

Sister Paulanne:

A Heart for Service and a Legacy of Compassion



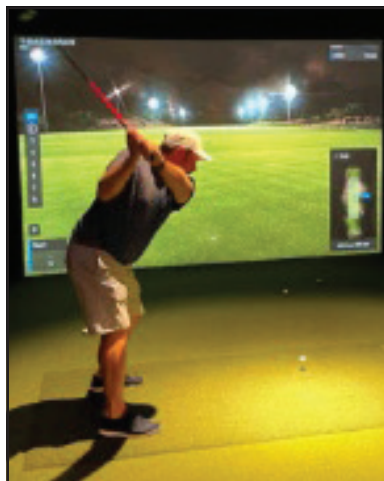
Sr Paulanne at the podium being honored at the Loyola Academy's 62nd President's Dinner
Photo by Steve Donisch



Sister Paulanne Held, OSF, has spent her life embodying the values of service, compassion, and dedication, becoming a beloved figure in the Glenview community. Raised on a farm north of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as one of nine children, she learned the importance of hard work and community from an early age. Inspired by the School Sisters of St. Francis who taught in her small parish school, Sister Paulanne entered the religious community committed to building a more just and peaceful world. After completing her training as a teacher, she was sent to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) in Glenview, where she began teaching third grade and continued her full-time work with students at every grade level for 60 years.

Even after retiring, she has remained deeply involved with the school and continues to keep in touch with students and faculty, leaving an indelible mark on generations of learners. She has earned admiration across the North Shore for her deep empathy and unwavering commitment to helping others, making her a beloved and respected member of the community. She has been called the “Chicagoland Mother Teresa.”

Known for her deep empathy and commitment to helping others, Sister Paulanne has become an iconic figure at OLPH—just try to find someone in the area who hasn't heard of her. Her heart for those struggling is unmatched—whether it's a homeless person knocking on her door in the middle of the night or a family living in their car, she has always seen them as human beings in need of love, respect, and care. This approach led to the creation of the Needy Family Fund (NFF) in 1975, which provides vital support to families facing hardship. Through the fund, Sister



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Paulanne has rallied the community to help families in crisis, offering food, shelter, clothing, and educational supplies to those in need.

Her lifelong dedication will be recognized at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake's 32nd Annual Celebration of Mundelein on April 24, 2025. This prestigious event supports Mundelein Seminary and its mission of shaping the future of the priesthood. Sister Paulanne will be honored alongside Fr. Jerry Boland and Dr. Amy Mills, two other distinguished contributors from OLPH, for their extraordinary commitment to faith, education, and service. Hosted by the Very Reverend John Kartje and Cardinal Blase Cupich, the celebration underscores the vital role Sister Paulanne has played in living out the values of faith and community.

Her passion for service is contagious. Sister Paulanne's commitment to helping others has inspired countless community members, from donors who provide food and supplies to volunteers who dedicate their time and resources. She has said that even though over one million children are homeless, all of them need food, shelter, a stable family life, and a good education. Sister Paulanne's call to action resonates deeply with those who know her, reminding them that no one can afford to stand by while others suffer.

Sister Paulanne has also woven the values of kindness and generosity into the curriculum at OLPH, teaching her students from an early age the importance of giving back. She has said that this virtue is just as important as the regular subjects of math, science and English and encourages her students to use their gifts and resources to make a difference. Her lessons stay with her students long after they leave her classroom. Many return years later,



Sr Paulanne with Sharing Room donations
Photo by Ben Tchaou



Sr Paulanne and Pastor Fr. Jeremiah Boland together at Christmas
Photo by Rob Orr

often with supplies or donations for the Sharing Room, a space dedicated to helping those in need.

Sister Paulanne's moral code is simple: help others have a better life. Her life's work, both in the classroom and in the community, has shown countless individuals the power of compassion and the difference one person can make in the world. Through the Needy Family Fund and her enduring presence in Glenview, Sister Paulanne's legacy of service continues to inspire and uplift, reminding everyone of the importance of helping others and building a better, more compassionate world. ■

To learn more about the Celebration of Mundelein, become a sponsor, or purchase tickets to attend, please visit usml.edu/celebration-of-mundelein.

OLPH Christmas 2024



We Await the Wonders of His Love

We welcome everyone to celebrate this Christmas season with us at OLPH!

Christmas Eve Masses*

- 3:00pm in the Church
- 3:00pm in the Playdium
- 5:00pm in the Church
- 7:00pm in the Church
- 10:00pm in the Church**

Christmas Day Masses*

- 7:30am in the Church
- 9:00am in the Church
- 9:30am in Playdium
- 10:30am in the Church
- 12:00pm in the Church

**At all Christmas Masses, we will be singing "Silent Night" in the original German version, "Stille Nacht," as our first parishioners sang it in 1919. Please join us in this new OLPH tradition.*

***Festival Choir will begin a caroling program before Mass at 9:15pm.*

Please join us during the Christmas season.
OLPH is located at 1775 Grove St. in Glenview.
The parking lot can be accessed from 1776 Glenview Rd.
Visit us at olphglenview.org or call us at 847-729-1525.



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