26th Annual
Founder’s Day Celebration

Sacred Heart University
Fairfield, Connecticut
April 6, 1989
Master of Ceremonies
William A. Pearman, Ph.D.
Provost of the University

Invocation
Rabbi S. Jerome Wallen
Campus Ministry

Greetings and Presentation of
The President’s Award
Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.
President
Sacred Heart University

The Honoring of the
Service Award Recipients
Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.
President
Sacred Heart University

Conferral of
Doctor of Humane Letters
honorus causa
Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.
President
Sacred Heart University

The Dr. William H. Conley Lecture
The Most Reverend Edward M. Egan, J.C.D.
Bishop
Diocese of Bridgeport

Benediction
Reverend William F. Sangiovanni
Director of Campus Ministry
In Appreciation of
Bishop Walter W. Curtis

Mrs. Julie Savino........................................Director of Financial Aid
Mr. David A. Bike........................................Athletics Director and
Men’s Basketball Coach
Mr. Augusto S. Cabrera.........................Student, Computer Science

Sacred Heart University Service Award
The Sacred Heart University Service Award is presented to those faculty
and staff members of the institution who have completed twenty and
twenty-five year terms.

Twenty Year Service Award Recipients
Mr. Edward G. Donato, Jr. ....Associate Dean, Continuing Education
Mrs. Josephine Smith...............Technical Services Librarian
Miss Ingrid Wagner .................Mailroom/Duplicating Clerk
Dr. Paul Siff..........................Associate Professor, History

Twenty-Five Year Service Award Recipients
Mr. Douglas J. Bohn..................Associate Dean and Registrar
Dr. John L. Mahar.........................Professor, History
Dr. Maria-Teresa Torreira...............Professor, Modern Languages
Special Recognition of Bishop Walter W. Curtis

It was in March 1963 that Bishop Walter Curtis and Governor John Dempsey signed the Sacred Heart University Charter, marking the beginning of a new educational institution to serve the people of southwestern Connecticut. Now, 26 years later, we honor the man who founded and guided our University for over a quarter of a century, from 173 students and 9 faculty to its present student body of more than 4300 students and 101 full-time faculty.

At their March meeting, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name Bishop Curtis Chairman Emeritus and Life Trustee in recognition of his years of devoted service to Sacred Heart University. Within his lifetime Bishop Curtis has seen the fulfillment of a dream — a co-educational institution of higher learning founded in the Catholic tradition and staffed by laypeople, serving the educational needs of the people of this region.

Today, at this twenty-sixth celebration of Founder’s Day, we offer our gratitude and prayers to our Founder, Chairman Emeritus and Life Trustee, Walter W. Curtis.

Citation

Jackson E. Spears can best be described as indefatigable — in the past as an executive in the textile industry, today as a leader for health care and civic organizations. Now in his eighth decade, Mr. Spears devotes countless hours to community service. As President of the St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation, he has been instrumental in raising funds for the renovation of the St. Joseph Medical Center in Stamford, Connecticut. He serves on the Boards of Trustees of St. Joseph Medical Center and New York Medical College, and on the Board and Executive Committee of St. Joseph’s Manor in Trumbull, Connecticut.

His former activities for other organizations are numerous and worthy of mention as well...Stamford Hospital, the Choate School Development Fund, Darien Chapter of the American Red Cross, Foreign Policy Association, the American Cancer Society of New York City, and the Child Guidance Center of Greater Stamford.

In recognition of his humanitarian endeavors, Mr. Spears has been the recipient of several awards, including the prestigious William Cullen Bryant medallion from New York Medical College.

Prior to his “retirement” in 1961, this native of Dallas, Texas spent a working lifetime as an executive in the textile industry, serving as Vice President of E. Gerli and Company, National Mallinson Fabrics Corporation, and Burlington Industries. He graduated from Southern Methodist University and pursued graduate studies at Harvard Law School.

In 1985, Mr. Spears and his wife, the former Evelyn Gerli, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. They have three sons and eight grandchildren.

For his exemplary humanitarian and professional achievements, Sacred Heart University bestows an extraordinary honor upon itself as it confers its highest accolade, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, upon

JACKSON E. SPEARS
Artwork by Michael J. Kelly  Class of 1988