



## *Alums "Making a Difference"*

### Sister Carol Ann Callahan RSM Mercy Class of 1958

I am a graduate of Mercy High School, class of 1958, and I loved my years as a student there. I have a Masters degree in social work from St. Louis University and a Bachelor degree in education from Webster University. I have dear friends from St. Rose's Kindergarten who walked the halls of Mercy with me and, together, we made many more friends. Since our 50 year class reunion in 2008, we have met twice a year at Pujols for lunch. It is still great fun.

The Sisters of Mercy, who opened the doors at Mercy High in University City in 1948, were dedicated teachers. As the enrollment increased so did the bonds between students and faculty grow in strength. It was in my senior year that the "Fourteen Club" (doing the Spiritual and Corporal works of Mercy) was formed by Sister Mary Alma and Sister Mary Charity. These Sisters had a custom of visiting the sick, the elderly, and the lonely. They invited students to accompany them. We would visit folks in all parts of the city, bringing a birthday cake, a blanket, and maybe a boom or two to clean their home if needed.



As young students we were in the hands of great women, great teachers, sharing their stories of life and how to grow old gracefully. We received so much more than we gave. Their love for God and neighbor made us reflect on our own life.

So, it has been my privilege to answer the call to religious life that I received as a senior. I have been very blessed to be a Sister of Mercy for fifty-three years and doing the "Works of Mercy" that I saw in action in 1958 by the Sisters. Some of my work experiences include, elementary teacher in New Orleans, child care worker, community outreach services, vice-president Sisters of Mercy in St. Louis, president of St. Louis Regional Leadership Team and social work. In addition, I am proud to say I have served on the Trinity Catholic High School Advisory Board.

My ministries have been as a social worker working with teenage girls in a home environment, parish work, leadership in my own community, and for the past fifteen years working at St. Augustine Wellston Center, an outreach center for five former parishes in St. Louis. We have a food pantry and a thrift store as well as direct services for those in need of assistance in daily living.