



**“It’s a beginning, there is still a lot of work to be done.”
Sister Lupe Arciniega, SL**



The experience of befriending the stranger is a constant in Sr. Lupe Arciniega’s life. She graduated from St. Joseph’s Academy, 704 El Paso St. in 1954 and is a native El Pasoan.

Lupe also known as Sr. Mary Aloysius, taught in the Southwest and then was missioned to La Paz, Bolivia for two years and Peru for eight and a half years where she developed television and radio programs in literacy and life learning skills. She was the fourth Sister of Loretto missioned to South America in the 1960’s. She later traveled to California to work with Cesar Chavez.

Lupe has lived for many years in Kentucky where her ministry is with migrant farmer workers, immigrants, and refugees. She was a charter member of the Migrant Network Coalition in Lexington. Along with friends from the University of Kentucky she helped organize the first three conferences of that group.



Sr. Lupe Arciniega, SL
Photo courtesy of Loretto Motherhouse

She persuaded local health departments to hire bilingual interpreters as the number of immigrants to the state increased. Under the auspices of the Louisville Catholic Charities, Lupe involved English speaking

volunteers from area churches. They provide 600 meals per week for migrant workers every Sunday at four locations.

In 2005 more than fifty years after graduating from St. Joseph’s Academy, on El Paso Street, Lupe was honored as the first Hispanic inductee into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Her award describes her as “An educator and defender of farm workers. She has worked to help Hispanics in Kentucky obtain fair wages, healthcare, housing, and child care.” She also says, “It’s a beginning, there is still a lot of work to be done” Fortunately, the newcomers have this Sister of Loretto, a committed and big hearted friend working at their side.



Sister Elisa Rodriguez, SL

Sr. Arciniega’s classmate at St. Joseph’s Academy, Sister Elisa Rodriguez, has this to say about her long time friendship with Sr. Lupe. “We are united in our mission to work for peace and act for justice.”

Both of these members of the order invite classmates, ex-students, family, and friends to join them in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Sisters of Loretto at various events during 2012.