



Elizabeth Coyle SL
December 10 1931 — May 9, 2010

Elizabeth Coyle, born in San Antonio, Texas graduated from Our Lady of the Lake High School and then earned her BA in sociology from Loretto Heights College. It was there she decided to enter Loretto but because her parents were having difficulty with her entering a religious congregation she did not enter until 1957. In the meantime she was a claims examiners in the Social Security Administration.

Sister Mary Arthur (her religious name was for her father) first taught at Mary Queen of Peace in St. Louis and then at Loretto Academy in El Paso for several years. While at Loretto Academy she remembered "It came to my attention that the girls in my homeroom should see how it was to be poor. So after school we went to the Good Shepherd Convent in the south side of El Paso. We left shampoo, curlers and later heard that the girl were shampooing their hair every day. These were 'throw-away' girls whom no one wanted or they were escapees from the brothels." She also remembered planning parties for children in Sacred Heart parish. "I would play my harmonica to get their attention."

Liz also taught in Bernalillo, New Mexico, Montgomery, Alabama, and Kansas City. In 1972 she returned to San Antonio to care for her parents. She worked at St. Pius X and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishes until she dedicated herself full-time to the care of her father. In turn, Liz was cared for by family members in the last years of her life.

Barbara Ann Barbato was a classmate of Liz at Loretto Heights. She writes "Lucy Ruth and I visited with her quite regularly when we were in San Antonio for Webster graduations. Elizabeth was a "cat-person" and her home eventually was a "park" for the neighborhood cats. In San Antonio, there are no basements but there is under the porch and under the house space for shelter.

"She was always so hospitable, with wide grin and mischief-twinkle in her eyes. She laughed a lot too and our visits had all of us laughing a great deal."

Liz, we thank you for your caring service throughout your Loretto life with students and then with your parents.