

Loretto

MAGAZINE

Fall 2021

Volume 62, No. 3

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Celebrating Loretto's Jubilarians

New LoVos are hungry for justice

Sparking creativity in Pakistan

... and more

Loretto's work in Vietnam



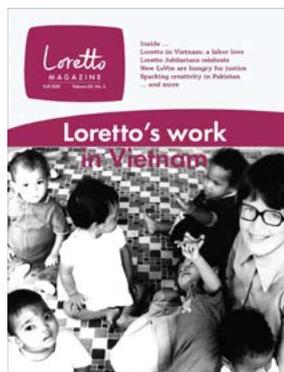
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Front cover:

Susan Carol McDonald SL is happily swarmed by orphaned toddlers at New Haven Nursery in Saigon, Vietnam. Susan, an RN who volunteered with children in Vietnam, nursed infants and toddlers who were often in precarious health and helped send them to adoptive homes in the U.S. and other countries.

Photo courtesy of Loretto Archives



Back cover:

Susan Carol McDonald SL relaxes with Mischa at New Haven Nursery in Saigon, Vietnam; Mischa now lives in France.

Below, Mischa is happy to be hugged by Naves as they play in the sandbox at New Haven Nursery.

Photos courtesy of Mischa Yarwood



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,

It is so interesting how life works out, don't you think?

As I reflect on the courageous and compassionate missionary work of Loretto Community members in Vietnam, I remember a personal connection that impacted my own professional

life in nursing. I had been the director of nursing at the Motherhouse Infirmary in Nerinx, Ky., when in 1975 Susan Carol McDonald SL wrote to say that she was returning from Vietnam and wondered if there might be a place for her nursing services at the Infirmary. We were happy to welcome her to the staff and after a while it became clear that perhaps it was an opportunity for me to explore another role in nursing. That is how I became an oncology nurse at the Baptist Hospital in Louisville; I applied for a job just as they were opening the first dedicated oncology service in Kentucky. My 36-year career in oncology began because of Susan Carol's timely return from Vietnam.

How do you tell the story of your own life in which God somehow intervened in a way that beckoned to you?

The lives of Loretto's Jubilarians present some of the myriad and mysterious ways that each of us has responded, opting

for a way of life in the Loretto Community. I never tire of hearing the stories of life-changing decisions made and of opportunities taken for "this" path rather than any other.

Sister Nasreen Daniel presents to us a few of the creative children at St. Anthony School in Lahore, Pakistan. Our sisters are so gifted in recognizing a creative spark and gently coaxing it to new and unexpected brightness. I like to imagine these young ones rushing home and announcing: Look at what I learned today!

There is so much more to discover in these pages of Loretto Magazine! We love hearing from you. Tell us what especially caught your attention.

In all the many ways in which Loretto lives unfold, you, our friends and benefactors, support us by prayer, affirming notes and letters, generous financial contributions and so many other personal and direct ways. Thank you, exceedingly. May your lives be blessed each day in ways you would not even have imagined.

Sincerely, love,

Sister Barbara Nicholas SL

Barbara Nicholas SL
President of Loretto



Loretto participates in traveling Smithsonian exhibition

Photo and text courtesy of Eleanor Craig SL



The exhibition “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” explored the resilience and the challenges of rural life in the U.S. in the 20th century. In addition to the exhibit components supplied by the Smithsonian Institution, Loretto’s curator Susanna Pyatt led a team of civic volunteers and Heritage Center staff in gathering interviews, photos and artifacts to create additional panels focused on Marion County, Ky. The result was greeted with universal enthusiasm as both professional and touching.

Susanna Pyatt, Curator at Loretto Heritage Center, stands relaxed and relieved on the final day of the Smithsonian Institution’s “Crossroads” exhibition which brought 1,211 visitors to Loretto City Hall in the month of July 2021.

Elaine Prevallet’s latest book now available online



Elaine Prevallet SL’s latest book, “A Path to the Divine in Human Life: The Role of Chakras in Religious Dedication,” is available on the Loretto Community website: <https://www.lorettocommunity.org/about/artists-authors/books>

“In these pages I want to share what has been, for me, a kind of journey of integration. I start with the cosmos because it is critical that we understand how drastically and how speedily this world of ours has changed and is changing! I end with our hearts, alive and ready to be active participants in this present critical phase of our human adventure.”

- Elaine Prevallet

Look for an article about the book in the next issue of *Loretto Magazine*.



Beth Blissman CoL, Loretto's Representative to the U.N.

**'We bring grassroots voices
to the United Nations.'**

**Beth Blissman, CoL, Loretto's
U.N. NGO (non-governmental
organization) Representative**

Loretto's 30 years at the U.N.

This year we recognize and celebrate 30 years of Loretto's presence at the United Nations.

The Loretto Community is accredited with consultative status at the U.N., where we advocate on issues important to the mission and goals of the Loretto Community. Our primary areas of focus are climate justice, the rights of women and girls and the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We also address disarmament, peace and security and financing for development.

Loretto's presence at the U.N. began with Edwin Mary McBride SL, who attended and reported on U.N. briefings in the 1980s. Pat Kenoyer CoL became interested and together they created a proposal for the establishment of the official role of a United Nations N.G.O. representative, which was approved by the Loretto Assembly in 1991. Pat served as Loretto's first official representative, with Edwin Mary as alternate, starting in 1992. From there, our work at the U.N. has expanded thanks to five additional representatives and more than 40 volunteers.

To learn more about Loretto at the UN, please visit <http://lorettoattheun.org>.

Visit our [Spotlight Video](#) page to meet Loretto's U.N. Representative, Beth Blissman CoL, and to step into Loretto's tiny U.N. office in New York City.



**See our most recent Loretto Spotlight video:
www.lorettocommunity.org/spotlight**

Vietnam: answering the call

‘Get your passport, get your shots; I need help.’

Susan Carol McDonald SL to Mary Nelle Gage SL in June 1973

The Vietnam War gave rise to thousands of orphans. As husbands and fathers were killed, surviving mothers became the sole providers for their families. Rural agrarian life was disrupted and many fled to cities; the traditional extended family no longer provided stability. In addition, socioeconomic and traditional values often required a mother to relinquish a mixed-race child. Children born with handicaps or who developed serious illnesses could not be cared for by poverty-stricken families.



