

## Woman of the Year NOMINATION

**Nominee: Susan Bro**

**Circle or Sustaining:** *St. Elizabeth*

**Years in Parish:** *More than 25*

**Service to the Church of St. Mary:**

*Circle Position, Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, Meals for Camp Hope*

**Description of Service:**

*Sue has participated in every single Guild activity that I have been a part of for as long as I have known her - which is more than 20 years. Although she is not usually able to chair any committee due to her childcare responsibilities, she always offers to bring a meal or put in her time in whatever activity our Circle is working on... whether it's Food Pantry, Soup Kitchen, Senior Citizen Luncheon, Sharing Trees, Easter Baskets or Meals for Camp Hope.*

**Description of Service in the Community:**

*Susan Bro has been a friend of mine for more than 20 years. She is a proud wife, mother of 4 beautiful and successful children, devout Catholic, committed Guild member and volunteer to as many organizations as she can manage. Sue and Tom's oldest daughter was diagnosed with Rett's syndrome at 18 months old. Most girls with this devastating disease do not live past the age of 12 but thanks to Sue's undying devotion and dedication, she is now well into her 30's. Sue has been the primary caregiver for Beth who is nonverbal and immobile. In spite of these challenges she has managed to mainstream her in education and involved her in numerous enrichment activities including horseback riding and swimming. Susan is the first to volunteer to help at our Circle events whether it is to bring a meal to someone in need or help with all of our other commitments. She has attended Mass regularly (with Beth) and always has a smile and a warm word for others.*

**Nomination Summary:**

*Sue has inspired me every day that I have known her as a person of faith, humility, courage and commitment and for this I would like to nominate her for Woman of the Year.*

**Submitted by:** *Marguerite Burke*

**Circle or Sustaining:** *St. Elizabeth*

**Woman of the Year  
NOMINATION**

**Nominee: Karen Cunningham #1**

**Circle or Sustaining:** *St. Gerard*

**Years in Parish:** *More than 25*

**Service to the Church of St. Mary:**

*Guild Board Member, Circle Leader, Coordinator of Major Guild Event, Eucharistic Minister, Parish Council, Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, Aid for Women, Pads lunches*

**Description of Service:**

*Karen Cunningham has been a amazing volunteer throughout her years at St Marys. She has been involved with St. Gerards Circle always the first one to volunteer. A wonderful women who is an example to to us all.*

**Description of Service in the Community:**

*Karen is the first to bring groceries, dinners whatever is needed to the group Aid for Women. As a Circle member she literally has 'done it all'. She has been Circle Leader several times. Guild president. Not once but twice running the Prelude. Driving meals to Camp Hope. The list is 32 years long! A wonderful person with a strong Catholic faith in God.*

**Nomination Summary:**

*Karen is long overdue for this wonderful award Woman of the Year! She has been a faithful. Volunteer for over thirty years at StMarys. She really has done or run it all. Please consider Karen for Women of the Year. Thank you*

**Submitted by:** *Cecee Reagan*

**Circle or Sustaining:** *St. Gerard*

**Woman of the Year  
NOMINATION**

**Nominee: Karen Cunningham #2**

**Circle or Sustaining:** *St. Gerard*

**Years in Parish:** *More than 25*

**Service to the Church of St. Mary:**

*Guild Board Member, Circle Leader, Coordinator of Major Guild Event, Eucharistic Minister, Religious Education, Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, Parish Council, Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry*

**Description of Service:**

*Karen has been a longtime supporter of the Church of St. Mary, the school and the Lake Forest community. She has a history of taking on lead responsibility's throughout the church, school and Guild of St. Mary with humility and faith. I have know Karen for nine years and what I have learned is that she has always been one that gives of her time and talent no matter the cause. Her quiet leadership is underscored by her compassion for those that are in need.*

**Description of Service in the Community:**

*Faithful parishioner with participation in Church Advisory, School Advisory, Lake Forest High School activities. Guild of St. Mary President 1995 & 1996, Circle Co Leader x 3. Co Chair of numerous Guild Circle events. Lead organization, Lake Forest. Extraordinary Minister, The Church of St. Mary. Active in Lake Forest Library. Active in Camp Hope*

