



About Sister Rosemary Connelly, Executive Director of Misericordia



Sister Rosemary is a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy. A native Chicagoan, she attended parochial schools and taught in several Archdiocesan schools while continuing her studies. In 1959, Sister Rosemary earned a B.S. in Social Science. She then earned a Master of Arts in Sociology from St. Louis University in 1966 and a Master's in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago in 1969. She was appointed Administrator of Misericordia in 1969. She has also received five honorary degrees from the University of Notre Dame and from Loyola, DePaul, Lewis and St. Xavier Universities.

Sister Rosemary's leadership has been integral to Misericordia growing into a loving, challenging and dignified environment for more than 550 children and adults with developmental disabilities. To the residents, families, friends and staff of Misericordia, this special place truly has become "home." Misericordia is dedicated to the principle that each person should be encouraged to achieve his or her maximum potential, realized through educational, vocational, spiritual and recreational programs.

Sister Rosemary has received numerous awards and honors throughout the years. She has gratefully received all of them on behalf of everyone who is involved with Misericordia. These include:

- Sister Rosemary was honored at the Palmer House, Chicago for her 40th Anniversary as Executive Director of Misericordia and 60 years as a Religious Sister of Mercy (2009)
- Women with Vision Award from The Women's Bar Association of Illinois (2008)
- Invited by Gov. Blagojevich to present invocation for the State of the State Address in Springfield at the State Capitol (2006)
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital's "Speaking of Women's Health" Conference Honoree (2006)
- St. Ignatius College Prep Women's Council "Women for Others" Honoree (2006)
- Honored as the Grand Marshall for the Northwest Side Irish Parade (2006)
- The Jane Addams History Maker Award for Distinction in Social Service from the Chicago Historical Society (2006)
- Honorary Degree from St. Xavier University (2006)
- PATH (People Are Everyday Heroes) Award, by Governor Blagojevich (2006)
- Caritas Christi Urget Nos Award from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago (2005)
- Sacred Hearts Goal Award from Sacred Heart Schools (2005)
- One of the 100 Most Powerful Women in Chicago by the *Chicago Sun-Times* (2004)

- Order of Lincoln Medallion, the State of Illinois' highest award for lifelong outstanding achievements (2003)
- Closing Prayer Presenter at the Illinois Inauguration of Gov. Rod Blagojevich in Springfield (2003)
- Illinois Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Ernst & Young (2002)
- Lumen Tranquillum Award from Fenwick High School (2002)
- Joseph Cardinal Bernardin "As Those Who Serve" Award (2001)
- Respect Life Person of the Year from the Catholic North Shore Parishes (2000)
- Dr. Richard Rovner Award from the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago (2000)
- Network of Women Entrepreneurs Achievement Award (2000)
- Cook County Unsung Heroines Award (2000)
- Doctorate of Humanities, Lewis University (1998)
- Doctor of Laws, University of Notre Dame (1997)
- International County Mayo People's Award in Castlebar, Ireland (1996)
- Catherine McAuley Leadership Award from Mother McAuley High School (1995)
- Doctor of Humane Letter from DePaul University (1995)
- Ridge Avenue renamed Sister Rosemary Connelly Drive (1994)
- First Woman to Serve as Grand Marshal of the City of Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade (1994)
- Youth Inspirational Award by Boy's Hope (1994)
- Communicator for Christ Award from The Daughters of St. Paul (1993)
- Distinguished Service Award from the Catholic Theological Union (1993)
- Sancta Crux Award from Notre Dame High School (1993)
- Professionals of the Year Award from the Young Irish Fellowship of Chicago (1993)
- Sword of Loyola from Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine (1992)
- President's Cabinet Award from the University of Detroit Mercy (1992)
- Mary Potter Humanitarian Award from Little Company of Mary Hospital and Healthcare Centers (1992)
- Daniel A. Lord Award from Loyola Academy (1991)
- Loveland Award from the American College of Physicians (1990)
- Cor Mariae Award, the highest non-academic award by the Faculty and Board of Trustees of Immaculate Heart of Mary High School (1989)
- One of the Most Caring People in America Award (1989)
- Honorary Membership given by the Chicago Pediatric Society (1988)
- Best Friend Award by the Friends of Handicapped Riders (1987)
- Chicago Special Olympics' Ann McGlone Burke Olympian Service Award (1987)
- Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Field of Social Work from Lourdes High School (1986)
- Guttenberg Award from the Chicago Bible Society (1985)
- The Coordinating Board Award for Outstanding Christian Service to the Chicagoland Community from the Association of Chicago Priests (1984)
- Doctor of Humane Letter from Loyola University (1982)
- National Caritas Award from the Kennedy Foundation (1982)