

The Frances Warde Service Award



In 2005, during her Centennial year, Lauralton Hall proudly announced the establishment of the Frances Warde Service Award.

Frances Warde was born in 1810, the daughter of Mary Maher and John Warde of County Laois, Ireland. She was the youngest of six children. Frances was an orphaned young woman in her late teens when she first met Catherine McAuley, through her friendship with Catherine's niece. On January 23, 1832, Frances Warde became a Sister of Mercy, professing vows at the Convent of Mercy on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland.

In November of 1843, two years after the death of Catherine McAuley, Mother Frances Warde (pictured above) left Carlow, Ireland along with six other sisters and set sail to North America where, on December 21, 1843, they founded the first convent of Sisters of Mercy in the United States in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In the almost forty-one years of her life that remained after the founding in Pittsburgh, Frances traveled extensively through the northeastern United States. She was instrumental in founding convents in Chicago, Illinois; Loretto, Pennsylvania; Providence, Rhode Island; Hartford, Connecticut; Rochester, New York; Manchester, New Hampshire; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Portland, Maine; Burlington, Vermont and Bordentown, New Jersey.

In the tradition of Catherine McAuley, Frances Warde reached out again and again connecting the rich to the poor...the healthy to the sick...the educated and skilled to the uninstructed...the powerful to the weak.

The Frances Warde Service Award will be presented in May of each year to students who achieve **100 hours of service** in the community and school **from June through April**. Required service hours can be applied. Service hours can be accumulated by serving in the community as well as in school at any School sponsored events requiring volunteers. Students are responsible for documenting the hours served by using the "Frances Warde Award Service Hours Record Form." In order to be eligible for this award **documentation must be submitted to the Guidance Assistant by May 1.**

Lauralton Hall is continuously being made aware of community service being performed by our students. This award is the school's way of saying THANKS and honoring the dedication and commitment of our students to the legacy of service left to us by beloved women like Catherine McAuley and Frances Warde.

*In Mercy...we touch the hearts of those who are in misery.
In Mercy...we're touched by them and feel their strength and courage.
In Mercy...we heal the pain of those who are in sorrow.
In Mercy...we're healed by them and feel the face of hope!*