**Nomination Summary:**

*Karen is a humble woman, one of little chat but much action. She is first to volunteer and give in any way she can. Karen is a quiet leader, never one to seek accolades for her generous spirit. St. Gerard Circle has nominated this beautiful Catholic woman in the past. I ask that you please consider Karen for one of this year's Woman of the Year award. This is the time that her quiet work for the good of so many over so many years should be recognized by all women of the Guild. Thank you.*

**Submitted by:** *Nadine Shepard*

**Circle or Sustaining:** *St. Gerard*

## Woman of the Year NOMINATION

**Nominee: Camille Devaney #1**

**Circle or Sustaining:** *Sustainer*

**Years in Parish:** *More than 25*

### **Service to the Church of St. Mary:**

*Respect Life Ministry, Minister of Care, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Bible Study, RCIA Team, Liturgy Committee, Parish Day of Service Committee, Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, So many I will list later.*

### **Description of Service:**

*Many years ago when Camille Devaney attended Marquette University they promised that they would educate not only her mind but also her heart. Their motto "Men and woman for others" became implanted in her heart. Every single day it motivates her. There is no end to the love and care she shows to those in need. During her career she spent twenty years in acadmia and twenty years at Abbott. The last ten years spent in Europe overseeing the manufacturing of drugs. Even during these busy years she found time to volunteer at her children's school and attend night school to prepare her for service to the Church. She took two years of night courses at Mundelein Seminary to prepare her to coordinate the Adult Ed program at St. Mary's. At the same time she was preparing to become a spiritual director for the Christ Renews his Parish retreat that took place at St Mary's for many years. These weekend retreats were life changing for many. Finally it came time for her to retire. She was looking for what would come next. She felt she was called to serve in the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. IVC provides men and women opportunities to serve others and to transform lives. IVC matches the talents of experienced volunteers with the greatest social needs. Camille was asked to provide service to those suffering from addictions and to those in need in Lake County. She decided to team up with our sharing parish Most Blessed Trinity in Waukegan. Her service to those with addictions took her to skid row where she would meet those seeking help and take them to retreat centers that provided them with direction to aid them in their quest to overcome their demons. Her service in Lake County was to establish an outreach to the nursing homes. There she brings them communion and arranges for mass to be said at their home.. She becomes personal friends with people who have no one else. With her they have someone who cares. She shops for them, takes them to church and brings them treats. She is an active member of MBT. She is supportive to their staff and helps provide Adult Ed. On Monday nights.....even Christmas she sleeps at the House of Peace in Waukegan. It is a home that offers shelter to abused women and their children. During Covid while many of the above services are suspended she has become a driver for meals on wheel five days a week. She picks up fifteen meals every day and delivers them in Waukegan. That means she makes fifteen separate stops. Once again she has formed friendships with people that are living alone. She goes out of her way to provide them with conversation and homemade treats. At Christmas she delivered gifts to these people who were moved to tears. One man so happy that he had a new warm blanket and a new flannel shirt. Thru the Jesuits she has gone on service trips to Africa, Peru, Ecuador, Cambodia and India. She stays in very humble places on these trips. I have seen little children on her lap in Africa, pictures of her teaching in Cambodia in knee deep water and most recently heard stories about visiting Mother Teresas death hospital in India. She said the tears just*

*flowed not only as she saw the dying but also the young college students who took a semester to serve in this home. She said there are no words to describe their kindness. I have had the privilege of cooking with Camille at Camp Hope for the last fifteen years. Some days it is a lot of "heavy lifting." But I have to say that we have more fun and experience more joy than you could imagine. Camille sees the face of God in all the people that she serves. She feels such great joy in making their lives better. Just walking beside her is a privilege. When we are alone in the kitchen at Camp Hope there is a happiness that is hard to describe.*

**Description of Service in the Community:** *(see above)*

**Nomination Summary:**

*Camille is a greeter at the church entrance every morning with her spritz bottle, she is a lector, she is a Eucharistic Minister , a Minister of Care and this begins her day.....and then the rest follows.....to the nursing homes.....to MBT.....to Meals on Wheels and all filled with joy a that can only come from her "servants heart." I hope you will be inspired by her story. She is a gift to all that know her and to all whom she serves.*

**Submitted by:** *Margaret Hartman*

**Circle or Sustaining:** *Sustaining*

## Woman of the Year NOMINATION

**Nominee: Camille DeVaney #2**

**Circle or Sustaining:** *Sustainer*

**Years in Parish:** *More than 25*

### **Service to the Church of St. Mary:**

*Minister of Care, Eucharistic Minister, Bible Study, Parish Council, RCIA Team, Liturgy Committee, Parish Day of Service, Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry*

