Kathleen Hennessy  
Distinguished Lasallian Staff Member  
2003-2004

When asked to describe Kay, colleagues throughout the campus offer a litany of praise: First, in her professional capacity, they esteem her for the manner in which she handles a difficult and sensitive position as payroll manager with fairness and tact, and above all with personal care irrespective of a person’s status or position. They applaud her diligence and concern for her colleagues’ welfare as when, during this past winter’s blizzard, she surpassed the legendary post office to make certain the checks went out on time.

But beyond professional areas, colleagues attest to her personal qualities and to their evident spiritual source: “A person whose goodness shines through her face,” “a deeply religious person,” “kind and compassionate,” “ready to assist anyone with a problem.” This zeal for others manifests itself in her untiring efforts organizing retreats and other activities for co-workers at the Cardinal Spellman Retreat House in Riverdale and in her local parish activities. And, not least, they admire the dedication that she shows to her beloved family, especially her grandson Michael. In fact, anyone at a Manhattan basketball game can see that she is nurturing a new generation of Jaspers.

For her dedicated professional work in the support of the Manhattan College’s educational mission and for the inspirational quality of her presence among us, we are delighted to ask Brother Thomas Seanlan to present Kay with the inaugural award as Lasallian Staff Member of the Year.