

Loretto
MAGAZINE

Summer 2021 Volume 62, No. 2

Also inside ...

EarthLinks celebrates 25 years

Pakistan: welcoming young women

Infirmary residents are praying for all

Loretto Volunteer: farming with awareness

... and more

Annual Report inside!

LORETTO HONORS EARTH

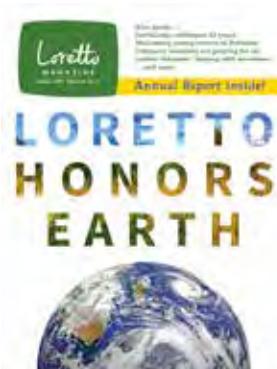


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Front cover:

"A Sky View of Earth From Suomi NPP"
"This composite image of southern Africa and the surrounding oceans was captured by six orbits of the NASA/NOAA Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership spacecraft on April 9, 2015 by the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) instrument. Tropical Cyclone Joalane can be seen over the Indian Ocean" (<https://www.nasa.gov>). Created by the Ocean Biology Processing Group at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.



Back cover:

Photo: Baden Pond at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. Quote from an article by Thomas Berry, CP, appearing in Loretto Magazine in 1993. Berry, a scholar of world religions and prolific writer, was passionate about healing Earth. He called on religious organizations to respond strongly to the environmental crisis.
(Photo by Christina Manweller)



LORETTO COMMUNITY
Sisters of Loretto • Co-members of Loretto

"We work for justice and act for peace because the Gospel urges us."

Loretto Community members teach, nurse, care for the elderly, lobby, minister in hospitals, provide spiritual direction and counseling, resettle refugees, staff parishes, try to stop this country's nuclear weapons build-up, work with the rural poor, and minister to adults in need. Our ministries are diverse.

The Loretto Community, founded in 1812 as the Sisters of Loretto, is a congregation of Catholic vowed Sisters and Co-members.

Loretto co-members are those who, by mutual commitment, belong to the Community through a sharing of spirit and values, and by participating in activities that further our mission.

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Dear Reader,

Even before Earth celebrates the solstice, evidence of summer has arrived. During a recent drive through the neighborhoods on my way to the grocery, even the air seemed tinted with green as lawns and trees have exploded in blade and leaf. Earth is magical as these pages of Loretto

Magazine and your own experience reveal. I sense an abundance of vitality in so many individual and communal ways, ways in which you participate and support with your prayer, presence and donations.

The difficulties and challenges of this time of global pandemic have not caught us napping! Throughout the Loretto Community, from Hawaii to Lahore, from Vermont to Bolivia, we do our best to bring love and healing, kindness and justice in ways small and large. Some of these daily stories are revealed in the pages that follow, reported by individuals, supported and appreciated by the rest of us. You may see images of your own story reflected in the lives of others recounted here. Tell us about those with a letter to the editor, or a text, or phone call.

You will see the Annual Report presented by the Development Office personnel: Mary Ann, Virginia and Lydia. Your contributions are reported here and as magically as Earth is transformed from bleak winter to vibrant summer, so your contributions become further works of mercy, relief, comfort and new life.

Let's cherish summertime with moments to reconnect with one another, with family and friends in ways that are life-giving in body, mind and spirit, filled with joy and gratitude. In my growing-up years, we always began a meal with grace: "Bless us O Lord and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty, ..." Reportedly, G. K. Chesterton put it this way: "You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink."

Saying grace with each of you, love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Barbara Nicholas SL".

Barbara Nicholas SL
President of Loretto



Wisdom's seed

Youthful beauty awes,
Fading to set wisdom's seed.
Meaning is fulfilled.



A tulip poplar in bloom
Haiku and photo by Bob Ernst CoL

Celebrating Loretto's 209 years



Joyce Minkler CoL poses for pictures at her commitment ceremony on Foundation Day, April 25. "Fiat," a sculpture by Jeanne Dueber SL, tends an exuberant amen on a nearby table.

Photo by Donna Mattingly SL

At the Motherhouse in Nerinx, Kentucky

By Johanna Brian SL

Our opening liturgy sparkled with vitality as we gathered in community. The sculpture "Fiat," created by Jeanne Dueber SL, was present before us with its joyous gesture of willingness to serve — a powerful symbol beckoning us to the future.

We gathered to pray, thank God for our many blessings and to welcome Joyce Minkler as our newest co-member. Our celebration continued with a video sharing the story of our very simple beginnings. We marveled at the creative Spirit of God continuing to work in the Community as we looked at the works we have done. We listened to heartfelt reflections as members of the Community shared what Loretto means to them; we each had our own heartfelt response to that question as we closed singing our traditional anthem, "We Give You Glory, Thanks and Praise."

At Loretto Heights in Denver

Loretto Community members in Colorado met on the grounds of the former Loretto Heights College (now under redevelopment) to celebrate Foundation Day on April 25; they listened to stories about Loretto sisters who are buried in the cemetery on campus and placed flowers on the graves. Also in attendance were neighbors and alums, Denver City Council member Kevin Flynn and former Heights chaplain the Rev. Tom McCormick.

**1812
-
2021**



Community members and friends celebrate Foundation Day at Loretto Heights in Denver.
Photo by Ruth Routten CoL



Wren Smith CoL, naturalist at Bernheim Forest and Arboretum, is passionate about our relationship with Earth.

Wren Smith, Loretto co-member and naturalist

Wren Smith speaks with awe of the natural world. Interpretive Programs Manager at Bernheim Forest and Arboretum in Clermont, Ky., she has been intrigued by the natural world from childhood, when she determined to become a naturalist.

Wren, a co-member since 2008, appreciates the values she shares with Loretto — values of justice, peace and “deep commitment to stewardship of this incredible creation.” She brims with gratitude for her Loretto and Bernheim communities.

In 2002 she started a volunteer program at Bernheim. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the volunteer group met online weekly — a blessing to Wren who values the soul-feeding interactions and shared kindness. Watch the Loretto Spotlight video on Wren recorded at Bernheim by visiting the web address at the bottom of this page.

‘Loretto and Bernheim have been huge inspirations in my life.’

**Naturalist Wren Smith CoL,
Interpretive Programs Manager,
Bernheim Forest and Arboretum,
Clermont, Ky.**





‘... I looked to Earth to teach me, to show me her ways of caring, creating, protecting and letting go.’