### **Description of Service:**

*Camille Devaney grew up Milwaukee, WI attended and graduated from Marquette University with a science major. There she was exposed to and embraced Ignatian Spirituality of "men and women for others" and finding God in all things." The philosophy of the importance of service became the focus of her life. " She and her husband, John and three sons moved to Lake Bluff in 1976. Immediately she began volunteering at the grammar school until the boys finished fifth grade. Thus, her volunteering life was launched. She joined the parish Council at St. Mary's and taught CCD to fifth graders for a year. She decided to take the training to be a spiritual director for a new archdiocesan program called Christ Renews His Parish. When that ended after a few years, she enrolled in an archdiocesan program at Mundelein and coordinated the Adult Program for the parish. At the time, she was serving as a Eucharistic and Minister of Care. Camille's background was science. She spent 20 years in academia and 20 years in corporate America: ten years at Abbott in North Chicago and then after the sudden death of her dear husband, John, she agreed to work for Abbott overseas in Italy and Germany for the next 10 years, coming home intermittently for short periods. When retirement loomed, not one to take up knitting afghans or taking art classes, she googled Service Opportunities and made contact with the pastor of Most Blessed Trinity parish in Waukegan and began to go weekly to two nursing homes, to bring Eucharist, and arrange for monthly Mass, healing services and reconciliation for the residents. The COVID-19 has put this on hold. She also coordinated adult ed with the staff of MBT. She began to go to the food pantry at that site for a while, and then transitioned to being an overnight support person at the shelter for abused women and their children, and soon became part of their families, learning some Spanish and getting some Spanish recipes. She eventually joined the Ignatian Volunteer Corp, an outreach program for men and women in recovery from various addictions, and was always happy to see people heal and change their lives. She has been a volunteer for several summers at the end of July with Camp Hope, for children with disabilities, and their "buddies," young people that come to help these children have a fun time, and giving their parents a period of respite. Camille usually was involved with food preparation and clean up. Camille has traveled extensively with some of the Jesuits as service trips, to several 3rd world counties, like Africa, El Salvador, Peru, India, Ecuador, and has witnessed first hand the difficult conditions and the many difficult challenges and struggles of those people trying to survive at the low end of their societies. At the present time, Camille is involved with Catholic Charities, doing meals on wheels to low-income people in Waukegan five days a week. She has developed a friendly relationship with each of them and they are always happy to see her. They always have interesting things to tell her about their relatives, neighbors, living situation, weather*

*etc. She could write a book, and it would be hilarious, maybe even a best seller. They look forward to her visit and appreciate the conversation and the treats she sometimes brings. She also helps with the Catholic Charities Christmas gift packing and distribution each December.*

**Description of Service in the Community:**

**Nomination Summary:**

*Camille is a living example of love of neighbor, and the command of Jesus to love one another as I have loved you. Love and service in action. Camille is certainly a worthy candidate for WOMAN OF THE YEAR of the Guild of St. Mary.*

**Submitted by:** *Carol Herrmann*

**Circle or Sustaining:** *St. Anne*

**Woman of the Year  
NOMINATION**

**Nominee: Sally Stoll**

**Circle or Sustaining:** *Sustainer*

**Years in Parish:** *More than 25*

**Service to the Church of St. Mary:**

*Guild Board Member, Circle Leader, Bible Study, Adoration, Parish Day of Service Committee, Food Pantry, Participated in Pads meals*

**Description of Service:**

*Sally may have been involved in more services than I listed.*

**Description of Service in the Community:**

*Sally has been a faithful and dedicated member of the Church of St. Mary. She has been a mentor to many in our Catholic faith through involvement in the various activities of our parish. Her dedication to the LF/LB school district has been constant. She been a dedicated supporter of quality education for our community both private and public. Sally has played a significant role in Catholic Charities with serving on numerous committee's. Sally and her husband Ralph chaired the Art of Caring.*

**Nomination Summary:**

*Sally Stoll is the perfect example of what a Woman of the Year portrays. She has a loving and kind heart to ALL she meets. She gives of herself in numerous ways not wanting any recognition. Her dedication to her family, friends, and most important her faith is inspiring to those of us who are fortunate to know her.*

