

DONNA DESMOND

THE 2020 RECIPIENT OF THE ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER AWARD

Donna went into nursing 34 years ago, and she has managed to balance her life as a nurse, wife and mother of five beautiful children in an exemplary way. Donna embodies the criteria of a Christian worker who serves as a minister of God's love within her community

Donna is currently a nurse manager at Lowell General Hospital Saints Campus. During this year, she has been a critical care nurse in the ICU and now manages the Intermediate Care Department at Saints. During the past several months, Donna has managed over 65 medical professionals in the treatment and care of COVID-19 patients. She has worked tirelessly seven days a week, sometimes 12 hours a day to bring special care to her patients. When there were shortages on particular shifts, Donna would quietly cover as a care nurse, showing her dedication to her patients and her co-workers. COVID-19 has presented many medical challenges as well as emotional stresses to the doctors, nurses and caregivers. Donna has handled all of it with grace, and she approaches each day with a strong faith and a positive outlook.

Donna has been married to David Desmond for over 30 years. They are the proud parents of two grown daughters, Molly and Emily, and three mature boys, Thomas, Daniel and Jacob. Their oldest son, Daniel, is a non-verbal autistic child who has attended various special schools. Donna and David have faced tremendous challenges with Daniel and as a family they have remained steadfast in their faith and love for God and for each other. They have made sacrifices and adjustments at every turn, always doing what is best for their family's future. She has faced difficult challenges, yet she never makes excuses, never stops moving forward – she is courageous in her journey and continues to help others every day.