Jessie Rathburn, CoL in her eco-autobiography



Jessie Rathburn CoL, Loretto’s Earth Education and Advocacy Coordinator, at the Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. Photo by Jessie’s husband, Andy Dyrsten

Step by step for Earth

*By Christina Manweller, in conversation
with Jessie Rathburn CoL*

Jessie Rathburn grew up close to the land in the Texas hill country. Her parents, educated in biology, shared their love of the natural world with their two daughters. “Is the moon waxing or waning?” “What type of cloud is that?” They were questions that centered Jessie and her older sister within creation. Their parents modeled stewardship of the land and its biodiversity by lovingly tending the 5 acres on which they lived. So it’s not a surprise that, after working with immigrant families in Texas, volunteering in Russia, teaching in academia, Jessie found herself yearning to live and act from the creation-honoring values she’d learned as a child. She quit her job as a founding senior instructor at the English as a Second Language Academy at the University of Colorado to run an urban farm, growing produce for the local community and vegetable starts for school gardens. The garden was destroyed when the City of Denver took back the land to build high-end condos and a parking garage.

Jessie started her journey with Loretto when she attended young adult retreats. After a few years of attending retreats and getting to know Loretto, she decided to enter the process to become a co-member and began interning with Loretto Earth Network. She formally entered the Community in 2015 and now serves as Loretto’s Earth Education and Advocacy Coordinator.

Jessie’s excitement about Loretto’s commitment to honoring Earth and living responsibly is palpable. She loves that it’s not a new stance for Community members; for decades they have been asking what changes they could make in their daily lives to effect change and heal Earth. They’ve changed their eating habits, worked to reduce their carbon emissions, planted trees, recycled, reused, repurposed.

Habits of simple living and making ecologically-responsible choices are ingrained, and progress naturally from the personal to the institutional level. Jessie points to the solar panels installed at Loretto's Denver Center nearly 10 years ago that are still in use, the recycling trailer and electric vehicle charger at the Motherhouse, the Carbon Offset Fund and the deep commitment to continuing to do the work to care for Earth.

Jessie emphasizes the importance to Loretto of "preserving the Motherhouse lands so that trees lovingly planted by Loretto over the years that have been sequestering carbon continue to do so." The Motherhouse in Kentucky, at 788 acres, includes about 300 acres of woodlands and the farm, which is carefully managed through the use of cover crops, crop rotation, rotational grazing, minimal chemical use and no tillage. Seventy-eight acres of the farmland is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and planted in hardwood trees, native grasses and pollinator-attracting flowers. In addition, there are about 200 acres in pasture and hay and 200 in row crops (corn, soybeans).

*Start by doing what's necessary,
then do what's possible,
and suddenly you are doing
the impossible.*

Attributed to St. Francis

The remaining land is made up of water (lakes, ponds, streams), the Cedars of Peace retreat grounds and the Motherhouse campus, including the Infirmary.

Jessie bought an electric car, grows as much of her family's food as she can, reveres, learns and shares her knowledge with Loretto and beyond. She believes in doing what's right for Earth, in spite of an uncertain future. "There's a sense of hope that comes from letting go of the outcomes and living into that way of being."

Jessie and Loretto are looking ahead, living into the crucial questions. "Where are our greenhouse gas emissions coming from? How do we build infrastructure for a sustainable future? What are the substantial changes that we can plan for so that we can make those changes over the next 20 or 30 years?"



Mary Swain SL plants pollinator habitat at the Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky.
Photo by Susan Classen CoL



Loretto's goals

The Loretto Land Ethic, adopted in 2006, begins:

"As friends of Mary at the Foot of the Cross we are called to care for Earth in its pain, to celebrate its beauty and to create space for its healing." Jessie Rathburn CoL says, "I've relied on those three elements in my work as a general framework. In a nutshell, for me, that's the goal of our relationship with Earth."

In 2018, Loretto made three commitments by adopting these Assembly resolutions:

1. Significantly mitigate our impact on climate change and ecological degradation.
2. Explore sustainable housing/intergenerational living.
3. Determine how to preserve the Motherhouse lands in Kentucky.

Acting for Earth

As I have grown in relationship with Earth, I have found that, more and more, I am called to witness.

Jessie Rathburn, CoL

Using our prophetic voice

“Faith communities have a prophetic role in the world; we can use our moral voice to make a clear call for change, and that is really, really important,” says Jessie Rathburn CoL. Loretto has a long history of speaking up to stop Earth-damaging practices, from nuclear waste disposal to the pipeline threatening Bernheim Forest in Kentucky to climate change.

“It is so important for communities like ours to use our voice and to advocate for change because no matter how many changes we make in our individual lives and our own properties, it’s those broader societal changes that have to happen in order for real change to come about.”

Addressing environmental injustice

Minority and low-income communities “have little access to environmental benefits but bear most of the environmental burdens — pollution, land loss, negative health effects, etc.,” Jessie notes. Decisions affecting these communities are often made without their input.

Jessie shares the initial steps Loretto Community members are taking: Many participate in the Leadership Conference for Women Religious discussions called “Exploring Intersections: Catholic Sisters on Racism, Migration and Climate;” the Farm and Land Management Committee is delving into Black farmers’ experiences in Kentucky and historic lack of access to land for farmers of color; the Loretto Earth Network Coordinating Committee invites farmers of color to share their experiences; the Latin America/Caribbean Committee looks at where migration and climate change intersect (for instance, farmers in Central America have been forced to leave their land due to extreme weather events). The goal: to listen, learn and move forward effectively with humility and compassion.



Jessie Rathburn CoL charges her electric vehicle using the charger recently installed at the Loretto Motherhouse.

Taking steps to address the carbon emergency

Loretto’s Carbon Offset Fund uses donated money to pull back and store carbon from the atmosphere (e.g. by planting trees and native grasses) or to prevent putting out more carbon (e.g. by installing solar panels, electric vehicle chargers, etc.). All donations go to projects that support these goals. Donors often contribute to the fund to compensate for carbon they are responsible for adding to the atmosphere — for example, when they travel.

