



Très Bien
to
Stavra Gianoulakis Bayer

City House Class of 1968

On May 2, 1827, Philippine Duchesne left the valleys and farms of Florissant and traveled to St. Louis to open what became known as the "City House." One hundred forty-one years later, on May 29, 1968, thirty young women closed that long and beautiful history as the last class to graduate.

In the forty years since, it has been the mission of Stavra Gianoulakis Bayer to keep her thirty classmates united, ever grateful for their happy years together and ever mindful that they are and always will be "Children of the Sacred Heart." A classmate writes, "We elected Stavra our senior class president, and for forty years she has been faithful to the trust we placed in her. Her heart-filled leadership and service to our class has never ended."

Stavra has located all but one of her classmates. A monthly newsletter goes out to each one. A grateful classmate states, "Stavra has enabled our class to share many joys and sorrows ... new jobs, career milestones, everyday challenges, the birth of children and grandchildren, news of serious illness, deaths of parents and loved ones. Stavra is one of the most compassionate women I know. Her life is a gift of self to others. Stavra merits the Très Bien award not because of any great things she has done but because of her simple caring for everyone."

I, too, believe that Stavra is a woman truly deserving of the award. I am proud to have guided her during her high school years, and I continually grow in admiration of her. St. Madeleine Sophie's whole educational philosophy was the complete formation of children who, when they left the Sacred Heart, would be strong, loving, caring women in their own milieu. Stavra is such a woman.

The City House school song ended with the words, "With standards high we will play our part, true children of the Sacred Heart." Stavra is, indeed, a true child of the Sacred Heart.

Mary Louise Gavan, RSCJ