



May 2020

Greetings, Fellow OLM Class of '88 Alumnae:

Nearly two years ago, we came together with a commitment to share the special story of our class and honor our beloved sisters taken too soon... we agreed that we must turn our sorrow and struggles into an opportunity to celebrate our classmates' lives and pay it forward in true '88 fashion.

I am humbled and honored to share the news that in the last year, over 30% of our classmates donated to the OLM Class of 1988 Fund (a school record for highest percentage of alumnae participants... SHAZAM!) and raised \$6,225.96 This inaugural fund is a testament of how we come together, never settle, and know we will continue to raise the bar!

Over the past few months, several of us met with members of Mercy's Advancement staff, and we awarded a deserving junior a \$2,500 scholarship toward her senior year this fall. This student was deemed most worthy based on the criteria we, the Class of 1988, defined.

In addition, we have announced that our OLM Class of 1988 Fund has also covered the cost for five juniors to receive class rings, who otherwise were unable to obtain them. Getting your class ring is a rite of passage at Mercy and it's heartwarming to know that these five ladies will now be able to participate in the Ring Ceremony which is scheduled for early fall. **NOTE:** Our Class of 1988 has been invited to join in this celebration on Friday, September 25, 2020, as these students requested to personally thank the fellow Mercy sisters from '88 that made this possible. We will promptly share details on the final scheduling of the Ring Ceremony and welcome all who are able to attend.

"Glory to Mercy High. She teaches truth and leads the way. Mother, thou wilt be proud of us, as we are proud of thee.... Thanks and undying love, we owe to her high standards. Her halls have led us to our guiding star."

Our persistence, unwavering commitment to purpose, exemplary bond, and zest to celebrate life and sisterhood with "no regrets" has led Mercy to request our scholarship be named... **Guiding Star Class of 1988 Scholarship.**

We have been through a lot together and the present-day pandemic has reminded all of us the importance of helping those in need. It's all about coming together to honor our sisters... being kind to each other and setting an example. This is what Mercy taught us... we are sisters who help each other and I'm so proud to stand with each of you as we look not only to match, but to exceed the contributions for Year Two of our OLM Class of 1988 Fund.

Again, this plan is being shared with our '88 graduating class, as well as our sisters from grade school and/or transferred from Mercy to receive diplomas elsewhere. These ladies continue to express interest to be included in our events.

I am excited and proud to share the following plan for the second annual "OLM Class of 1988 Fund" with everyone and challenge us to come together!

- 2020 Donations
 - We ask you to please consider a gift in the amount of \$19.88 or more, referencing "OLM Class of 1988 Fund" to be sent to OLM (details on Page 3) by **September 18, 2020**
- Use of 2020 Funds
 - A communication will be sent via email encouraging any/all classmates to meet (conference call to be provided for remote attendees) in September 2020 to agree how the money will be allocated
 - Examples of ways we can distribute the donations include, but are not limited to:
 - Scholarships for aspiring students who otherwise, would not be able to attend Mercy
 - Junior Class rings for aspiring students who otherwise, would not be able to obtain this cherished representation of Mercy
 - Musical instruments
 - Art supplies
 - Technology supplies
 - Other "wish list" items that promote wellness and creativity
- Formal Communication of 2020 Funds
 - At the 2020 Alumnae Reunion in early October, information about the OLM Class of 1988 Fund will be announced as a way to challenge other classes to pay it forward and create their own legacy as well
- Future Years
 - We look to make this an annual fund with contributions ongoing, with request for heightened generosity in 2020 and during our anniversary years
 - Money raised every year shall be dispersed at the full discretion of OLM '88 alumnae only

SHAZAM! And "Ne'er shall we forget our cherished Mercy High, Our dear O.L.M."

Prayers for health and safety to all.

With love,



Sandy Turko (Scardetta)
Our Lady of Mercy '88

cc: OLM Class of 1988 Fund Committee: Amy Cassidy, Chris Lang (Chajchuk), Jen Fox-Werges,
Our Lady of Mercy representative: Karen M. Ralph '72, Director of Alumnae Relations

Yes, I would like to make a gift to the OLM Class of 1988 Fund!

•\$19.88 •\$50 •\$100 •\$250 •\$500 •\$1,000 •Other

Please complete and mail with payment to: Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, New York 14610. **Gifts can also be made online at: www.mercyhs.com/1988classfund**

Name _____ E-mail _____

Street Address _____

City, State & Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Method of Payment: • Check Enclosed (payable to Our Lady of Mercy) • AMEX/Discover/MC/VISA

Account # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

*For more information, contact Karen M. Ralph '72, Director of Alumnae Relations, in the Advancement Office at 585-288-7120 x313 or kralph@mercyhs.com.