Mary Nelle Gage SL holds Drew, who would later be adopted by an American family. Gregory, adopted by a family in Minnesota, looks on.

By Mary Nelle Gage SL

Walter Cronkite began his nightly CBS evening news broadcast with the death count from Vietnam from the late 1960s through the early 1970s. As a young newly professed sister and a high school speech, drama and English teacher, my abiding thought was, “What could I do that would be positive?” In the spring of 1973, my former Loretto Heights College classmate, Susan Carol McDonald — who was now Sr. Susan Carol, a nurse at our Motherhouse in Kentucky — announced that she would be volunteering to nurse orphans in Saigon. During a Holy Week Motherhouse visit, I told Susan that if there was something someone without medical skills could do, I would come to help. In early June, six days after her arrival, Susan wrote to me and said, “Get your passport, get your shots; I need help.”

Cribs filled every room ...

New Haven was an old French villa with stucco walls and tile floors that Susan administered and where she nursed the 60 infants and toddlers in her care. Each baby had its own white crib with mosquito netting all around that Susan had bought in the Saigon market.

Cribs filled every room on the main level and on the second floor. On the roof was an air-conditioned bedroom and the large laundry where Vietnamese staff washed and hung diapers all day every day. The living room served as Susan’s bedroom, our dining area and the meeting room. In the kitchen on the first floor, rice, meat, fruit and vegetables



From left, Mary Nelle Gage SL, Rosemary Taylor and Susan Carol McDonald SL, standing at the entry to New Haven nursery in 1974.

were prepared, formula was made and bottles were filled all day every day. Depending on the needs of the child (many were severely malnourished or had serious disabilities), each child care worker had three, four or five babies to hold and feed, change, bathe and play with during her shift.

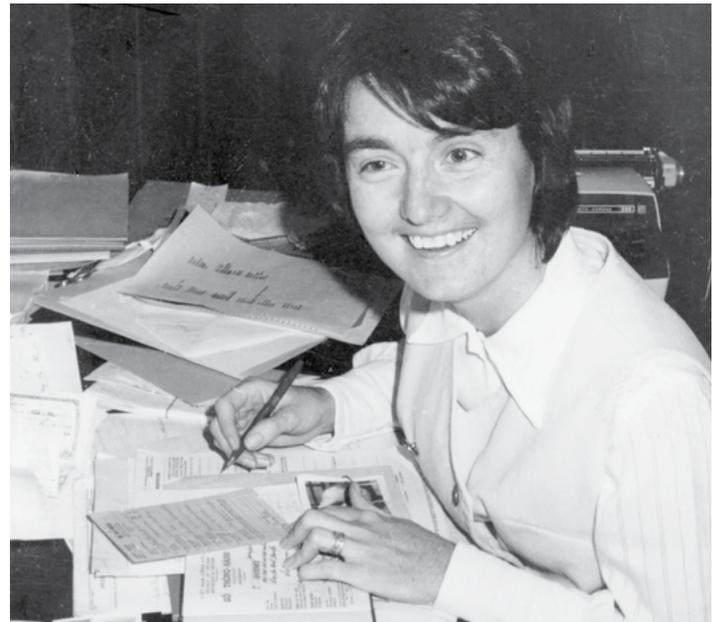
Our group of volunteers in Saigon was mostly female nurses from Germany, Canada, England, Australia and the U.S.; several of us were nuns or former nuns.

Rosemary Taylor, a former Mercy sister from Australia, had begun the work for orphans in 1968. To Am was the first nursery she opened, renting a French villa in central Saigon. Two German nurses joined Rosemary to care for the children. As more and more orphans needed nursing and foreign adoption, a second house and then a third were rented and staffed by a few foreign volunteers and paid Vietnamese staff. While several other agencies opened in Saigon to provide adoption services, Rosemary pioneered international adoption from Vietnam and was responsible for over 2500 children being placed with families throughout the world.

In 1973 our fourth nursery, Hy Vong (House of Hope), opened, and we moved the nursery for toddlers and older children to the new villa which had a pool and large yard — more appropriate for the older children to play. We opened a small school and employed a few Vietnamese teachers.

In the four nurseries we continually cared for about 400 infants, toddlers and older children. At least 10 orphans left for adoptive homes every week, going to Europe, Australia, Canada and the U.S. Our adoption office was at New Haven.

My duties included: working with the consular staff at the U.S. Embassy to obtain entry visas and with Pan Am and Air France to arrange travel for children and escorts; corresponding with the donors and international organizations; and preparing supplies for groups of departing children



Mary Nelle Gage SL busies herself with the stacks of paperwork necessary to resettle the orphans.

that included departure outfits, in-flight clothing and very nice arrival outfits in which the child would meet his or her adoptive parents.

Mary Nelle, living at New Haven, would share the increasing burden of general administration for the entire programme.

Rosemary Taylor, “Orphans of War”

Sights and sounds of war were omnipresent.

Sometimes the gate bell would ring and we would watch one of the child care workers collapse with the news of the death of a brother, a father.

In spite of monumental efforts to provide the best medical and nutritional care, some of our babies did not survive. Susan would dress the baby for the mortician and we who had cared for the child would come to bid farewell. I usually accompanied the child in its tiny coffin to the cemetery where there were numerous flag-draped graves of recently killed soldiers and where we had purchased a plot.

Weekly we filled a van with supplies that supporting organizations had sent via mail or airplane, and brought back children needing adoptive homes. Local maternity clinics sent

Continued next page

Photos courtesy of Loretto Archives



abandoned infants and provincial orphanages, usually operated by Catholic religious, contacted Rosemary when there were abandoned children needing foreign adoption.

Rarely, a parent would come to relinquish a child directly to us. Luu My Le, our U.S.-trained social worker, worked with the parent, trying to determine what was needed for the child to stay with the parent. On one occasion, we hired a new mother as a lactating nurse, knowing the value of mother's milk to an infant. Her son was cared for in our nursery until she could manage to take him home.

