

Barb Uschold Anderson – 2023 APM Mary Mulheron Award Recipient

Thank you....I'm honored and humbled to receive this ministry award! I'm grateful for the one who nominated me and for those who offered testimony to the ministry which I am committed to. Just under a year ago, I moved to a new position as Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care at St. Pascal's on the eastside of St. Paul...I had been serving as Director of Pastoral Care at St. Joseph of the Lakes in Lino Lakes for 8 ½ years, prior to that I worked 2 years at a long term care center in north Minneapolisthe people who celebrate with me today and those couldn't be here represent all those places, which are close to my heart....A few weeks ago, the community choir for which I am a part of gave their spring concert....there are some quotes that were shared between songs and one that truly struck my heart strings and deserves to be shared: Sr Simone Campbell talks about how we are called to compassionate ministry which for me has been life-giving..... *"This connection, the fertile ground of compassion, requires that we open ourselves to the challenges of others. This is where the seeds of hope are nourished as long as we have others to tend the ground with us."* **Sr. Simone Campbell**

I'm thankful for the remarkable 'others' who tend the ground in ministry **with** me, ...countless volunteers and colleagues-- I'm grateful to, St. Joe's longtime deacon: Tom Konkel—who was a partner in Grief Ministry and prayer reflection mornings and evenings. I'm thankful for you who are with me tonight as well, my pastor-Fr John Mitchell who is committed to partnering in pastoral care!-thank you.... long time colleagues from St. Pascal's-Judy (who's known me since 1993 and to Sharon who over the years has had countless emails/conversations helping me to reflect, plan, and move forward in ministry), and to some ministry volunteers and friends: Sally & Mary Jo who ministered with me at St. Joe's and the many who are here in spirit tonight....**and** to my husband Kirk—who, 'bless his heart' listens as any good engineer would!! 😊...who supports...and walks with me—even when I have no words to share the pastoral experiences I may be going thru. –thank you!

I embarked on a pastoral journey with my sister Rosanne beginning about June of 2021.... At some point over the year and a half, I told her that I wasn't too happy that we were in this position, but that I was pretty sure God was teaching us, teaching me....thru her terminal cancer journey... good thing I embrace lifelong learning!-- as even in her death, she's teaching me.... and that is what each of us in ministry is called to be aware of... to reflect, pray our experiences, care for ourselves—'remembering to seek the pathways of healing & wholeness", and to continue to look to our loving creator God who with Jesus embraces us in all the ways we minister...within the church, community or the world we walk...

If I may, I leave you with a song my choir recently sang at our Spring concert:

--for me I hear the images of the great Easter vigil fire and the new waters of life-the well, here too are the images of the ones who partner together in this important ministry of pastoral care: ...

We shall be known by the company we keep, by the ones who circle 'round to tend the fire.
We shall be know by the ones who sow and reap the seeds of change alive from deep within the earth
It is time now, it is time now that we thrive, it is time we lead ourselves to the well...
It is time now, And what a time to be alive in this great turning we shall learn to lead in love....
In this great turning we shall learn to live in love---Karisha Longaker