where they are loving life. Two of their three daughters are married, and she’s hoping for a grandchild soon.

Eileen Moore Morrison ’80 has been married to her husband Jim for 44 years. Together, they have 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

Classnotes received after August 2025 will be included in the Spring Sequel.

We want to hear what’s new with you. Share your milestones, memories, and more. Mail a note, give us a call, or email Rebecca Garrow, Advancement Assistant at 215-455-6900 ext. 1130 or rebecca.garrow@lfchs.org.