

Part of the speech given by **Gillian Kernaghan**

**St. Joseph's Service Recognition**

**Corporate reception, Oct. 18, 2018 - Best Western Lamplighter Inn**

For the next few moments though, in the spirit of celebrating past achievements, let's pause and have some fun looking back. How many of you can remember what was happening around the world when you first walked through our doors to begin your careers with St. Joseph's?

For example, for those marking five years, Pope Francis became the first pope from Latin America. Prince George was born, the first child for the royal family's star couple, Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate

Middleton. It was the year the bad was finally broken, with the series finale of the compelling drama *Breaking Bad*.

If you've been here for 10 years, you may recall Barack Obama became the first African American elected as US President, a victory hailed beyond America's borders.

Harrison Ford reprised his iconic role as Indiana Jones for the fourth Indie movie, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. Canada's pop music prince Justin Bieber was discovered when a music manager saw his YouTube videos and tracked him down.

Fifteen year recipients, the year you began was the same year scientists from around the world mapped 99 percent of the human genome, launching a new understanding for

predicting and curing disease. It was the year we were all in the dark, during the biggest blackout in North American history. Apple launched iTunes and sold 10-million songs in the first four months.

Twenty-year recipients, you might remember where you were when you heard about a little research project by two Stanford PhD students being founded as a private company. That little project was called Google.

Snowboarding and women's ice hockey were introduced as new sports for the 1998 Winter Olympics in Japan. And it was the year that kids kept on reading, after JK Rowling's second book release, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

We are now at 1993. Recipients joining the quarter century club this year are celebrating at the 25-Year Dinner, so we'll be reflecting on their first year with us then. But I will say that 1993 was a good year for dinosaurs and romance at the box office, as *Jurassic Park* was and *Sleepless in Seattle* were big hits in theatres.

Let's jump to the 30-year recipients. In 1988, Canada hosted the Winter Olympics in Calgary. The world's first major computer virus was spread on the internet. And *Rain Man* topped the box office as the new favourite road movie that raised the profile of people living with autism.

Moving to 35 years ago – it's now 1983. Jeanne Sauvé was appointed Canada's first female Governor General.

Moms did battle in the toy store aisles to claim a coveted

Cabbage Patch Kid. Watching TV was still a communal event, and nearly 106-million viewers tuned in for the last episode of the long-running, acclaimed series M\*A\*S\*H.

Now for our 40-year recipients.... it's 1978, the year the world's first "test tube baby" was born, and in-vitro fertilization became a fertility treatment. The video game *Space Invaders* may have hooked you on electronic gaming. And everyone's favourite cranky feline Garfield debuted in newspaper comic strips.

For our 45 year recipients, the year is 1973 and you'll recall that the first handheld mobile cell phone was introduced. It was 9 inches tall and weighed 2 and a half pounds! Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs competed in

“The Battle of the Sexes” exhibition tennis match. King won all three sets by the way.

And finally, for our longest serving recipients of 50 years, you started with St. Joseph’s in 1968, just as a young lad named Pierre Elliott Trudeau won a majority in the federal election. You would have heard *Hey Jude* on the radio, over and over and over again. And, defining part of Canada’s culture forever, the laws creating Canada’s medicare system came into effect.