Departure day: a mixed blessing

Departure day from the orphanage and from our nursery was a mixed blessing. We wanted each child to have his or her own family in a safe and healthy environment, but during the months in our care, holding them, playing with them, we became attached. We were overjoyed when they had survived long enough to endure a grueling 18-hour airplane ride, but we knew we may never cuddle them or even see them again.

In addition to the everyday delight of holding children, one of our more joyful duties was naming them. Each had his/her Vietnamese name, formalized on both the birth certificate and orphanage release, registered with the Vietnamese government. But the nursery gave each child a Western name for nursery and placement purposes. That name would be listed in Susan's New Haven registry as well as on a hospital ID bracelet and on each child's health record booklet. Some were named after Loretto Community members: PJ (after PJ Manion SL), Anna (after Anna Koop SL), Luke (after Mary Luke Tobin SL). We had a Thomas Merton, a Catherine of Siena, a John of the Cross. There was a Will Shakespeare, a Lysander and a Hermia, a Robert Frost.

In February 1975 I flew to the U.S. to raise funds to evacuate and care for the orphans whose arrivals were expected to escalate considerably. As flights out of Vietnam increased I was in San Francisco, and later Seattle, receiving and caring for the children.

Urgency and tragedy at war's end

By early April 1975 it was clear that South Vietnam was about to be overrun by forces from the North. All who worked with the children prepared to evacuate them. There were days and nights of desperate discussions with officials. Finally, the Australian and U.S. governments provided military aircraft for departure. In the U.S., flights landed first in San Francisco where we had worked with the U.S. Army to arrange immediate care for arriving orphans.

On April 4 in a devastating turn, our flight out of Saigon on a C-5A military transport aircraft carrying 320 passengers crashed shortly after takeoff. On board were 230 children. Seventy-eight children and six of our volunteers died, in addition to crew members and other passengers.



Susan Carol McDonald SL, left, cares for orphaned infants alongside Rosemary Taylor.

The reappearance of [Loretto Community member] Ruth Routten in Saigon was a welcome event.

Rosemary Taylor
in "Turn My Eyes Away: Our Children
in Vietnam 1967 to 1975"

After the C-5A crash, Ruth Routten CoL flew to Saigon to assist Susan and Rosemary with the evacuation. Ruth and Susan met with numerous U.S. officials trying to secure flight space for hundreds of children and the remaining volunteer staff. After purging thousands of adoption files, Ruth persuaded Flying Tigers to take metal footlockers containing bare-essential documentation for each child to the U.S.

Meanwhile, I was in San Francisco, working with the arriving children and very few volunteers, including some of our at-risk Vietnamese professional staff. Paulette Peterson (Loretto sister at the time, now a co-member) and Mary Cath-

erine Rabbitt SL, who was studying at Berkeley, spent days and nights assisting with the arrivals and subsequent departures to adoptive families. Mary Quayhagen SL, teaching and working in San Francisco, was also of special assistance.

Loretto ties held us close

Paulette Peterson and former Loretto Community member Dawn Dorsey had each brought to Vietnam their skills in special education to provide evaluations of special needs children and to train Vietnamese child care staff. In addition to those who stayed for longer periods, Mary Luke Tobin SL came to Saigon on a peace mission; Patricia Jean (PJ) Manion SL visited us during her Semester at Sea tenure; Mary Fran Lottes SL came as an escort to accompany children to St. Louis; Sharon Palma CoL adopted our Eyal, now Christopher. Some of the children destined for European and Australian families had not yet received the required entry visas; Loretto houses in Denver received babies for whom they cared until the visas were in order.

The final word: gratitude

Language and space do not permit an adequate expression of the blessing that Vietnam and some of her children have been on our lives. In 1973 we took the road less traveled and that has made all the difference.

Mary Nelle Gage SL went on to help resettle refugees from numerous countries for 20 years. She lives in Colorado and is in close contact with many of the Vietnamese adoptees.



Paulette Peterson SL (now CoL) cares for children for whom she started a preschool. (See more about Paulette's work on page 15.)

On the ground as the North Vietnamese army advanced

By Mary Nelle Gage SL



Ruth Routten CoL hugs a Vietnamese orphan before escorting him out of Vietnam and to his waiting family.

Photo: 1973, courtesy of Ruth Routten CoL

Aiding orphans in Vietnam wasn't new to Ruth Routten CoL, an American Airlines flight attendant who, on her days off, had escorted children from Vietnam to adoptive families starting in 1973. After the C-5A crash in early April 1975, when she returned to Saigon to assist with the final evacuation, the situation on the ground had become acute. Orphanages were once again at full capacity as Catholic sisters from provincial orphanages brought more and more children. Finding flights out had become nearly impossible. After a promised flight for the orphans had been canceled by a charter aircraft company, Ruth, with Susan Carol McDonald SL, Rosemary Taylor and Australian volunteer Sr. Doreen Beckett brainstormed evacuation options.

Tensions skyrocketed. Vietnamese staff shared reports from Radio Hanoi that those who had cooperated with American agencies were considered war criminals. American Armed Forces Radio announced that the signal to report immediately to evacuation sites would be "It is 110 degrees in Saigon and rising," followed by the playing of "White Christmas."

By April 25, the North Vietnamese takeover was imminent and there were still 270 orphans waiting to leave. The women worked around the clock caring for the children and preparing for evacuation. Finally a flight was scheduled; Ruth and Susan flew out on April 26, four days before the Northern army takeover, on a bare-bones C-141 cargo plane. Children were strapped in several to a seat; others were on blankets spread across the floor; infants traveled in boxes with Susan. The orphans were brought to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines where they underwent medical exams and were assigned caretakers. Susan then arranged for the children's flights from the Philippines to the U.S. on C-141 cargo planes.

Ruth flew on to McCord Air Force Base near Seattle and escorted orphans to Europe and Australia. That same year, 1975, she had also volunteered with Families For Children Cambodia orphanage, including arranging the March 1975 evacuation. In subsequent years, she has assisted with planning and coordinating Motherland Tours for adoptees to their birthplace, as well as reunions so that cribmates could reunite; many have formed enduring friendships.

