

## 2020 Mary Mulheron Award Presentation

by Mary Ann Kelly-Wright, APM Past- Chair

The first two annual Sister Mary Mulheron Awards were presented at the 1985 annual APM banquet celebrating lay pastoral ecclesial ministry in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. One of the awards is presented to a graduating student in the Pastoral Ministry Program at St. Catherine University, nominated and selected by the staff at St. Catherine's. The other award is presented to a pastoral minister currently active in the ministry, nominated by an APM member and selected by the APM Board's nominating committee. The award includes a framed certificate and a monetary gift to be used for educational or ministry endeavors.

Professor William McDonough, of the Theology Department presented the 2020 St. Catherine University's graduating student award to **Michael Cassidy**. We congratulate **Michael** and look forward to welcoming him as a ministry colleague and APM member.

As the serving Past Chair of APM I have the honor to introduce APM's 2020 recipient to you. As noted above, since 1985 the awards have been presented at our annual APM banquet. This year requires a different approach as the APM Board prudently made the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 banquet. Our past banquets provide evidence that the "required social distancing" would be impossible to achieve nor would we want to if we were to gather.

In collaboration with Professor McDonough, we felt it was important to proceed with the nomination process and present the Mary Mulheron Award especially at this time when our faith and church are experiencing unforeseen circumstances that require extraordinary and innovative efforts to continue to reach out and minister to those in need. Our own self-care is imperative, too, as we encounter the sorrow of not being able to hold someone's hand or are asked to comfort a family grieving a death that cannot be fully acknowledged or celebrated.

The APM recipient is someone:

Dedicated to pastoral ministry demonstrating both competence in the vocation and a willingness to empower others in their calling to ministry.

Brings well developed qualities of prayerfulness, empathy, gratitude, patience, flexibility and sense of humor to her professional and personal life.

Integrates her academic experience and intelligence with pastoral insight and skills, bringing, creativity and credibility to the profession of pastoral ministry.

Has a vision related to pastoral ministry in the process of being achieved as well as one yet to be fulfilled.

A recipient of the APM Mary Mulheron Award is considered to be an exceptional Pastoral Minister. In addition to the original APM member nomination, this year's winner received five lengthy testimonials of support. As the committee went through the discernment nomination process it was clear that she is well deserving of this award. It is my pleasure to share with you some excerpts from those who wrote in support of her nomination.

+She has been the lighthouse of pastoral ministry, lighting the way for those to whom she ministers. She embodies the very soul of pastoral ministry.

+She has the wonderful quality of warmth and compassion, which immediately puts people at ease, even in their darkest moments. She has the ability to connect with people wherever they are at in their life journey. Meeting her is like bumping into an old friend. You can tell she genuinely loves people and wants to help in whatever way she can.

+Thirteen years ago I was fortunate enough to meet someone who has been a great inspiration to me. She encouraged me to become a Stephen Minister and I have had the privilege of working with her and experiencing her strong leadership, devotion to prayer and delightful sense of humor. Her enthusiasm for her work is contagious.

+She is an extraordinary pastoral minister; kind, compassionate, gentle in Spirit with a heart of gold. I have known her since 1997 ... and she has continued to be a dear friend and mentor in my own life.

+The word that comes to mind first is selfless. She truly lives her calling to comfort and guide those in need, and she brings along others and helps them find that same purpose. The phrase “being the hands and feet of Christ on earth” is what she does.

+She is extremely knowledgeable in her profession and brings with her many gifts that make her exceptional at what she does. As a practicing Catholic she is highly motivated to provide care not only to the mind but the body and spirit as well. A natural leader, she delegates when appropriate, organizes and supports volunteers and whole heartedly leads by example. I have witnessed her minister to people who have suffered tremendous pain and heart-breaking loss with great care and compassion.

+ She ministers as one of my key staff members and I know I can always count on her to bring a level headed, common sense approach to issues but one who will not only tell me the truth, but hold me accountable as well. Simply put she is a tremendous asset to her ministry and has made a positive impact on our community. She works with the highest level of honesty and integrity, striving for excellence always.

+At the parish she is seamlessly overseeing funerals, Stephen Ministry, Faith Formation in Pastoral Care and supporting area grief coalitions by speaking. She became an author not long ago, writing on resiliency.

+She is an excellent listener and she hears the person speaking to her on many different levels. She has the ability to “see the bigger picture”, and helps others to find healthier perspectives. She is a person with limitless ideas and works hard to bring those ideas to fruition. She played a major role in developing and organizing our protocol for funerals during the pandemic... She undertook a major mask- making project after her sister-in-law found herself working in ICU without the proper protective equipment.

+Several years ago she organized an archdiocesan wide Widows Day which has grown to several hundred attendees. It is a day of prayer, reconnection,...and fellowship for women in need. Simply put, when she sees a need, she fills it.

+She is an excellent teacher, both in word and example. Under her guidance the Stephen Ministry has grown in scope and dedication.... Her faith does not waiver, she is not easily swayed by events and remains strong in the face of disappointment, frustration, fear or irritation.

+She maintains a heart of gratitude in the face of all things and is always open to learn, to discover and to enjoy the moments that make life so rewarding. This is infectious and she spreads it freely to others. We are blessed to have so many talented leaders in our midst, but I know her to be exactly the kind of person who lives up to the ideals set forth for the Mary Mulheron Award.

It is with great joy that I have the privilege of announcing this year's Mary Mulheron Award winner, ***Beryl Morrow Schewe*** from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. ***The framed certificate and monetary gift were presented to Beryl on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Edina, Minnesota.***

# CONGRATULATIONS

## BERYL!

Since we cannot congratulate Beryl in our usual personal handshake and hugs (mostly hugs) fashion, please feel free to send your congratulations via her professional contact information:

Beryl Schewe, Director of Pastoral Care. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church  
5701 Eden Avenue, Edina, MN 55436

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***Now we present Beryl and her words of acceptance and reflection.***