If we don’t curtail the temperature rise, we can expect growing drought, food scarcity, water shortages in vulnerable areas, increasingly severe storms and flooding, sea level rises with the resulting loss of homes and habitat, escalation of wildfires and increased loss of biodiversity and extinctions. Jessie explains the numbers behind the reality: “If we’re going to keep our temperature rise at 1.5 degrees Celsius [the tipping point determined by scientists] we have to bring our emissions down by 7.6 percent every year for the next decade.”

For more information on the Carbon Offset Fund and how to apply for a grant for your project, see:
<https://www.lorettocommunity.org/how-we-serve/environment/carbon-offset-fund/>

Loretto Earth Network: 30 years young and alive for Earth

The dream of Earth in harmony with that of its Creator will be fulfilled as we are transformed and participate in the healing and transformation of the total Earth community.

From the Loretto Earth Network vision statement

By Nancy Wittwer SL

While teaching math and computers at Nerinx Hall I found myself increasingly drawn to Earth and spent time sitting among the trees and flowers at the botanical garden in St. Louis. My life took a major turn when I attended a talk by David Brower, founder of Friends of Earth. After a stunning presentation, he asked, "How many of you are willing to give one year of your life to work for Earth?" I enthusiastically waved my hand and accepted the challenge not knowing where it might lead.

In December 1990, Loretto President Maureen McCormack SL created a staff position with a focus on Earth. At the end of the school year I resigned my position at Nerinx Hall to begin the new position in June 1991 — this was the birth of the Loretto Earth Network (LEN). Maureen encouraged and supported our efforts and later became a LEN coordinator.

Our first major event was a retreat in the beautiful mountains of Colorado led by Loretto Co-Members Dan and Jen Wessler, as well as Paula Gonzales SC, who continued as our model and mentor. Retreats in the mountains near Denver and at the ocean in Santa Cruz, Calif., continued to be a source for deepening our appreciation and love of Earth.

Very active committees were formed, and members of LEN creatively addressed the cry of Earth. We held numerous conferences and retreats for Community members, many of whom contributed articles to Loretto Earth Network News, published quarterly from 1993 to 2020. When Mary Ann Coyle SL completed her term as president of the Community,

I encouraged her to join the coordinating team of LEN. She agreed, and became the editor of LEN News; she greatly enriched the publication and the work of the network.

Representatives of LEN participated in two major World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Conferences, one in Rio de Janeiro and another in Johannesburg.



Maureen McCormack SL, left, and Nancy Wittwer SL, past Loretto Earth Network coordinators with a deep commitment to helping Loretto work toward the healing of Earth

‘Laudato Si’ initiative inspires hope for a healed future

Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

Pope Francis in the encyclical letter “Laudato Si”

The Vatican rolls out the “Laudato Si” Action Platform this year, the sixth anniversary of the Pope’s encyclical. Jessie Rathburn CoL explains, “They’re asking people to make a public commitment to go on this seven-year journey and live into ecological conversion, asking, what am I called

to do in these areas? ... It involves looking at our carbon footprint and what we eat, but they recognize that it goes far beyond that.”

These are the platform’s seven focus areas:

- * Response to the cry of Earth
- * Response to the cry of the poor
- * Ecological economics
- * Adopting simple lifestyles
- * Ecological education
- * Ecological spirituality
- * Community engagement and participatory action

Jessie explains that the program is built on the foundations of deep spirituality and science — the two move forward together and support one another.

The hope is to “make communities around the world totally sustainable in the spirit of the integral ecology of ‘Laudato Si’” (from the “Laudato Si” website, see link below).

The platform is undergirded by the understanding that ecological justice and just economic practices are connected. The most vulnerable are disproportionately impacted by climate change. “We can’t have wonderful deep ecological spiritualities without recognizing environmental injustice and environmental racism and what that’s doing to communities globally,” Jessie says.

She adds, “There are enough of us, in faith communities worldwide to create a tipping point — plus all the others who are joining in the work. ... We can’t do this work alone.”

Loretto’s engagement is still to take shape. “It’ll be exciting to be working alongside our brothers and sisters around the world who are doing this work — however we can deepen those connections, it will only help us.”

To learn more, visit the “Laudato Si” website:
<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org>

You might also visit <https://www.laudatosi.org> where, if you click on the Action tab and scroll to the bottom of the page, you’ll find a free downloadable study and action guide.



Susan Classen CoL, Loretto’s ecosystem manager, prepares to plant pollinator habitat at the Motherhouse.
Photo courtesy of Susan Classen CoL

What can we do?

By Christina Manweller

An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits. Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart, yet they feel unable to give up what the market sets before them," says Pope Francis in the encyclical "Laudato Si'." Let's look closely at our habits and make changes. Steps to take include:

Buy less. Do I need a new patio table? That trendy coat? Our throwaway culture contributes to our current crisis.

Recycle what we can. This may require a call to the local waste company or recycling center to verify what they recycle. (Make a note to inquire yearly to keep up with changes.) Research how to recycle a specific item by visiting www.earth911.com.

Purchase items with minimal or, better, no packaging, especially plastic, which has a devastating impact on the environment pre-cradle to grave. We can buy eco-friendly toothpaste and laundry sheets that do not come in plastic containers. Let's get creative!

Minimize the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. "Homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops," according to the



Photo by Jessie Rathburn CoL

Renee Edelen, Loretto Motherhouse employee, makes good use of the recycling trailer.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Pull weeds, don't spray. If you buy fertilizer, choose organic, which releases more slowly.

Grow low-water native grass lawns or replace lawn with native plantings, especially in the dry Western U.S.

Commit to planting trees, native grasses and pollinator habitat. Bees are losing habitat, and we are losing bees. About a third of Americans' food requires bees for pollination. A multitude of additional crops benefit from bee pollination.

Cut down on food waste. Get meticulous about buying what we eat and eating what we buy. Food waste in landfills is a significant contributor to climate change. The USDA estimates that 30-40 percent of the food supply in the U.S. is wasted; more food goes into our landfills than any other type of waste. When we waste food, we waste the resources that went into bringing us that food, including land, labor, energy and water. Composting vegetable and fruit scraps helps significantly and we can then use our compost on plants instead of buying fertilizer.

Cut down on meat; even better, eat vegetarian. Eating low on the food chain reduces carbon output and preserves forests. If you eat meat, buy from those who produce it. Buying locally-grown food cuts down on transport-generated emissions and supports local farmers. You also can ensure the animals are raised and slaughtered humanely.