A life lived for the sake of



*Susan Carol McDonald SL cradles a dozing orphan.
Photo courtesy of Loretto Archives*

By Christina Manweller

In May 1973, 28-year-old Susan Carol McDonald SL arrived in Vietnam to work with Rosemary Taylor, an Australian nurse who had been caring for orphans and arranging for their adoptions since 1968. Susan, a registered nurse, was asked to take over New Haven Nursery.

TV reports had not prepared her for the stark poverty on the ground — she described seeing people living along the Saigon River which was used as a sewer — but from the beginning she loved her often heartbreaking, often life-saving, work. The newborns arrived one after the next in precarious health, frequently premature and very low-weight. Epidemics struck the orphanages mercilessly. Birth defects and disease were widespread — diseases that a young woman hailing from Colorado had never seen. Children arrived with, or came down with, polio, typhoid, cholera, diphtheria, pneumonia, tuberculosis, meningitis, measles

Susan's skill and determination were invaluable in the face of daunting odds. She was known to manage the miraculous, often nursing to health a child who had not been expected to live. In spite of the love and hard work she poured out, however, many of her charges died.

The goal was to get orphaned infants and children healthy enough to travel and safely out of the country, all while contending with wartime conditions. In addition to disease, rats, bacteria-ridden water, shortages of supplies and medicine,

there were war-related travel snags, to and from the adoptive countries and within Vietnam (Susan routinely took on the fraught task of driving out to provincial orphanages where she picked up orphans and delivered supplies and medicine); there were relentless bureaucratic roadblocks, judges and officials to deal with ... piles of paperwork needing officials' signatures — officials who came and went one after the next.

Susan's life was a whirl of massive responsibility, of ministering to babies, sleepless nights. She loved it.

Just before the war ended came the most shocking experience of her life, as she later said. On April 4, 1975 the phone rang: Children who had been loaded on a military cargo plane were being brought in wounded. Susan and Rosemary rushed to the hospital where sirens blared and myriad vehicles carried in children and adults. The plane had crashed into a rice paddy shortly after takeoff.

Volunteers Susan had worked with had died. Children she'd nursed were gone. About half of the passengers on the plane



Susan Carol McDonald SL, RN, foreground, nurses an infant at New Haven with the assistance of Rosemary Taylor.

Photo courtesy of Loretto Archives

the other

had perished. Over the next days, touring the hospital in a state of shock, she found survivors from her orphanage. If they were well enough to travel, she'd get them on a flight.

By the end of that first week in April the situation was critical; it was clear war's end was imminent. In the weeks following the crash, over 2,500 children were evacuated. Susan stayed through the month, working to arrange flights, caring for children and attending urgent meetings at the U.S. embassy. She departed on a cargo plane on April 26 with about 200 orphans and 14 adults, including Ruth Routten CoL, who had arrived to assist the evacuation. Susan sat on the floor in the back caring for infants traveling two-to-a-box.

Rosemary and two volunteers stayed a few days longer to close up the orphanages. On April 30, the day Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese army, they were lifted out in a helicopter from the U.S. embassy roof.

Susan was passionate about her work in Vietnam. Relationships she made stayed with her; she was in close contact with adoptees and their families for the rest of her life, frequently playing host in her home and escorting groups to Vietnam.

After the war, Susan worked in Bangladesh, Haiti and rural Kentucky, among other locations. She died in Sept. 2020. Her Vietnam adoptee files and information are at the Loretto Archives, Loretto Motherhouse, Nerinx, Ky.

I have dreams about the C-5A crash. In one a friend comes to me and says, "The plane crashed and the children were on it." Then I am at the crash site. I run toward the plane. Little pieces of paper are flying all over in the air. The air around the plane is filled with these little pieces of paper — like snowflakes. So before I get to the plane I pick one of the pieces of paper out of the air. And on it is a picture of a child. Then in the dream I turn to the others at the crash site; I shout to them, "It's all right! There weren't any children on the plane. There were just pictures. Just pictures of children."

Susan Carol McDonald SL



On a trip to Vietnam, Susan Carol McDonald SL, center, enjoys an excursion with Vietnamese women who worked with the children in the nurseries. Sang, the English-speaking head Vietnamese nurse, stands behind Susan.

Photo courtesy of Mary Louise Denny SL

Flames of love and commitment

Standing with the adoptees ... now grown

By Mary Louise Denny SL

When Susan Carol McDonald SL returned from Vietnam in 1975, she knew her life had changed. She knew that the work she felt privileged to do in Vietnam with abandoned children would be a path she would take for the rest of her life. And so it was.

She kept in touch with many of the adoptive parents as they began to raise the infant they had welcomed into their families. She answered questions, told stories, shared memories of each child and their known beginnings with adoptive parents worldwide.

As the children became adults they had questions about the Vietnam they left, about their beginnings, where they were found and why. Some had misgivings about their birth mothers, some had been told things about their lives that simply were not true. They knew they would hear the truth from Susan. All they had to do was ask. Some found the truth comforting and others did not.

She wanted each adult adoptee to know they were loved, to know they are special and a gift to the world. She wanted them to know each other, to know they had brothers and sisters all over the world. To know they were not alone.

Some brought their own children to Susan. One woman said, "You held me when I was eight months old, I want you to hold my daughter, too." Susan welcomed each phone call, each email, each visit. She continued doing this until her death in Sept. 2020.

She often said how grateful she was that she was able to do this work, have this blessing in her life, experience such love.

Now it's up to each of us ... pass it on.



Photo by Mary Louise Denny SL

Susan Carol McDonald SL, right, shares information and stories with an adoptee and her adoptive mother.

Returning to Vietnam



Mary Nelle Gage SL, right, with adoptee Tobi Garrett, Easter 2020.
Photo by Cathy Mueller SL

By Mary Nelle Gage SL

Motherland Tours began in 1996 and have continued through the last 20 years. Susan Carol McDonald SL and I each escorted large and small groups of adoptees, often accompanied by parents, spouses, their own children, back to Vietnam. Mary Louise Denny SL and Ruth Routten CoL have accompanied us.

