

Marymount

Continued from page 11.

Nursing ethics and religion were included as an integral part of nursing education.

Sister Theophane taught us how to use the Roman Missal and stressed that we were always a part of Marymount College, representing it when on our clinical assignments. Serious and austere, she followed us in our journey through school, and some of us through life as we stayed in touch with her.

The Sisters were kind but strict disciplinarians. Hard work was always rewarded, sloth earned counseling and consequences. They were from backgrounds similar to the students, many from Kansas and Midwestern states. Success, competence and respect were the goals, we learned, and were seen in the teachers who modeled these virtues to us. Christian charity and self-sacrifice were taught. Subtlety and wit were enjoyed, jokes of the era were invited, but good taste and kindness were the standards to be applied to conversation and friendships.

Relationships were important and not casual. Attending Mass, or a person's own religious service, was encouraged, and developing a deeper love of God was often mentioned.

And so we took the standards of Marymount to the hospitals where we trained and served

After being licensed as a registered nurse, I moved to Denver and then to St. Louis to attend St. Louis University, eventually obtaining a master's degree in history. I worked on several surgical units, obstetrics and intensive care, then finally chemical dependency and psychiatry for the majority of my nursing career.

I saw the rise and demise of chemical dependency treatment as first practiced in America, evolving from the state hospitals through the huge numbers of centers, and then, the near total cessation of coverage by insurance companies in the late 1990s.

Psychiatric treatment fared a little better, now being done by social workers, psychiatrists for diagnosis and medication authority, and self-help groups in 2017. I've watched as the search for that "magic" drug continues by both Big Pharmacy and in the drug cultures.

Now that I am retired I continue to be a board member of Centerstone, our community mental health organization in Southern Illinois.

I have greatly enjoyed reconnecting with classmates from both Sacred Heart High School and Marymount. Keeping in touch with my widely scattered family — four children and grandchildren — is another lovely pleasure.

The opportunity to revisit the Marymount campus last September with 12 nursing classmates was very moving for all of us 1957 grads. We spoke with gratitude and admiration of the solid educational foundation we were given by the dedicated Sisters of St. Joseph. They were there for love of God, and we, and thousands of others, are the beneficiaries of their generous love. At 60 years further on life's trail, it is wonderful to hear these same values from our class, and to feel their enduring strength in my life. Our reunions have been part of that legacy from Marymount.

Thank you, and God bless you Sisters!



Sister Anna Marie Broxterman leads a group of volunteers across the lawn at the Nazareth Motherhouse.

First Sisters of St. Joseph Volunteer Day a success

There were some dirty jobs to do in Concordia. Luckily there was a hardworking crew of 14 Concordia students and six sponsors and other adults that gathered early on April 8 at the Nazareth Motherhouse ready to tackle those tasks.

"This is a good working crew, I tell you what!" Sister Anna Marie Broxterman said as she watched a group of volunteers take on the backbreaking work of hauling wheelbarrows full of mulch into the Concordia Community Garden of Hope.

The community garden was just one of the beneficiaries of the volunteer assistance. Volunteers aided with projects at Manna House of Prayer, North Mound and nine private residences in Concordia.

The Sisters of St. Joseph organized the volunteer day to help people in Concordia that needed assistance with yard work, light housework and removal of bagged trash. Those needing help were asked to fill out an application form at the Concordia Senior Citizens Center with priority given to those with

physical limitations, including the elderly and people with disabilities.

"This is the first time we've ever done it," said Laura Hansen, Administrative Assistant of Development and new Volunteer Program Coordinator for the Sisters of St. Joseph. "I was really impressed with how hard these kids worked. They just came because they wanted to help out."

Concordia FFA sponsor Krystal Nelson and JAG teacher Jordan Champlin coordinated with their students to volunteer at the event. A National Honor Society student and other interested adults in the community rounded out the crew. Workers were kept hydrated with bottled water donated by Farm Bureau, Cloud County Co-op, Concordia Auto Mart and Central National Bank. Some volunteers stayed hard at work until noon. Lunch was provided.

"People really appreciated the assistance," Hansen said. "They were so thrilled that we would do this. I must have heard 'thank you' 50 times today."