



Aurelia Ottersbach SL

November 6, 1925 — June 25, 2010

“I was born in St. Louis, Missouri on November 6, 1925 shortly before noon on a snowy Friday — just in time for fish which I never learned to like.”

Such is the opening sentence of the autobiography of Aurelia Ottersbach.

Aurelia attended Webster College for three years. She said: “My only claim to fame was an imitation of Dr. Donovan, President of Webster, which was first performed for the public at the annual Christmas banquet but was subsequently repeated at the drop of a hat.”

At the end of her junior year, Aurelia entered the novitiate at Loretto Motherhouse on June 8, 1946. According to her autobiography she noted: “My novitiate was eventful but not unique. I had not been a novice for a week when I rang a bell at the wrong time and put all the novices and postulants in the chapel for a Benediction service that wasn’t scheduled. That was a portent of the things that came.”

After first profession of vows, December 8, 1948, Aurelia stayed at Loretto and taught at the school at Loretto Station. The **two biggest** things in her life during those six (6) months were **the coal stove in the classroom and the period for Ward singing!!! She wrote: I don’t know which of these caused me more concern.**”

The following September she was sent to St. Benedict’s in Louisville. Aurelia made final vows in August 15, 1952 and received her degree from Webster College. Aurelia then

taught at Montgomery, Alabama, Loretto in Kansas City, back to Montgomery, and then to Loretto Academy in El Paso.

For a long time she had wanted to be a librarian. While in El Paso she took classes at North Texas State University in library science. In 1976 Aurelia became librarian for the Loretto Academy. It was a work she enjoyed very much.

In February of 1983, Loretto archivist, Sister Florence Wolff, talked with Aurelia about the possibility of working in the archives, learning on the job, taking classes, and becoming archivist. After visiting the archives, Aurelia wrote to Marian McAvoy, then president, stating that she would very much like to work in the archives and would be happy to live at Loretto. Aurelia was appointed archives assistant in 1984 and archivist in 1987. She retired in 1999, and continued to live at the Motherhouse serving on various committees and in a ministry of prayer and presence.

Oh how we will miss your presence and your very dry sense of humor! God bless you!