Arriving at the airport from which they departed as babies or toddlers, we visit the sites important to each one: the nursery and orphanage where they received care, the adoption office, the embassy building where their entry visa was granted, the former South Vietnamese Ministry buildings where they were granted passports and exit visas.

We visit the places of historic interest, including the former Vietnamese Presidential Palace and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. The beauty of Vietnam is enjoyed in boat excursions on Halong Bay, at China Beach, in the rice fields of the Delta, in the fishing village of Hoi An.

Meeting childcare workers and provincial orphanage directors is a highlight for the workers and sisters who are so happy to see and embrace their children again. While many of the pre-communist records were destroyed, some remain and a few adoptees have found personal background information. Some, through the miracle of DNA testing, have met blood relatives and learned more of their personal history. Each visit, on April 4, we gather for a memorial service near the crash site of the C-5A transport plane, speaking aloud the names of the 76 children and six volunteers who perished.

ent burn on after war

In the adoptees' words ...

"Susan Carol [McDonald SL] had the first memories of me. She had the first pictures of me. She was the only other person who could tell me what I was like before my mom got me. She was that to so many others and had the heart to want to share that with us."

Christy Holman, known at New Haven Nursery as Minuet



Christy Holman, center, brings her daughter to visit Susan Carol McDonald SL, left, and Mary Louise Denny SL, right.

Photo courtesy of Christy Holman

"None of the experiences that have shaped, molded, and allowed me to evolve into the person I am today would have been possible without you."

Briant Happ, in a letter to Susan Carol McDonald SL for her memorial book compiled after her death.

"There is often a deeply rooted need for a sense of belonging. Susan Carol McDonald SL knew this and made every effort to connect adoptees throughout the world. She encouraged us to share our feelings and experiences. Sometimes the connections were brief, but there is comfort in knowing others like me are out there."

"There is much documented about the Vietnam War and the conditions of the country. Sister Susan made it personal, helping us to understand the sacrifices our birth parents made by trying to give us a better life."

Amy Oakes, known at New Haven Nursery as Simone Weil

"From what I know about my history, I was found on the side of a road injured by a landmine and brought to medical care. I was then moved through three orphanages in the span of six months until I was finally adopted in early 1975 to a single mother in Washington, D.C."

"Many of the sisters organized reunions for Vietnamese adoptees from my childhood to the present, including motherland tours guided by Mary Nelle Gage SL. She even took an excursion with me to my hometown, which was a short plane ride away from the rest of the tour. Once I stepped off the plane into Qui Nhon, I actually recognized the sweet smell of rice, and some memories instantly returned. It really was amazing to go back after decades and hear firsthand accounts from those who were there taking care of us in the 1970s."

Eleanor Marindin



Eleanor smiles for the camera at the nursery where she lived prior to adoption by a family in the U.S. At left, she enjoys outdoor time with husband Dan. Eleanor and Dan are hoping to adopt a child.

A miracle meeting brings sweet tears



From left, Phil Wise (Frank Antoine Marzan's American friend), Frank Antoine, Susan Carol McDonald SL, Asamu Johnson (Frank Antoine's biological father) and Frank's wife, Inesia Marzan, feel a rush of emotion after their visit with Susan Carol.
Photo by Mary Louise Denny SL

1973, Saigon, Vietnam, New Haven Nursery

The newborn was dropped off at New Haven Nursery where Susan Carol McDonald SL was the director. She logged the baby into her register, as she did with every arrival.

"Name: Frank Antoine. Arrival February 6, 1973. From Al-lambie (another nursery in Saigon). Left May 19, 1973 to France. Marzan family."

June 2019, Missouri and France

Susan received a message from France. Francois (Frank) Antoine Marzan had just located his biological father through DNA testing. His father, Asamu Johnson, is a blues musician living in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Frank Antoine, his wife Inesia, and their two children were coming to the U.S. to meet Asamu, and they wanted to visit Susan in St. Louis.

A DNA match in these circumstances is no small miracle. Though Vietnamese adoptees are sending in their DNA in growing numbers, DNA submissions from fathers is not common, and is practically unheard of from birth mothers. The fact that Francois Antoine and his father had each submitted their DNA and connected was, truly, remarkable.

August 2019, St. Louis, Mo.

Frank Antoine and Inesia came to the house Susan Carol shared with Mary Louise Denny SL. They brought Asamu, Frank's biological father. They'd just spent a week in Grand Rapids with their "new" family.

Mary Louise Denny SL shares about Frank Antoine and Inesia's visit to Susan Carol:

Susan showed them the register. When they found Frank's entry, he was holding Susan's hand and with his other hand was running his finger over his entry. He began to cry. Susan teared up. Frank said, "This is the first time I have touched anything and any person who knew me as an infant." Tears all around.

They stayed all day, looking through Susan's "Vietnam room," photos of New Haven Nursery and the babies, caretakers and so on. Susan answered many of the questions they had about that time in Vietnam.

When they left, there was a great feeling of satisfaction. Frank Antoine and Inesia felt they had put together another piece of the puzzle and Susan had seen another of "her babies" as a grown man, happy and alive.

With thanks to Mary Louise Denny SL.

Working toward healing



Paulette Peterson CoL, PhD, started a school for orphans in Vietnam in the 1970s and went on to spend a career helping military veterans.

Photo courtesy of Paulette Peterson

Building a preschool in Vietnam

Paulette Peterson CoL had started preschools in the U.S., so when she arrived in Vietnam in 1974, she went to work establishing a preschool at an orphanage. She teamed up with a local woman to develop activities and lessons adapted to the culture. Lessons included working on numbers and language skills — for instance, identifying objects and building vocabulary. “Some of the kids had polio and physical limitations so we did physical activities in the water, we sang songs.” Local men carved animal puzzles made of wood: elephants, giraffes, lions; they also made tables and chairs for the school. Paulette had to leave abruptly when she learned her father was ill with cancer.

Providing therapy to vets

After returning to the U.S., Paulette, who was working to complete her PhD in psychology, answered a help wanted ad for a counselor to work with vets returning from Vietnam at the Readjustment Counseling Center in New York City. She was hired and stayed for 29 years.

