

2023 SISTER MADELEINE OF JESUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

(From *Rivier Today*, Fall 2023)

The prestigious Sister Madeleine of Jesus Award was presented to Sister Helene Cote, pm, Class of 1973 and Rita Cloutier Calamari, Class of 1958. This award is bestowed on Rivier alumni who have distinguished themselves, in the spirit of the University's mission, through outstanding service to their communities, their professions, and their alma mater.



Sister Helene Cote, pm, '73, has long walked in the footsteps of Saint Marie Rivier through her expansive view of faith and service. Committed to lifelong learning, Sister Helene

studied spirituality at the Pontifical Gregorian University and earned a master's degree in theological studies from Weston Jesuit School of Theology. Serving as the Provincial Superior for the United States Province of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, she leads more than 200 Sisters living and serving in various New England dioceses. Her contributions to Rivier are exceptional. In her role as Chairperson of the Corporation, she has provided imaginative leadership in the spirit of Saint Marie and Sister Madeleine of Jesus, respect for all, and a bold vision of academic innovation.



Rita Cloutier Calamari '58 exemplifies the University's Latin motto, *Altiora et Meliora – Higher and Better*. She pursued a degree in higher education at a time when few women had the

opportunity and continued her education by earning a law degree from the University of Maine. She served others with dedication through pro-bono work for members of her community, service on the town's School Board, and teaching Catechism to teens at her church. She was also an active voice for women's voting rights, advocating that everyone fully participate in our democracy.