Drive less, walk and bike more.

Make that next car an electric or hybrid.

Go solar.

Use our voices! Influence society and government to make the big changes that must be made to address climate change. This includes reducing the use of fossil fuels, preventing unmitigated development, protecting habitat, and so on. Let's find our passion.



Elizabeth Rakes helps with planting. She is the daughter of Loretto Farm Manager Cody Rakes and Motherhouse Education and Outreach Coordinator Angela Rakes.
Photo courtesy of Angela Rakes

EarthLinks: 25 years bringing healing beauty

EarthLinks ... creates Earth-centered programming for people experiencing homelessness and economic poverty. EarthLinks program participants are given a safe, peaceful space to foster empowerment resilience, and collectivity while also sustaining the planet. Together, we care for each other and for Earth.

From the EarthLinks website
<https://earthlinks-colorado.org/>



Above, harvesting carrots at EarthLinks in Denver

Below: Gardens on the EarthLinks property

Facing page: EarthLinks' bee club

Photos courtesy of EarthLinks



of nature to homeless individuals



EarthLinks has a 70 percent success rate of obtaining and maintaining stable housing for participants. To address the complexities of homelessness, we also provide wraparound services through our Workshop Program that are formed by evidence-based practices to support participants in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

By Mary Nelle Gage SL

Twenty-five years ago Cathy Mueller SL reconnected with a high school friend, Bette Ann Jaster, OP, and after many conversations they learned that they shared a joint passion: care for our Earth and care for the poor. Their vision emerged: to offer people on the margins of society the opportunity to experience community, recognizing Earth as our teacher. Adult men and women at St. Francis Center, a day shelter for homeless men and women, were invited to garden in the nearby community garden and to venture out

From the EarthLinks bio;
courtesy of EarthLinks

on trips into nature. Cathy employed her gardening, artistic and teaching talents to begin a workshop in which the participants used the pressed flowers from the garden plot to decorate candles. Marketing the candles (and before long, a variety of nature-inspired products), as well as broadening participant services, brought several Loretto sisters and co-members and friends on board. Soon the growth of the program, in numbers of participants as well as workshop

Continued next page

EarthLinks: serving into the future

Continued from page 13

activities and services for participants, required EarthLinks to secure its own complex of office, retail shop, workshop buildings and, of course, ample gardening and beekeeping space.

By combining sustainable gardening, creation of Earth-friendly products, supportive community and relationships, meaningful paid work, as well as resource-navigation and case-management, EarthLinks assists participants out of homelessness and into community. Caring for Earth is a common goal with recycle, repurpose, reuse actions. By creating a welcoming and caring community that allows for restoration and growth, EarthLinks helps heal people and planet.

The EarthLinks Workshop provides participants with the opportunity to learn employable skills, develop their God-given artistic talents and provide earned income through their handmade products sold at church bazaars, craft fairs, a few cooperative commercial outlets and online. (To purchase products and support EarthLinks' programs, visit <https://earthlinks-colorado.org/>.)

EarthLinks has taken on the huge project of staffing and overseeing Denver's first Safe Outdoor Spaces (SOS) for the homeless in the Capitol Hill area. In cooperation with the City of Denver and First Baptist Church, 22 weatherized tents provide temporary shelter for 30 women and transgender persons. Resources and services include meals, bathrooms, hand sinks, laundry and shower facilities as well as housing referrals and outreach services.

Responding to the basic human need for beauty, wonder and belonging, we started EarthLinks, a nonprofit to link people on the margins with Earth and with one another. Our goal was to enable people to experience Earth, her mystery and awe, her diversity and marvelous generosity, and her invitation to be part of a wider community, a web of life. Earth is a teacher who changes lives.

Cathy Mueller SL, EarthLinks co-founder with Bette Ann Jaster, OP

To purchase products and support EarthLinks' programs, visit
<https://earthlinks-colorado.org/>

Shown below are some of the products produced and sold by EarthLinks to support programs for homeless and low-income individuals. Photo courtesy of EarthLinks



Loretto Community members residing at award-winning Infirmary have mission to pray for all

Joy Jensen SL lives in Loretto's Infirmary at the Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. She tells us that, while the coronavirus period has been difficult, Infirmary staff have worked diligently to keep residents healthy and to make up for the lack of social gatherings and family visits.

Pauline Albin SL says, "The staff in every department have been wonderful in their services and care under Michelle Essex's leadership."

Michelle serves as the Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary administrator, working assiduously to follow state and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and to look after residents' physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being.

Naturally, the experience has varied by individual. Evelyn Houlihan SL compared life during the pandemic to "living in an aquarium with people looking in, but not being able to communicate."

Sylvia Sedillo SL says, "It is a time of peace and joy, and one where creativity has manifested itself in many ways. We are finding ways for how we can communicate with Zoom."

Residents have knitted, crocheted, put together puzzles, delved into books and prayed.

Joy says Loretto Community members in the Infirmary have lived as anchoresses in their rooms, as Julian of Norwich lived as an anchoress during the Black Plague in Medieval England. These Community members have undertaken "the mission to pray for all people." Every one of us has benefited from this commitment.

Thank you, Michelle and Infirmary staff, for your excellent care. Thank you, Loretto Infirmary residents, for your prayers!

With thanks to Joy Jensen SL



Used by permission of Lebanon Enterprise, Lebanon, Ky.

Pakistan Community enriched by new participants

The purpose of the Come and See program is for the participant to acquaint herself with religious life and the Loretto Community. This includes a study of Loretto's history, values, spirituality, vows and culture as well as the opportunity to experience community life and ministry within the Loretto Community.

Pakistan 'Come and See' Program Outline



Maribah Ishaq, left, and Iram Naz Patraz

By Nasreen Daniel SL

Three young women live in our Community in Lahore, Pakistan. On Jan. 30, 2021, Maribah and Iram were formally accepted into the "Come and See" discernment program by Loretto President Barbara Nicholas SL. Currently there is one other woman who lives with us as a welcomed visitor who assists at the school and the convent.