Paulette says it was an honor to assist and be with the veterans and their suffering. They often have difficulty with personal relationships and employment because of their war experiences and trauma. She helped them see how the war experiences were impacting their present lives and to evaluate and adjust as needed. Insights often led to significant life changes. For instance, a vet who had been a medic felt as if he was a failure because soldiers he treated had died. Paulette explains, “Through therapy he was able to experience the grief he felt and see his self-blame was a substitute for feeling loss. He went on to become a psychologist.” Paulette is deeply thankful to those she was able to help.

Paulette has been part of the Loretto Community since 1974, first as a vowed member and now for many years as a co-member. She currently serves on Loretto’s Community Forum.

Addressing Agent Orange

In 2010, Paulette Peterson CoL traveled to Vietnam as a member of the Common Cause Interfaith Delegation on Agent Orange to assess the effects of the herbicide/defoliant. She met with public officials, health and environment experts and Vietnamese citizens. At Da Nang, where the U.S. military handled nearly three million gallons of Agent Orange, she saw dead ground. All these years later, nothing grew.

In the report she put together for USAID (United States Agency for International Development) she wrote, “We believe that comprehensively addressing the environmental and human impact of Agent Orange in Vietnam represents a moral imperative even as we recognize that we cannot replace all that was lost.”

The group’s recommendations included providing upgraded services as well as advancing the rights of those with disabilities, cleaning up the dioxin at the primary contaminated sites and helping the Vietnamese develop needed skills within their own non-governmental organizations.

Agent orange history in Vietnam

It is estimated that about 19 million gallons of Agent Orange (so called because of the color of the stripe on its barrels), which includes the extremely toxic contaminant dioxin, was used to destroy crops and defoliate forests by the U.S. military in Vietnam between 1962 and 1971. By the late 1960s, doctors in Vietnam suspected the chemical agent was causing congenital abnormalities.

According to the Red Cross of Vietnam up to one million Vietnamese have been disabled or developed health issues as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. In the 1970s high levels of dioxin were found in South Vietnamese women’s breast milk. U.S. military veterans who served in Vietnam were found to have high levels in their blood. The U.S. government has documented increased occurrence of Hodgkins lymphoma, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, certain leukemias and other cancers in military veterans exposed to Agent Orange. According to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, exposed Vietnam War veterans have been shown to have children with increased rates of birth defects.

The U.S. government has provided compensation to about half of veterans who have filed claims, but has been slow to compensate Vietnamese who were exposed and widespread environmental damage has not been fully addressed.

Honoring Loretto

75 years



Benedicta (Bernie) Feeney SL

Benedicta (Bernie) Feeney SL celebrated 75 years of commitment as a Sister of Loretto on August 15 of this year.

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by God would be fulfilled.” We gather on this feast of Mary especially to celebrate Sister Bernie’s faithfulness and God’s faithfulness to her. Bernie was received on August 15; she made her first vows on another August 15, and her final vows on a third August 15

Bernie follows in a long tradition that began when Loretto’s earliest members made vows in the little log church of St. Charles.

Excerpted from a reflection by Eleanor Craig SL on the occasion of Bernie’s Jubilee celebration. Bernie resides at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky.

Photo by Donna Mattingly SL.

“**T**o quote a familiar refrain, this anniversary snuck up on me overnight. Reflecting on my 75 years as a Sister of Loretto, I am filled with gratitude for the many blessings I have received:

- The sisters with whom I’ve lived, worked, prayed, played and even cried
- The many opportunities to develop and grow in my spiritual life
- The multitudinous educational opportunities
- The privilege of teaching many wonderful children
- Being able to further my own education
- and many, many more gifts I’ve received ...”

Thank you, Loretto, for your giving and loving presence in my life.

to's Jubilarians

50 years



Barbara Doak SL

Barbara Doak SL is retired and living in Kansas City, Mo. She stays active working in ministries serving the poor and homeless. Barbara makes sandwiches each day for homeless individuals and helps prepare hot meals to be served to those in need.

She says that Loretto taught her to reach out to her neighbor and model her life after Jesus' life. Barbara loves being a part of the Loretto family.

Rosalie Duran CoL

Rosalie Duran CoL (no photo available) has been living at the Oberon House in Arvada, Colo., for the past few years. She enjoys the company of her family.

Celebrating

Judith Baenen CoL

Judith Baenen CoL is revising her book “H.E.L.P. — How to Enjoy Living with a Preadolescent,” and preparing pamphlets for parents on student health and issues related to kids and technology. She enjoys travel, having visited more than 56 countries and all 50 states. In this photo she stands at the mouth of the eternal corridor in Angkor Wat, the temple mountain located in northwest Cambodia. Judith says, “I value my many Loretto friendships and my rich experiences as President at St. Mary’s Academy and Coordinator at the Loretto Center in Denver.”



Maria Brann CoL

Maria Brann CoL has served as a Eucharistic minister, traveled to Central America several times on peace missions, worked as a social worker, and in recent years has volunteered with Catholic Charities. She has been an enthusiastic participant at Loretto Assemblies and meetings over the years. She lives in San Francisco.



Mary Delaney CoL

Mary Delaney CoL is the mother of eight children. She was born in Faribault, Minn., and attended Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. She was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal church in January 1993. Mary lives in Tucson, Ariz.



25 years

Diane Fassel CoL

Diane Fassel CoL says, “Beginning in the 1960s my connection with Loretto has made me part of a community of faith, service and justice. Each passing year the issues we care about may change, but the direction remains the same and for that I am eternally grateful.”



Sue Kenney CoL

Sue Kenney CoL writes, “My co-membership was a natural and important next step after my years as a vowed member. The Loretto Community is life-giving, a means of living community and practicing gospel values. I consider Loretto my community or family of choice. As a current member of the Community Forum I am able to work with others for the good of the whole and the planning for the future beyond what we now know and experience.”



