

THE 2005 WANSBORO AWARD RECIPIENT



Annette Zipple, RSCJ

For more than forty years Annette Zipple, RSCJ has been an advocate for the poor and oppressed people in southwest Detroit and has steadfastly given witness to the ministry of the Religious of the Sacred Heart in the City of Detroit.

A native of Lansing, Michigan, Sr. Zipple earned a degree in the Sciences and a certificate in Medical Technology from Mount St. Joseph College in Cincinnati. Her only awareness of the Religious of the Sacred Heart was through her mother and aunts who were members of the Barat Guild and traveled from Lansing to Grosse Pointe for retreats.

When Sr. Zipple took her first job at Parke-Davis working as a research bacteriologist, she encountered a co-worker who was considering entering the Society. Sr. Zipple became acquainted with the works of the Religious and decided to enter the Society of the Sacred Heart in February 1952. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee in August 2002.

Sr. Zipple worked in administration at Manhattanville College, taught at Kenwood and Prince Street in Rochester, N.Y., and then in the mid 60's, she returned to metropolitan Detroit as an administrator at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Grosse Pointe. It was there that she was able to develop the Sacred Heart Enrichment Program (SHEP), a thematic arts program for middle school girls that is still providing enrichment through the arts in southwest Detroit.

In 1968, Sr. Zipple volunteered to explore possible opportunities for urban ministries in Detroit for the Religious of the Sacred Heart. In preparation for her new focus, she attended Wayne State University and completed a Masters Degree in Social Work. Father Clement Kern, Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, invited her to serve on his staff as the Director of Community Outreach Services. Sr. Zipple played a significant role in the planning and development of Our Lady of Guadalupe Middle School which opened in 2002. This school, a collaborative project with RSCJs and four other women's orders, has been designed to offer a quality education to girls from culturally diverse backgrounds, who show academic promise. Today Sr. Zipple continues her involvement with SWEEP, a program that she began with the collaboration of the RSCJs and Madonna University and enables poor women in southwest Detroit to begin post-secondary education.

Sr. Zipple dreams of making education available to all people. She recognizes that alternative types of education must be designed and funded so that no one is left without the opportunities that education can bring. While continuing the mission of St. Madeleine Sophie, Annette Zipple, RSCJ has relied on the confidence in the Heart of Jesus that was so strongly emphasized by Katherine Wansboro, RSCJ. The Alumnae Association proudly presents the 2005 Wansboro Award to Annette Zipple, RSCJ.