



Sister Paulanne Held in the altar area of... [More](#)  
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## ‘It’s all you and your energy and your dedication’ Community celebrates OLPH Sharing Ministry, honors Sister Paulanne Held

KARIE ANGELL LUC  
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Attendance at the 5 p.m. mass was full capacity on Nov. 26 in honor of a milestone in the history of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (OLPH) in Glenview (1775 Grove St.).

People filled Saturday pews to join in on recognizing the 40th anniversary of the church’s Sharing Ministry and also the face behind the ministry and sharing room, Sister Paulanne Held of Glenview.

The Sharing Ministry and Sharing Room are located on the church campus. The Sharing Ministry distributes donations of food, clothing and other needs to recipient churches and to individuals and local families in need of assistance.



Center, Sister Paulanne Held has just received flowers on the altar during mass on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Glenview.  
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“OLPH is a better parish because of the Sharing Program,” said Rev. Jeremiah Boland, pastor of OLPH.

Boland indicated, “a special debt of gratitude” to the late Rev. Myles McDonnell, Sister Paulanne and parishioner Rich Tilghman, “who were so crucial in launching the Sharing Program here at OLPH 40 years ago.

“When I look at how we have developed as a parish, and how the Sharing Ministry has impacted everything ... it’s part of the consciousness, we’re part of the larger world,” Boland said.

“You really have to challenge somewhat beyond your comfort zone to say, ‘It’s a big world out there,’ culturally, economically, geographically,” Boland said. “And sharing has been the vehicle that has really helped our parish mature as a faith community.”

At the end of mass and on the altar, Sister Paulanne received a bouquet with a red bow from Betty Collins of Glenview, co-chair of the Sharing Ministry.



Left, presenting to flowers to, right, Sister Paulanne Held is Betty Collins of Glenview, Sharing Ministry co-chair, during mass on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Glenview.

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Mass attendees applauded and Sister Paulanne offered remarks of thanks on what was also an extended Thanksgiving weekend.

“It’s all you and your energy and your dedication,” Sister Paulanne told the audience, giving credit for the Sharing Ministry’s service over four decades.

The Saturday mass and event included a celebration in McDonnell Hall, a basement gathering place named for Rev. Myles McDonnell. There were refreshments and fellowship.

Betty Collins and Bill Lynch of Glenview (also Sharing Ministry co-chair) reflected about the Sharing Ministry and Sister Paulanne.

Lynch said about Sister Paulanne, “She’s the inspiration, she’s the one that we all look to.”

Lynch added, “I think through the course of it all, there’s always this incredible need and you just feel the pain of others.

“And it’s sometimes, you feel helpless, but ultimately, ‘What can you do?’ and it’s ultimately to get involved, to help people, to give your resources, your time and understand it’s going to maybe make a small difference in somebody’s life or a big difference,” Lynch said.

Collins said about the Sharing Ministry, “It becomes part of the core of who you are.

“I don’t know where I would be without this ministry,” Collins said.

Meisha Robinson is director of charitable ministries for St. Josephine Bakhita Parish which was founded in 2020 as a merger of the parishes of St. Bride, St. Philip Neri, Our Lady of Peace and Our Lady Gate of Heaven in the South Shore and Jeffery Manor neighborhoods of Chicago.

About the recipient partnership with OLPH’s Sharing Ministry, Robinson said, “I think it’s a wonderful thing.

“It’s helped so many, hundreds and thousands of people over four decades.

“You know,” Robinson said, “That’s not an easy task to come to. The Sharing Ministry has provided us with things that people would not ordinarily have in their lives.”

Sister Paulanne circulated the room in McDonnell Hall, greeting people who came to support a legacy.

“I just want to say thank you,” Held said. “It’s certainly a community effort, it’s always been.

“Father McDonnell planted the seed,” Held said, crediting McDonnell with a role in launching a sharing parish model in 1971. “He (McDonnell) asked people to bring cans of food and that’s how we started.



Sister Paulanne Held during the celebration in McDonnell Hall on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Glenview.

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“And as the years went on, it grew and then we organized as a committee,” Held recalled. “It just kept going and it’s just been such an impact in our community and in the Sharing parishes.

“And the only thing I can say is thank you to every person who’s been involved,” Held said.

“It’s been so great.”

Held said the Sharing Ministry has a promising future in part due to service project lessons instilled in children educated and connected at OLPH.

“They’re the future to change our world,” Held said.

Learn more at <https://www.olphglenview.org>.

*Karie Angell Luc is a freelancer for Pioneer Press.*