**Submitted by:** *Ann Farrell*

**Circle or Sustaining:** *Sustaining*



**Woman of the Year  
NOMINATION**

**Nominee: Ellen Kelly Tierney #1**

**Circle or Sustaining:** *Sustainer*

**Years in Parish:** *More than 25*

**Service to the Church of St. Mary:**

*Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Soup Kitchen*

**Description of Service:**

*Ellen (and her husband) have been spearheading the soup kitchen since my kids have been young . She welcomes all helpers and treats all who attend as guests.*

**Description of Service in the Community:**

**Nomination Summary:**

*Ellen is kind, thoughtful, generous, helpful, always in a quiet way. She leads through example. She lives her religion every day.*

**Submitted by:** *Mary Good*

**Circle or Sustaining:** *Sustaining*

**Woman of the Year  
NOMINATION**

**Nominee: Ellen Tierney #2**

**Circle or Sustaining:** *Sustainer*

**Years in Parish:** *More than 25*

**Service to the Church of St. Mary:**

*Soup Kitchen*

**Description of Service:**

*Ellen and Gerry have been the GO TO PEOPLE for the soup kitchen or at least 20 years, Ellen has fed more families meal than we have with all the dinners that we have made in our life time. All of the last minute changes, having enough food to feed so many families, men and women. Ellen is an attorney however, she has always made time for Soup Kitchen for over 20 years and has always done this with a sense of humor and a smile on her face*

**Description of Service in the Community:**

*Ellen is so humble, I only know of the Soup kitchen*

**Nomination Summary:**

*Ellen's Faith shines through with all that she does, Ellen is so humble I am not sure what else she does.*

**Submitted by:** *Jeanne Burke*

**Circle or Sustaining:** *St. Jude*

**Woman of the Year  
NOMINATION**

**Nominee: Women of the Guild of St Mary #1**

**Circle or Sustaining:** *All*

**Years in Parish:** *More than 25*

**Service to the Church of St. Mary:**

*Guild Board Member, All*

**Description of Service:**

*Outstanding group even during the pandemic*

**Description of Service in the Community:**

**Nomination Summary:**

*The women deserve some praise for all their hard work during the Pandemic! 😊*

**Submitted by:** *Barb LaVelle*

**Circle or Sustaining:** *St. Anne*

## Woman of the Year NOMINATION

**Nominee: Women of the Guild of St. Mary #2**

**Circle or Sustaining:** *All*

### **Description of Service:**

*March 13, 2020: It was the day the kids came home from school with every book, every device, every marker, notebook and folder. They were coming home for two weeks as the world readied for a virus that would last much longer than anyone anticipated. Two weeks turned into two months turned into the rest of the school year, the calendar year and into a new year.*

*Nursing homes, universities and restaurants shut their doors while hospitals, fire stations, food pantries and clinics opened theirs – all done for the greater good of the world. We waited for every news conference, every published article, every qualified doctor to tell us what the next steps were to combat this pandemic. We prayed.*

*How can we serve? How we can help? How do we lift others up? Keep our families safe? Keep each other emotionally healthy?*

*I nominate the Women of the Guild of St. Mary for persevering this extraordinary year. We all took on so many roles that were not always in the “job description”. Parents became teachers. Grandmothers cared for grandbabies so moms could help their kids e-learn while balancing a career and a home. Women in our guild braved the front lines as essential workers. Adult children navigated the vaccine process for their elderly parents. Families stood outside nursing home windows to support their parents or grandparents that they could not hold hands with or hug.*

*Beyond balancing all of the ways our families changed, we kept the Guild active at a most important time. We answered the call when it, too, was different than any other time we could remember. We also helped our beloved St. Mary’s go virtual and then eventually open her doors again.*

### **Nomination Summary:**

Most notably, we served others in greatest need during this profound time in history. We filled food pantries and soup kitchens, provided care packages for homeless children, gave families in need Christmas gift cards, filled Easter baskets and provided food and toiletries to PADS. The leaders of our Guild stayed positive and encouraged us all to stay the course - we could figure it out together. And we did! For that, I nominate the women of the Guild. May we continue to lead the way to a better and brighter future as we pray for an end to this pandemic.

**Submitted by:** *Kim Egan*

**Circle or Sustaining:** *St. Genevieve Circle*