Phyllis Tyler-Wayman CoL

Phyllis Tyler-Wayman CoL says, “My husband and I have four sons and five grandchildren. My retirement from my work as a United Methodist clergy person is filled with gratitude for friends and family as I write, read, walk and pray. I also am grateful for being a member of the board of directors of the Hermitage Spiritual Retreat Center in Pittsburg, Mo. Loretto was introduced to me by Martha Fly and Mary Jean Friel. The Loretto Community is close to my heart due to its emphasis on justice, equality and education. Loretto, and its purpose, is one of the organizations that will save our world.”



Newest Loretto Volunteer to Loretto and to

Loretto Volunteers explore and embody the program's core values of intentional community, spirituality, solidarity, sustainability and social justice.

*By Annie Rosenkranz
Director, Loretto Volunteer Program*



Emily Fordham

We are excited to kick off the 2021-2022 Loretto Volunteer Program year! We have welcomed seven volunteers who are serving with social justice organizations in Denver and El Paso while living in intentional community and deepening their engagement with Loretto values.

Developed in collaboration with the Loretto Community, the following goals will guide the program through the coming year:

- 1.** The Loretto Volunteer Program carries forward the Loretto Community's commitment to working for justice and acting for peace in the world through activism, advocacy, service and acting in solidarity for change.
- 2.** The Loretto Volunteer Program cultivates relationships with the Loretto Community to enhance community, spirituality and mission for both.
- 3.** The Loretto Volunteer Program partners with local organizations for mutual learning, support and collaboration toward social justice and an integrated volunteer experience.
- 4.** The Loretto Volunteer Program values intentional community life based on mutual respect, sustainability and solidarity, and supports both the hope and the struggle of community life commitment.
- 5.** The Loretto Volunteer Program encourages self-reflection and supports inclusive and dynamic exploration of spirituality.

Emily Fordham grew up in Moorestown, N.J., but also calls the town of Mashpee, Mass., her home, where she's spent many summers living, visiting family and working. Emily graduated in May 2021 from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia where she studied psychology primarily, with minors in autism behavioral studies and philosophy. Emily has many hobbies including singing, taking long walks, playing ukelele, eating ice cream and reading. Emily is serving at the Women's Bean Project in Denver.



**LORI
VOLUN**

s bring passion for justice community work



Kayla Howell

Kayla Howell grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. She is a recent graduate from Xavier University with a bachelor's in environmental science, a minor in art and a minor in peace and justice studies. Kayla has a passion for the outdoors and enjoys hiking, camping and birdwatching. She also loves art and when she's not pointing out a bird to the nearest stranger you can see her drawing one. Kayla is passionate about social change and is excited about her year with the Loretto Volunteer Program. Kayla is serving with Villa Maria in El Paso.



Manon Nadeau

Manon Nadeau grew up in Holyoke, Mass., and later attended Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H. She graduated this year with a degree in English and secondary education. During her time at Saint Anselm's, Manon deeply valued the relationships built and days spent at the Sununu Youth Services Center for Adjudicated Youth and this is where her passion for solidarity was fostered. She is passionate about working with youth who are underserved and developing an understanding of the lives they live and the systems that often hold them down. She is also passionate about grief advocacy, normalization and awareness. When her mind isn't on the work she cares about, you might find Manon reading or sharing poetry, spending time outside, listening to any music genre or yearning to try new foods. She is eager and thankful to start this new journey. Manon is serving with Urban Peak in Denver.

**ETTO
NTEERS**

Continued next page



Alisa Ndoci

Alisa Ndoci grew up in Fushe-Arrez, Albania, and first came to the United States as a junior in high school through Youth Exchange and Study (YES). After her exchange year she decided to pursue an education in the U.S. and continued to complete her associate's degree at a community college, followed by her bachelor's in political science at Gonzaga University. Alisa wants to study environmental and immigration law hoping to pursue her goal of working toward collective liberation, equity and justice. Alisa's favorite activities include camping, skiing, hiking, dancing, painting, writing poetry and watching sunsets. Alisa is serving with Angelica Village in Denver.



Georgia Rawhouser-Mylet

Georgia Rawhouser-Mylet grew up in Portland, Ore., and graduated from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, with majors in political science and Spanish. At Grinnell, she was involved with the Liberal Arts in Prison Program, where she coordinated academic programming for incarcerated students and tutored math and social studies in prisons. She was also a member of the choir; she loves singing and is learning to play guitar. In her free time, she likes cooking, gardening, hiking, crafting, listening to podcasts and taking walks with friends. She is interested in politics and public policy, especially as tools of social justice. While living in El Paso, she hopes to continue improving her Spanish. She is excited and grateful to be a Loretto Volunteer this year and is working at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso.



Julia Regalbuto

Julia Regalbuto is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. She graduated from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington in 2019 with a major in English and minors in Spanish, history and theatre. She then served for two years with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, working in Los Angeles, Calif., at Dolores Mission Church as the Youth Ministry Assistant, and in Newark, N.J., at NJ LEEP as the College Bound program coordinator. When not exploring the cities that hold a place in her heart, Julia enjoys creating kitchen experiments, reading historical fiction and fantasy (and sometimes historical-fiction-fantasy), adding to an ever-increasing number of wall decorations and settling in for a solid romantic comedy. She is serving as a legal assistant with Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services in El Paso.



Jax Viteznik

Jax Viteznik grew up in Portland, Ore., and attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash. She is enjoying her time in Denver and hopes to expand her role as an intersectional feminist, focusing on reproductive rights, racial justice, disability accessibility and sustainability. Jax loves to travel and meet new people, but as an introvert at heart, she also loves to read, write and spend time with her dog. Jax is serving with Loretto at the UN; she serves from Denver and travels to New York City.

Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make it survive, you haven't done a thing. You are just talking.

Wangari Maathai





Loretto nourishes the creative spirit in Pakistan

By Nasreen Daniel SL

Some believe poverty hinders creativity; Loretto believes otherwise.

St. Anthony School is situated in the slums of Lahore where people earn \$1 or \$2 per day. The students come in uniform so no one can judge their economic backgrounds. Our school is in the old convent which does not have much play-ground space nor proper classrooms. This does not hinder the kids from learning and being educated, but what to

do about games, one of the important components of maintaining and developing the child's healthy mind and body?