Loretto's mission in Pakistan began in 2009. Loretto President Cathy Mueller SL traveled to Pakistan to help start the program. Bishop Joseph Coutts asked the sisters to take over a school in the outskirts of Faisalabad. While serving in the school we started visiting the slums, meeting with women in the evening discussing issues such as human dignity and anti-discriminatory laws; we shared stories of women from the Bible who were leaders in their own rights. We've met young women at the diocesan teachers' trainings and at the women's desk interested in the Community and have invited young women to an informal live-in experience of Loretto life.

Maribah and Iram, our first "Come and See" participants, are busy working in the school assisting the sisters and staff, as well as helping at the convent. They participate in classes with the Community outlined in the "Come and See" Program document. This document, prepared by Barbara and Come and See Director Nasreen Daniel SL, Coordinator Claudia Calzetta SL, Maria Daniel SL and Samina Iqbal SL, outlines topics for study. These include a study of Loretto's constitutions, the history of Loretto, spirituality, prayer, culture, human development, language skill development and much more. The Pakistan Community will teach topics concerning Loretto life, English, the sacraments, Bible study in Urdu and English, prayer forms, catechetics, the rosary and other religious practices prevalent in religious communities in Pakistan. Members of the broader Loretto Community will assist with selected topics and conduct scheduled Zoom classes with Maribah and Iram. The first class will be a study of "I Am the Way," Loretto's constitutions. This study group will meet monthly. Loretto Community members who are part of this study group look forward to sharing the experience with Iram and Maribah.



Miribah Ishaq



Nasreen Daniel SL, Maria Daniel SL and Samina Iqbal SL visit with Iram, second from left, and family.

Maribah Ishaq

My name is Maribah Ishaq. My father's name is Ishaq, and my mother's name is Catherine. I have only one brother. I have known the Sisters of Loretto since my childhood because two of my aunts, Sisters Nasreen and Maria Daniel, are vowed members of the Sisters of Loretto. Looking at my two aunts I cultivated the desire to be part of the Sisters of Loretto. When I shared with my family about my wish to be a Sister of Loretto, my father said, "You are my only daughter, but if it is your wish I want your happiness; wherever you wish to be, I am with you."

Living with this Community is an amazing experience to learn about every aspect of life in a different way. I must say thanks to the Loretto Community, who gave me the chance to be part of Loretto.

Miribah has been invited to join Loretto's "Come and See" program by Loretto President Barbara Nicholas SL. She has a master's in education.

Iram Naz Patras

My name is Iram Naz Patras. My father's name is Patras, and my mother's name is Rukhsana. I have four sisters and three brothers. I expressed my desire to join the Loretto Community and Sister Nasreen, along with Sisters Samina and Maria, visited my family. My whole family was very happy; they were deeply inspired by the humbleness and kindness of the sisters. Sister Nasreen, with the Loretto Community, accepted me and welcomes me. I am very thankful to God and all the sisters. On the 10th of January 2021, I came to the Loretto convent along with my father. I am very happy here, it feels like home. Please remember me in your prayers and be sure of mine.

Iram has been invited to join Loretto's "Come and See" program by Loretto President Barbara Nicholas SL. She has a bachelor's in art.

Photos courtesy of Nasreen Daniel SL

Donations to our Pakistan fund will supply scholarships and meals.
Please use the envelope provided or see our website:
www.lorettocommunity.org

Loretto Volunteer brings deep awareness to her work at Angelica Village

At its best, a deep time awareness might help us see ourselves as part of a web of gift, inheritance and legacy stretching over millions of years past and millions to come, bringing us to consider what we are leaving behind for the epochs and beings that will follow us.

Robert Macfarlane in “Underland: A Deep Time Journey”

By Becca Krasky, Loretto Volunteer

I am feeling a deep soul magnetism toward organic, regenerative agriculture. Perhaps some of this is the uncertainty, the challenge, wanting to repair and heal my communities, my soils. Some of this attraction is a rebellion against what society expects of me, not wanting to spend the majority of my waking life behind computer screens and in Zoom meetings. I am wondering, how does my lifetime fit into deep time? What does a deep time

awareness in farming entail? Blessing the soil, honoring the cycles of life and death and life again, thanking the rain that comes not frequently enough in our ongoing drought. Laughing with my co-workers and the community members as we all grow older, smiling as the children of Angelica Village grow alongside the peas. Embracing the lessons, giving gratitude to Earth, honoring this “web of gift, inheritance and legacy” and my unique place within.

I’ve been part of the Loretto Earth Network Coordinating Committee for most of my time as a Loretto Volunteer. The group is currently reflecting on Robert Macfarlane’s book “Underland: A Deep Time Journey,” a poetic, thrilling examination of Earth’s underworlds. Macfarlane explains, “At its best, a deep time awareness might help us see ourselves as part of a web of gift, inheritance and legacy stretching over millions of years past and millions to come, bringing us to consider what we are leaving behind for the epochs and beings that will follow us.”

Becca Krasky is a second-year Loretto Volunteer from Minneapolis. She works as the Sustainability Coordinator at Angelica Village, a nonprofit intentional community started by Loretto Co-member Jean East that houses refugee and immigrant families and youth. Becca has found her niche in growing food at Angelica Village, in her own backyard, anywhere there is a patch of earth and some seeds. Her newest projects are seed saving, mushroom growing and permaculture design. When she’s not in the garden, Becca is usually in the kitchen baking bread or cooking.



Becca Krasky, Loretto Volunteer, and one of her colorful wards.

Mary Denis Bruck

Hedwig Bruck's parents were immigrants from Austria-Hungary, settling in St. Louis in the 1890s. Hedwig was the oldest of seven girls. After graduating from high school, she worked at the Queen's Work with Daniel Lord, SJ, until 1942. She entered Loretto, following her friend, Peggy Dooling (Sr. Julia). Mary Denis taught in several schools. She and Sister Patrick Marie Sharpe lived together in Sterling, Ill., and remained close friends. After retiring from teaching, they moved to San Diego. For four years Mary Denis studied a 15th century Chinese-Japanese form of ink drawing, taught by a Japanese professor. From 1974 to 1989 she was coordinator at Loretto Center, Denver. Following more years in San Diego she moved to the Motherhouse in 2010, immersing herself in Community life and tuning in to every major sports event on TV she could.

