

The 2015 Franciscan Alumni Association Humanitarian Award was presented to Warren Hebert, DNP, RN, CAE, at the Association's 2015 chapter reunion in Cincinnati.

It's been over 40 years since I've seen Warren. I've forgotten many things in that amount of time. But I still remember many of my classmates. I remember Warren as being reserved but good natured. He liked to have fun as all teenagers do. He will go down in infamy as a singer in the school's rock and roll band. But, Warren also had a serious streak in him. He knew when to set aside the silliness and when to buckle down. He was a good kid then so it should be no surprise that he is also a good man now.

First I want to present a little personal information about Warren. Warren met his wife, Ramona, at a wedding. He heard her singing Franz Schubert's "Ave Maria" and that was all it took. Warren says that he "melted" when he heard her sing and fell in love with her right then. The two have now been married for 35 years and have 5 children, four sons and daughters-in-law and nine grandchildren.

The Franciscan Alumni Association is proud to confer its Humanitarian Award to Warren Hebert in recognition of Warren's career, influence and devotion in the field of home care.

Warren Hebert attended St. Francis High School Seminary in the class of 1975 from August of 1971 through June of 1973, as a freshman & sophomore. He played for the Saints' baseball, basketball, and soccer teams, enjoyed intra-murals with Fr Berard Doerger, OFM, Picnic Day athletics, and an occasional game of tennis with Bill Pellman (Fr. Dean, OFM). Camping in the woods is a favorite memory, in part due to Fr Murray Bodo introducing us to Henry David Thoreau's Walden. Warren tried out for Glee Club. Fr Aubert noted that Warren's voice was changing, and suggested Glee Club wasn't be a good fit, Warren was then asked by kind, musically gifted classmates to be part of the rock band Jail Break. (We had no problems with groupies.) As a freshman, Warren tried his hand at being a barber for work period. After butchering Joe Groh's hair cut, Hank Rethlake saved the day by giving Joe a burr cut. He then cut Warren's hair the same way. He was quickly reassigned to laundry duty. Another favorite memory was a speech competition & Fr. Aubert's coaching for a performance as Uncle Remus telling the story of Brer Rabbit & the Tar Baby.

After sophomore year at the "Farm", Warren returned home to Jeanerette, LA., completed high school, and chose a career in health care. He attended X-Ray Tech and then Nursing School at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Warren is an RN, a Certified Association Executive, and in May 2015, at age 58, completed his Doctorate in Nursing Practice, where he received Loyola New Orleans' Ignatian Award as the university's outstanding graduate student. Warren was also named honor scholar of his Doctoral nursing cohort, in part for his two year study of health professional's competencies in engaging family caregivers. For nearly seven years Warren was host of Radio Maria's "A Caring Place", which focused on the needs of family caregivers, and was broadcast in seven states & on the web.

Warren is a founding member of Men Entering Sacred Space (MESS), an ecumenical group of 14 men who head to the woods for a weekend once every three months in an effort to deepen their spiritual roles as husbands, fathers, grandfathers and in ministry. The group is affiliated with Illuman, formerly Men As Learners & Elders (MALES), based on Richard Rohr's work in men's spirituality.

Warren has worked as a home health nurse for over 30 years, 17 of which have been as CEO of the HomeCare Association of Louisiana (HCLA). HCLA represents 210 home care agencies across Louisiana, and 11,000 plus homecare professionals. Warren has spoken around the country about disaster preparedness and response, the future of home healthcare, the future of nursing, and recently about leading healthcare workers to Tibetan Buddhist communities in India in 2014. Warren was a reviewer for the Institute of Medicine's 2015 document on the Future of Home Health Care, has served on the editorial advisory board for Home Healthcare Nurse journal and contributes to home care, hospice, and association management publications.

Warren has served on numerous state and national boards & commissions and is currently Secretary of the board of Community Health Accreditation Partners in Washington, DC. He also serves as a director for the board of Louisiana's Advocacy Center, which oversees state and federal services & grants for Louisiana's impoverished elderly and people with exceptionalities.

Warren's wife Ramona has been a music minister, is an accomplished liturgical vocalist, and has taught science, math, and music in Catholic Schools for over 30 years. She currently teaches Theology to Juniors at St. Thomas More High School in Lafayette, LA. Warren & Ramona have five grown children and nine grandchildren. Their youngest daughter Brooke, the most famous member of the family, has Down Syndrome. Brooke just completed her freshman year in the LIFE program, (Learning Is For Everyone), at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where she is attending classes to prepare her for work in child care.