



Karen Madden SL
August 14, 1921 – January 24, 2012

Karen Madden born in Denver and was educated in Loretto schools – St. John for grades 3 – 8 and St. Mary’s Academy for high school. She graduated from Loretto Heights College in Denver and worked for a year before following her sister, Loretto Ann, to Loretto. Her youngest sister, Theresa, followed her to Loretto a year later.

Karen began her canonical year on April 25, 1945. She pronounced first vows on December 8, 1947 and final vows on August 15, 1951.

In 1954 – 1962, Karen served as Mistress of Postulants at the Loretto Novitiate. After a year studying theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee Karen traveled with the pioneer group of novices who made their home at the Loretto Education Center which opened in Denver in 1964. She spent five years at the Center and then two years as a pastoral assistant at Guadalupe Parish in Pueblo, Colorado.

Karen then returned to the Motherhouse and worked as a counselor and social worker for Community Mental Health in Lebanon, Springfield and Bardstown. Three years later she returned to Denver to work as a pastoral assistant at Presentation of Our Lady Parish, in 1983, then secretary and administrative assistant of the Catholic Conference in Denver in 1987.

In 1996 Karen retired to the Denver Loretto Center (full circle – originally the

Loretto Education Center which she help to open), and in 2002 she moved to the Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary.

One of the highlights of her life was when she was asked to join a Journey of Reconciliation to Dublin and Belfast, Ireland that was sponsored by the National Council of Churches in support of the Peace People of Northern Ireland. On December 5, 1976, the group of 107 Americans marched with 25,000 people from the North and South of Ireland who met at Drogheda in the Valley of the Boyne in a plea for peace with justice in Northern Ireland. This was quite a thrilling experience for the daughter of Irish immigrants!

Karen, from your many years in formation to a great deal of experience in social work, we thank you for you continuing service to others. God bless you!