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Article for Mayfield Senior School's *Postscripts* (2007)

RING NIGHT

Ring Night is one of Mayfield's most solemn and moving traditions, and this year was no exception. On April 19, 2007, Head of School Rita McBride presented the Class of 2008 with their Mayfield rings. Many alumnae returned to participate in the ceremony by giving a Mayfield ring to a family member, thus passing the legacy from one generation to the next. In this 75th Anniversary year of "remembering," we are acutely aware of the roots of our traditions, and the symbolism of the Mayfield ring.

The first Ring Night took place on January 23, 1946, on the Euclid campus. Ring Night came about at the request of the Class of 1946, who wanted a special ceremony for the presentation of their class rings. A journal, kept by one of the Holy Child sisters, describes that, "the students had begged Reverend Mother to have some ceremony henceforth to be traditional, attendant upon the presentation of their school rings. Mother Mary Wilfrid worked out the plans for the very simple ceremony. At six o'clock, in the star canopied patio, the nuns all took their places in a semi-circle...with the Holy Child on a pedestal at the head of the steps with flowers and a vigil light at his feet...Reverend Mother spoke to the graduates, telling them the meaning of the ring."

What is the meaning of the Mayfield ring? Many alumnae wear it throughout adulthood. Like these alumnae who have gone before them, each year the junior class is called on to carry out the ideals they have learned during their years at Mayfield. They have been taught to think beyond themselves and to exemplify both generosity and integrity through "Actions not Words." When each young woman accepts her ring, she acknowledges the class's role as the new leadership of the school. As leaders, the class helps preserve the qualities that make Mayfield and a Holy Child education so unique. As the juniors transition to their senior year, and then from high school to college and beyond, they will carry with them the gifts they have gained.

As every year, we look to the Class of 2008 with hope and trust. We believe that their path—their circle of life, symbolized by the ring—will lead them back to Mayfield. We acknowledge their accomplishments thus far and are confident that each young woman will accept her new role with dignity and pride.

Although Ring Night is no longer held outside on the Euclid campus, but rather in Pike Auditorium on Bellefontaine Street, the core of the ceremony remains the same. It is now and will forever be a part of Mayfield's history.