January 25, 1918 — April 1, 2021**James Funk CoL****March 11, 1933 — January 14, 2021**

Jim Funk was born and raised in El Paso and educated at St. Patrick's by the Sisters of Loretto. He loved the sisters and this love was the basis for all his future engagements with Loretto. After finishing college Jim served in the U.S. Navy in intelligence operations during the Korean conflict. After the Navy, Jim became a manager in AT&T's computer department in El Paso and thus became involved with union rights. He took a leave of absence from AT&T to work directly with the Office of Economic Opportunity, getting poverty programs set up in El Paso. Jim was active in the El Paso diocese. He also served as executive assistant to the mayor. Jim was married to Shirley Jean and they had five children.

**Betty McWilliams SL****February 13, 1936 — March 9, 2021**

Elizabeth Jane McWilliams was born in Rockford, Ill. It is said that her parents gifted her with Midwestern frankness and the Catholic faith. She met the Sisters of Loretto at St. Peter's Grade School and entered Loretto after high school in 1953. In 1958 Betty began a total of 64 years of service that included 20 years as a classroom teacher and school counselor, 18 years as an innovator in hospice home health and 12 years serving the Loretto Community on the health care staff and as coordinator of the Denver Loretto Center. "Retiring" in 2007, Betty contributed 14 years as a volunteer — on Loretto planning committees and networks; giving English language support for her neighbors; and providing clerical support for the development office. She retired to Loretto Motherhouse in 2017.

**John Moskeland CoL****June 8, 1938 — May 1, 2021**

John Moskeland grew up on a dairy farm in the state of Washington. In John's teens, his father sold the farm and began his own logging company. John majored in forest production at the University of Washington and also joined the Army Reserves for 10 years. Shortly before graduation, he met Lillian, from Seattle University, at a dance. They were married two years later. John was working for Simpson Timber Company. They had twin boys who died after a premature birth and their daughter, Andrea, in Shelton, Wash. They moved to the South where John managed several mills over many years. Andrea has four children and lives in Ohio where John and Lillian moved in recent years. John's cremains were buried in the Nature Preserve Cemetery at Loretto Motherhouse.



Marjorie Riggs CoL

"I was born in the small town of Olathe, on the Western Slope of the Colorado Rockies," Marge wrote in her 1996 autobiography. Her mother was born in Russia of German parents and her father in Iowa of German parents who had migrated to the U.S. from Russia. When she was 20, she took a job with Mountain Bell which lasted 14 years. In 1965, Marge married Bob Riggs. They had two children, Gretchen and Tom. Of their mother they said, "Family was her cornerstone." Marge worked at the Denver Loretto Center for nearly 16 years as the switchboard operator and receptionist, and Bob was in charge of maintenance. In 1997, Marge and Bob became Loretto co-members. Marge continued volunteering at the center, helping out however she could.

July 22, 1932 — April 1, 2021



Theresa Louise Wiseman SL

March 2, 1921 — March 27, 2021

Sister Theresa Louise Wiseman grew up the oldest of seven in Hardin County, Ky., and in Indiana. She attended Loretto's Bethlehem Academy her last two years of high school. In October 1940, she arrived at Loretto Motherhouse to begin her 80 years as a Sister of Loretto. She was a primary teacher until 1984 when she became part-time secretary and sacristan at a parish in Chesterfield, Mo., until 1993. She and her sister, Sister Bernadine, moved to the Motherhouse and took on volunteer jobs — driver, shopper, visitor in the Infirmary, protector of barn cats, bright smiling presence in the dining room. "We're very close to one another," Theresa Louise said when Bernardine died in 2016. "My goal is to go to heaven; I think we all want to be in heaven some day."



Photo by Claudia Calzetta SL

Unabridged remembrances are found on the Loretto website:
<https://www.lorettocommunity.org/category/obituaries/>

Memorials and Tributes of Honor

January 2021 – May 2021

In Honor of:

Requested by:

An asterisk (*) following a name identifies a Loretto Co-member.

Guadalupe Arciniega SL
Jody Zeillmann
Mary Ann Cunningham SL
David Dwyer
Roberta Davis*
Bernadette "Dette" Cinnamond
Jeanne Dueber SL
Bernice Strawn*
Marie Ego SL
Patricia Burnett
Patricia Lewis
Benedicta Feeney SL
Mary Jo Boryla
Mary Jane Clabots
Maureen Fiedler SL
Terrence Mischel & Bradley
Cameron
Jennifer Morgan
Patricia Frueh SL
Laura Resteghini
Mary Nelle Gage SL
Kathleen Cronan
Jeannine Gramick SL
Mary Baxter
John Le Bedda, II
Terrence Mischel & Bradley
Cameron
Jennifer Morgan
Joan O'Neill

Katherine Ann Heinz SL
Alexandra Koch Hennessy
Mary Jo Highland
Mary Highland
Gabriel Mary Hoare SL
Jody Zeillmann
Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary Staff
Jane Koster
Jean Johnson SL
Jody Zeillmann
Claudette LoPorto SL
JoAnn Slater
Loretto:
All the Sisters at Loretto Heights College
Marie Massarotti, class of '52
All Sisters, past and present, who follow the Gospel message of service to others
Lorraine Lordi
All Sisters who worked so hard to educate and catechize us in Kankakee, Ill.
Gary Kress
Loretto Heights College class of 1961, 60th anniversary
Denise Skiba, class of '61
Reception Class of 1958
Marilyn Koncen

Pat McCormick SL
Bernice Strawn*
Mary Ellen McElroy SL
Francesca Howell
Cathy Mueller SL
Kathleen Cronan
Barbara Nicholas SL
Bea and Harold Combs
Valerie Novak SL
Ronald Novak
Lydia Peña SL
Bernice Strawn*
Carol Ann Ptacek SL
David and Susan Bischof
Alexandra Koch Hennessy
Alicia Ramirez SL
Marilyn Koncen
Barbara Schulte SL
Susie Schulte
Rodolfo Arciniega
Ceciliana Skees SL
Brenna Langenau
Marie Lourde Steckler SL
Jody Zeillmann
Fr. Gerald Timmel
Bertha Timmel
Barbara Wander*
Joy Addiego

In Memory of:

Requested by:

Agnes Albin SL

Pat and Mahala Mattingly

Barbara Anderson SL

Joy Addiego

Martha Belke SL

David and Susan Bischof

Michael and Kathleen Dicken

Mary Denis Bruck SL

Betty and Helen Bruck

Stephen Clegg

Paula Caretto SL

Marilyn Koncen

Frances Camilla Cavanaugh SL

Mary Vincent Breeck

Alda Collaco

Teresa Da Silva

Rose Colley SL

William & Anne Colley

Linda McDearman

Elizabeth Ann Compton SL

Kathleen O'Malley, CSJ

Mary Ann Coyle SL

David Dwyer

Marilyn Cusick

Dorothy Cusick

Ame Calistiana De Leon

Ryan Pratt

Geraldine Dusselier

Maggie Aderman

Charlotte Goy Fitzpatrick

James Goy

Martha Fly*

Janelle and Lee Johnson

Cirilo Garcia

Dustin Garcia

Jimmy and Ruth Mireles

Alain Gilbert

Minnie Baldwin

Marietta Goy SL

Ann Faivre Ruggaber

Anne Cunningham Gunter

Loretto Heights College, '61

Denise Skiba, LHC '61

Catherine Henemann

Adele and Bill DeLine

Joseph Highland

Mary Highland

Dr. Judith Higson

Maria Codinach

Helen Skees Howlett

Norma Howlett

Cecily Jones SL

Kathryn McNamee

Marjorie Sullivan Kaiman

Marianne Petru

Madeleine Marie Koch SL

Martha Ann Koch SL

Alexandra Koch Hennessy

Kay Lane SL

Kathleen Tighe SL

Mary Frances Lottes SL

Bernice Strawn*

Erna Love

Tina Blandford

Francene Lum SL

Monica Chew

Patricia Jean Manion SL

Lisa Bickett

Bernice Strawn*

Edwin Mary McBride SL

Michael and Sheila Sise

Maureen McCormack SL

Kathleen Baluha

Marie Scheetz

Bernice Strawn*

Pearl McGivney SL

Richard Milford

Carolyn Purcell

Lois McKeown

Joseph McKeown

Elizabeth "Betty" McWilliams SL

Karen and John Kula

Ednatha Scholz

John and Teddi Scholz and Family

Matthew and Mia Scholz

Fred and Peggy Schum

Sandra Wronski

Katherine Misbauer SL

Pat and Mahala Mattingly

John Moskeland*

Jim and Jane Baker

Pam Dolence

Peggy Hana

Pat Mauser

Jane Mudd

Denise Jacobi

Stanley Newton

Alice Mattingly

Bud and Alva Nicholas

Bea and Harold Combs

Rosalie Marie Phillips SL

Raymond Stevison, Jr.

John C. Radovich

Carol Radovich

Jean Louise Rafferty SL

Sarah Rafferty Jimenez

Marie Joann Rekart SL

Rose Marie Hayden

Jane Marie Richardson SL

Virgie Luchsinger, SFCC

Joan Riegel

Leo Riegel

Helen Leuer Roberts

Katherine Roberts Woodward

Dorothy Scheopner SL

John and Theresa Stevi

Schiavo Family

Ryan Schiavo

Marge Thielen

Libby Eulberg

Alice Eugene Tighe SL

Marilyn Koncen

Margaret "Peggy" Tighe

Stephanie and Felicia Ohnmacht

Charles and Joyce Pecora and Family

Mary Luke Tobin SL

Mary Sue Anderson

Lesley Block, OP

Bernice Strawn*

Concetta Torrillo SL

Larry Brunelli

Norma Jean VanMeter

Janet Luckett

Mike and Cindy Rich

Rosemary Saner Voelker

Dorothy Saner Matern

Ann Patrice Wagner SL

Ann Stoddard

Eileen Whistler SL

Alexandra Koch Hennessy

Ann White SL

Alexandra Koch Hennessy

Inez White

Bertha Timmel

Theresa Louise Wiseman SL

Charles and Mary Rose George



2020 Annual Donor Report



Pauline Albin SL, right, is presented a rose at a celebration of the United Nations' 50th anniversary in Kwasibukron, Ghana in 1995. Pauline worked in Ghana for 18 years.

2020 Annual Donor Report

Donations Received

Designated Funds

Carbon Offset Fund	19 donors	\$4,197
Committee work	5 donors	\$2,888
Cedars of Peace	6 donors	\$21,100
Hunger Fund	57 donors	\$9,164
Immigration support	5 donors	\$1,670
Individual sisters' work	3 donors	\$19,450
J. Gramick SL ministry	14 donors	\$6,291
Loretto Heights campus cemetery	3 donors	\$1,150
Loretto Heritage Center: Archives and Museum	21 donors	\$23,353
Loretto in Pakistan	16 donors	\$7,811
Loretto Volunteer Program	15 donors	\$4,325
Motherhouse Infirmary	168 donors	\$133,937
Sisters' retirement	206 donors	\$381,831
Sound system for Motherhouse conference room and chapel	2 donors	\$350
Where funds are most needed	706 donors	\$350,546

Gifts Loretto passes to others

Ann Manganaro Fund	2 donors	\$1,050
FST Sisters in Ghana	24 donors	\$49,565
Havern School	1 donor	\$1,000
Little Sisters in Haiti	25 donors	\$149,603
Loretto Day Care Center	2 donors	\$450
Mary Luke Tobin Scholarship	14 donors	\$4,265

Total received

\$1,173,996

Designated funds

Carbon Offset Fund

Mitigates damage caused by carbon emissions by planting trees and other environmental remediation.

Committee Work

Includes Peace Committee, Guatemala Sister Community Committee, Feminism and Earth networks, recycling, retreat work, U.N. operations.

Cedars of Peace

Cedars of Peace offers space for those seeking solitude in a secluded section of the Motherhouse woods.

Hunger Fund

Distributes to groups dedicated to feeding the hungry.

Immigration Support

Provides for Community members to house and feed migrants, meet and provide bail for detainees, support and work with groups on the ground, organize, educate and advocate for change.

Individual Sisters' Work

Receives gifts of support for social services, health care, writing and leadership work.



Loretto sisters in Pakistan: from left, Nasreen Daniel SL,
Maria Daniel SL and Samina Iqbal SL



We pray for the grace to hear the cry of the poor, to make peace, to feed the hungry, to teach — to do the work of today. God gives us the grace to do that work. When we accept God's grace, the blessing we receive is that by doing our work today we are building our future together.

