

Giving...The Secret of Living

Gwendolyn Tearte's family surprised her with the announcement of a \$44,000 gift for grants and scholarships that will be awarded in her honor to students at John W. Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School. "I never imagined anything like this would be done for me" was her comment when she was told about the tribute in March 2013.

Gwendolyn Washington Tearte graduated from Hallahan in 1948 and Charlotte, her sister, graduated in 1952. She has lived her entire life in south Philadelphia where she raised four children: Curtis (Jylla) Tearte, Lillian Tearte, Elizabeth (Maurice) Perry, and Rebecca Tearte. Cherice (David) Barr, Mauriel and Nassir Perry, and Anjylla Foster, her grandchildren, affectionately

enjoy her loving spirit and sense of humor. She attributes her strong work ethic and love for family to her Catholic faith.

The Tearte Family Foundation will award three incoming freshmen with \$500 grants for the academic year beginning in 2013-2014 with eligibility for renewal annually. In addition, a graduating senior will be able to compete for a \$1000 scholarship to be awarded for use at an institution of higher learning after graduation from Hallahan beginning with the 2013 graduating class. The award recipients will become Tearte Scholars and join a network of



Left: Gwendolyn stands with her son, and the first recipient of her newly formed scholarship, Saronda Gray.

students who have benefitted from The Tearte Family Foundation.

Gwendolyn Tearte is looking forward to honoring the academic achievements of the award recipients. Her life continues to be defined by her spirit of giving.

Hallahan Graduate Related to a Saint!

How many of us can claim a saint in the family? Class of 1955 graduate, Helen Koob Walsh, is related to a newly canonized saint — Saint Marianne Cope!

"We are very honored as a family" Helen said. "We've been praying to her more and more, asking for her intercession. She's been an inspiration for all of us. It's not just exciting —



Helen Koob Walsh '55 (right) has a saint in the family.

it's luminous! I can't believe we're connected to someone like her. It would have been nice to have known her."

Saint Marianne Cope was born Barbara Koob on January 23, 1838 and baptized the next day in Hessen, West Germany. Her parents emigrated to the United States with their five children in 1839 and settled in Utica, NY where they were parishioners of St. Joseph Parish.

Barbara entered the Sisters of Saint Francis of the Neumann Communities in Syracuse, NY on November 19, 1862. She was given the name Sister Marianne and professed her vows a year later.

Sister Marianne taught school, became a principal and served her congregation in several administrative positions. She aided in the establishment of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Utica in 1866

and St. Joseph Hospital in Syracuse in 1869. She became administrator of St. Joseph Hospital in 1870 and was an advocate for patient's rights.

In 1883, Sister Marianne traveled with six other sisters to Honolulu to minister to people with leprosy. In November of 1885, she opened a home for children who had the disease. In 1887, the government reinstated an alienation policy for those with the disease and moved them to a settlement for exiles on Molokai. In 1888, Sister Marianne and her sisters joined them, and by doing so, she exiled herself from ever visiting family and friends back home in Syracuse. She died on that island in 1918.

Sister Marianne was canonized on October 21, 2012.

Excerpts taken from the December Newsletter for Ascension Catholic Church in Melbourne, FL