



Happy Holidays from

# St. Michael's Woodshop

**"Building from the Inside Out"**

**Holiday 2023**



## We're Grateful to Continue the Mission of Mercy to Serve

We owe our existence to Sister Pat Flynn, RSM, who founded the Woodshop in 1967. Since then, many Sisters of Mercy have helped us by fundraising, serving on our Advisory Board, counseling and interacting with our students, and keeping us in their prayers. This year we've been happy to serve by making two products for the Sisters: "Mercy Words" and "Mercy Crosses."

"We have been giving this Mercy Word out for years at the commissioning service of new associates," said Sister Noel Keller, RSM. (An unfinished board of six of the plaques is shown above.) "We give them out unvarnished, which gives people the freedom to varnish the word, leave it untouched or paint it! Hundreds of them are now all over New York and Pennsylvania."

Our second commissioned project for the Sisters came from Sherylanne Diodato, PhD, the new principal of Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women. It is for 80 "Mercy Cross-

es," one for each classroom at the school. The original Mercy Cross was designed by Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, in 1832. "It is a cross upon a cross," explained Sister Nancy Whitley, RSM.

The cross is made of three pieces: the base (see students painting them above), the cut-out piece glued on top of it (being sanded at upper right), and the small cross glued inside the cutout. Mentor Jack Cargill shows the first prototype for the project at right.

"I have a great love for St. Michael's Woodshop, because I was a great friend of Sr. Pat Flynn," said Sister Nancy, who was instrumental in setting up the Sister Pat Flynn and Sister Janet Korn funds (both still open). Now Sister Nancy is honored to have joined our Advisory Board. Welcome, Sister Nancy!



*Yaryelisse and Dianexis paint, Peyton sands, and Mentor Jack Cargill holds a Mercy Cross.*

## Meet Our Students and Mentors at a Holiday Party, and Shop for Gifts!

On Saturday, December 16, 2023, from 11 am to 4 pm, we will host a drop-in holiday appreciation party for our many adult mentors and volunteers. The Woodshop will be open to the public for a casual "Meet and Greet," and an opportunity to purchase some last minute Christmas gifts made by our students. We will also have some redundant donated equipment for sale, like bandsaws and rotary sanders. (These equipment items will also be featured on Facebook Marketplace and Craig's List, starting a few days before the event.) Refreshments will be served. Security will be on the Woodshop premises. Come join us!