Mary Ann McGivern SL

Jeannine Gramick SL Ministry

Advocates for LGBTQ+ rights and for those who support these rights, especially Catholics, through New Ways Ministry.

Loretto Heights Campus Cemetery

For headstone repair and needed maintenance once ownership is resolved.

Loretto Heritage Center: Archives and Museum

Documents Loretto history through the lens of our members and our works, with professional preservation efforts, interpretive exhibits and continuing research initiatives.

Loretto in Pakistan

Operates a school for Catholic, Protestant and Muslim students from poor families in the neighborhood. The Sewing Circle teaches women literacy, gardening, cooking and sewing. One of the sisters teaches theology in the seminary and another teaches installation of solar panels.

Loretto Volunteers

Extends the reach of Loretto values to those most in need through service at immigrant and refugee advocacy organizations, health clinics, shelters, food pantries, Loretto schools and the United Nations. Volunteers serve one-year terms and live in community with other volunteers.

Motherhouse Infirmary

Provides care to Loretto sisters and co-members, former employees, family of employees, family of Loretto members and individual neighbors of the Motherhouse. We have written to you about the need to subsidize their care and you responded with full hearts.

Sisters' Retirement

Ensures that just provision is made for the retirement of Sisters of Loretto who often received little to no compensation for their work.

Wherever Funds are Most Needed

Gives us maximum flexibility for meeting immediate or unanticipated needs. Your confidence in our work shines.

Gifts passed to others

Ann Manganaro Fund

Further continuation of the clinic Sister Ann founded in Guarjila, El Salvador. Ann died in 1993 at age 47.

FST Sisters in Ghana

Helps support the school and programs of the Daughters of the Most Blessed Trinity (FST), a Loretto Sister Community.

Havern School

Serves children with learning disabilities in Denver.

Little Sisters in Haiti

Supports the schools and orphanage of the Little Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Additionally, Loretto co-member Barbara Wander raises and distributes money in support of Haitian crafters and scholarship for students.

Loretto Daycare Center

Founded to assist employees and neighbors by Kay Carlew SL who died in 2020.

Mary Luke Tobin Award

Holy Family High School in Denver annually awards this college scholarship in honor of Mary Luke Tobin SL who, in her pursuit of justice, taught Loretto and many others not to be afraid of change.



*I have been called to service
in bringing about the Kingdom of God.*

Martha Rawe



Martha Rawe, Loretto supporter

Why did I name the Sisters of Loretto in my will?

I first met the Sisters of Loretto when I went with my mom and dad to take my older sister Lucy Ruth to Webster College in the fall of 1956. As a 14-year-old this was a great change — my older sister was a college student. Five years later she entered the Sisters of Loretto.

Over the course of the next several years I had the opportunity to visit Loretto in Kentucky. I also had contacts with the sisters in Iowa, Colorado and New Mexico.

As I reflected upon why I chose to name the Sisters of Loretto I became aware of what is/has been the motivating factor in my life. I have been called to service in bringing about the Kingdom of God. This has taken many different

forms for me in many different places in the world. I have been able to share my gifts with others in small ways. I have been abundantly blessed and cared for in amazing and unexpected circumstances.

In some ways, naming the Sisters of Loretto assures me that my work of service in building the Kingdom will not end but will continue in amazing and unexpected places. I trust that my small bit, like the widow's mite, will join other small bits to do great things. In the spirit of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and Saint Teresa of Calcutta: Small things when done in faith and love reap an abundant harvest.

The back story

Dear Friends of Loretto,

The sisters and co-members of Loretto are grateful to you. Your generosity powers our work. In an amazing outpouring of love in action 1,141 donors gave 1,861 gifts, totaling \$1,173,996.

On the previous pages we list the works that you, our long-time supporters and brand new donors, fund. You will see that 706 of you gave Where Funds Are Needed Most. You provide us with the discretion to direct this money where and when it is needed, such as emergency support for the many in need during the long season of COVID-19, care of the Sisters, and assistance to immigrants and students.

You also give directly to the Sisters' retirement fund, the Motherhouse Infirmary, Pakistan Mission, Heritage Center, the Hunger Fund, the ministries of individual sisters and Loretto volunteers, our new Carbon Offset program, committee work and more.

I'm a member of the Guatemala Sisters Community Committee. Loretto and the Holy Family ("La Sagrada Familia") sisters have formed lasting friendships over 40 years. Marta Francisco SF came to the United States to work with Guatemalan farmworkers in Colorado some years ago. Kathy Wright SL traveled to Guatemala before the pandemic to work with English teachers in Holy Family schools. Gloria Leon SF traveled along the East Coast to meet Community members working with Guatemalan migrants. I spent two months visiting schools in Guatemala and taught a fund-raising workshop while there. These are a few examples of the committee work you support.

We all give to Loretto, sisters and co-members and teachers and parents and alums and family and friends. We give to support the mission. Mary Rhodes did the work of 1812, teaching children in a log cabin. Mother Praxedes did the work of 1906, driving from downtown St. Louis with a banker to look at the property that would become Webster College. Sisters traveled to China and Latin America to do the work of their day. We are the future they could not see.

We do the work of the present moment on the border, in Pakistan, at the United Nations. We pray for the grace to hear the cry of the poor, to make peace, to feed the hungry, to teach — to do the work of today. God gives us the grace to do that work. When we accept God's grace, the blessing we receive is that by doing our work today we are building our future together.

For this we are grateful. We rejoice in your gifts, thankful for your continuing generosity. We pray for health and safety for you and your loved ones. Know that the prayers of the entire Loretto Community are with you, and please pray for us.

Gratefully,



Sister Mary Ann McGivern SL
Development Director



Photo by Leslie Moore Col

Loretto Community members with sisters from Daughters of the Most Blessed Trinity, Loretto's sister community in Ghana: from left, Betsy Clute Col, Pauline Albin SL, Veronica Adomako-Manu FST, Marie Ego SL and Anna Amo FST.



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**'The human and the entire
universe exist in intimate
relations with each other.
Together we constitute a
single sacred community.'**

*Thomas Berry
Loretto Magazine, 1993*