Throughout 2012, the OLMC Alumnae Committee witnessed and supported many special events in the life of the College. These experiences made us proud to be a part of our vibrant Alma Mater. The committee was delighted to be invited to share in these special occasions including the Opening and Blessing of the Mercy Tree, the Barbara McDonough Student Centre, the Christina Creede Music Centre, the Janet Woods Building and Kavanagh Place. It has certainly been a significant year for development at the College.

In addition to these, we had our own special event - the OLMC Annual Reunion Day which incorporated the Alumnae Association AGM.

A beautiful day began with Mass celebrated by Father Walter Fogarty, the College Chaplain. Father Walter spoke of our Mercy heritage in his homily, reminding us how we can continue to live out Mercy values in our daily lives. The sounds of a College Choir and String Ensemble resonated in the Mother Mary Clare Dunphy Memorial Chapel, reminding us of the superb musical tradition of OLMC. The classes of 1952, 1962 and 1972 were represented with memorabilia symbols in the opening procession of thanksgiving. Special mention was given, in memoriam, of several life members who had recently passed away.

At the AGM, those in attendance made the decision to donate $15,000 of the Alumnae funds to the Mercy Tree Fund. This will be an excellent contribution to supporting the ministries of the Sisters of Mercy.

It was then time to catch up with old friends, natter and laugh over a light luncheon in the Senior Common Room. The gracious hospitality extended by the newly elected Senior College Leadership team made the day extra special, reawakening those memories of when we too were wearing our school uniforms.

Our other Alumnae function this year was the 2011 Catherine McAuley Alumnae Award, which is presented each year at the College Assembly close to International Women’s Day. It was truly an honor to present 1964 graduate Carol Harding with the 2011 Award.

Carol was a most worthy recipient who, in every way, demonstrates the Mercy values of Compassion, Dignity, Service, Mercy, Justice and Hospitality in her ministry. She was chosen because of her commitment to working in her local community in the areas of sport, education and social welfare. Mother of seven and wife to Ken, Carol's involvement has included service to Little Athletics and Netball, receiving the RSL ANZAC Award for Community Service and carrying the Sydney Olympics Torch. She has been an outstanding volunteer at St Bernadette’s Castle Hill, St Michael’s Baulkham Hills, Parramatta Marist High and Gilroy College. As a support worker for the Sisters of Mercy initiative, St Michael’s Family Centre, she has been the coordinator of the Family Support and Accommodation Program for several years. By caring for women and children in need, Carol has demonstrated how Mercy is an integral part of her life. It was beautiful to witness Carol and Ken’s love and dedication to their marriage. In her acceptance speech Carol spoke humbly of her husband and family and no doubt inspired students for their future.

The committee was also pleased to have financially supported, on behalf of the Alumnae,
- the Mercy Action student Cambodia Trip
- ex-student Lyndall Hord’s 3peaks, 3weeks Africa 2012 Challenge
- OLMC Parramatta Alumnae Award for Year 12 Dux

Beginning in 2012, the Alumnae will sponsor the Year 12 Catherine McAuley Award, which will acknowledge a student whose commitment to Mercy values has been outstanding.
It is an honour to represent Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta Alumnae. I would like to thank our Alumnae team for their dedicated service in ensuring that our Alumnae represents “the College of our hearts always”. I would especially like to thank Sister Barbara McDonough for her love and tireless commitment to the team; without her the Alumnae would not be the special jewel it is in the College crown.

Finally, in the words which are so much a part of our Mercy heritage, Sub Tuum Praesidium, may we always take refuge under the gentle protection of Mary, our universal mother, who models for us the love of our merciful God.

Wishing you a wonderful Mercy Day on September 24.

Grace Blahut

President, OLMC Parramatta Alumnae