

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR BLESSING OF MCAULEY'S GARDEN

On the evening of Sunday, October 1, just as the sun was setting, more than 300 guests assembled in the new Catherine's Garden at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School to witness the official blessing of the garden.

Community members have watched in anticipation all summer to see the completed project which consists of two brick gardens; statues of Catherine McAuley and the Blessed Mother; plaques displaying quotes by Catherine McAuley; dedicated trees, granite paths and lighting. Catherine's Garden spans the front of McAuley's building creating a beautiful and welcoming space along 99th Street.

Father Jerry Williams from Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago presided over the blessing ceremony. The gathering was made up of donors, friends, community members, and families. It was an emotional event for many who had purchased bricks in tribute or in memory of loved ones. People shared pictures and stories of their loved ones as they walked through the gardens reading the more than 300 engraved stones.

One of the benefactors, Penny Witt Stamps '62, donated the second brick garden and named it in honor of her mother, Carmella A. Witt. During her reflection, she commented on how grateful she was to be able to give something back to McAuley.

“I feel lucky to have the opportunity to honor two great women through my gift: Catherine McAuley and my mother, Carmella. This school gave me so much and it is touching to come back after so many years and see the Mercy Tradition so alive at McAuley today,”

The plan for this on-going project is three-fold: to strengthen McAuley's Mercy and Catholic identity; to create a welcoming outdoor space for prayer and contemplation for students and community; and to raise funds for Financial Aid, the Learning Resource Program and Faculty/Staff Pensions. To learn more about McAuley's Catherine's Garden, please visit our website at www.mothersmcauley.org.

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