Little girls all over the world play with dolls and doll houses but when the parents' first and foremost concern is to feed the child, dolls and other toys look like extravagances.

At our school, when they reach 5th grade, the girls are taught to make dolls and doll dresses. They make the dresses at

home, not with sewing machines, but with simple needles and thread. Some students make female dolls and others make male dolls and they hold marriage ceremonies. In the ceremonies they practice the adult roles they have seen around them.

The boys want different games. Some time ago the 8th grade boys came with Sr. Maria to ask me if they could use some of the bricks and sticks from trees to build in the garage. I was amazed at their inventiveness. After they finish, they put the bricks and sticks back in the storeroom and they construct again next time they want to play.

It is amazing to see the kids' imaginations and how they interact and engage in the world around them from a very young age. They get to introduce their creations at the

school assembly which gives them confidence and helps them to work as a team. When children have to produce something in a given time, they learn discipline and dedication. In some kids, we see leadership qualities — they learn to negotiate and share; they develop self-advocacy skills and cultivate a strong bond with the rest of the class.

Poverty cannot build walls around the minds of poor kids. They surprise you with their ideas and creativity, accomplishing so much with so little. Most of the children have never visited the zoo in Lahore, so they built a zoo in the school.

We are surprised daily in little ways by our kids and the people around us. They teach us to be thankful — we have so much and they don't, yet still live happily.

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



Poverty cannot build walls around the minds of poor kids.

They surprise you with their ideas and creativity . . .

Nasreen Daniel SL

Photos courtesy of Nasreen Daniel SL

Theresa Coyle SL

January 5, 1929 – July 14, 2021

Theresa Coyle was born in 1929 in New Haven, Ky., 15 miles from Loretto Motherhouse. Nineteen years later she entered the Sisters of Loretto at the Motherhouse. For many years Theresa was a teacher in the elementary grades. She became a reading specialist with a master's degree from Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee. Later Theresa served nonprofits in secretarial and administrative support services. Retiring in 2000 from professional work, she volunteered with the National Association for the Mentally Ill and helped to provide services to benefit the sick and elderly in Louisville. In 2009 she moved to Loretto Motherhouse, exhibiting her compassionate nature and joyful outlook on life in Community service and prayer until her death. She donated her body to the University of Louisville School of Medicine.



Joy Gerity CoL

September 24, 1940 – May 31, 2021

A Denver native, Joy was a mother of two daughters, grandmother of four young adults and in her 46th year as a Loretto co-member. After graduating from Marymount University, Joy returned to Denver for a 34-year career at her alma mater St. Mary's Academy as high school English and theology teacher, 14 years as middle school principal, lower and middle school counselor and director of program. Joy was a founder of Escuela de Guadalupe in north Denver and served on the board of trustees there and at Loretto Academy in El Paso. In 2001 Joy joined the Loretto Community staff where for 18 years she supported Loretto's faith life and mission through planning assemblies and topical gatherings, facilitating meetings, and sharing her gifts wherever needed. Joy's cremains were buried in the cemetery at Loretto Motherhouse.



Sylvia Ginder SL

November 15, 1930 – June 26, 2021

Sylvia began life as the only child of émigrés from Europe who settled in Oklahoma. She joined the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Ill., who staffed her grade school. For 19 years she taught elementary school and served as an administrator. Seeking a community which had adopted the principles of Vatican II, Sylvia wrote Sister Mary Luke Tobin in 1970, asking to join Loretto. She did so, making vows in 1972. With the freedom of choice in work encouraged by Loretto, five years later Sylvia moved into pastoral counseling, spending the rest of her working years in care of sick and elderly, for several years in Denver hospitals and then in bereavement work at a Denver mortuary. Sylvia had a wide variety of skills and great depth of compassion for others.



Jean Johnson SL

May 12, 1927 – August 14, 2021

By the beginning of her senior year of high school the thoughts about a religious vocation were very much on her mind. Her pastor introduced her to the Sisters of Loretto. In Loretto Jean taught several years and then was asked to pursue nursing. In 1969 she was appointed Administrator of the Loretto Infirmary. December of that year she asked for a dispensation from her vows. At a Derby Party at the Motherhouse in 1973 she met Clarence Johnson whose wife had died the previous year. They married in September. Clarence died 15 years later. After retiring from nursing, Jean began practicing Centering Prayer. She says, "As my relationship with God deepened, I began having a deepening desire to return to the vowed state of life as a Sister of Loretto." Jean pronounced her vows again in 2005.



Marcia Kaldenhoven CoL**December 23, 1942 – August 29, 2021**

Marcia attended school in Vicksburg, Mississippi and in Memphis, Tenn., and went to Webster College in 1960. After two years, Marcia entered Loretto. After college she taught for two years in Kansas City, Mo. She then volunteered for the Loretto mission in Santiago, Chile, to do parish work and volunteer health work. In 1972 she changed her Loretto commitment to co-membership and married fellow missionary Joop Kaldenhoven. Under attack by the repressive regime in Chile, they relocated to Holland where they raised their two children, Carolien and Michael. Marcia worked in various commercial positions and supported Joop's work in diocesan missions, building relationships with other third world nations. Marcia and Joop frequently opened their house and their arms to Loretto travelers.

**Jean Kelley SL****January 21, 1922 – May 30, 2021**

Jean Kelley grew up in Iowa and in 1939 began her four years at Loretto Heights College. When studying sociology with Sr. Felicia Corrigan, Jean learned about injustice and gained an awareness of the poor. These learnings impacted her work and her presence with people who were marginalized. In 1963, Jean traveled on a cargo ship with others to Santiago, Chile. Our sisters in Chile were the first to receive the mission of adult education. In 1969 she moved to Bolivia and lived among the Aymara-speaking people in the altiplano. In 1977 Jean returned home to work in La Jara, Colo., and later in New Mexico and El Paso. Jean did what the people needed: ESL classes or individualized learning for struggling students. She was always a source of joy for those around her.

**Rose Marie Stevens Nielsen CoL****May 27, 1938 – Aug. 31, 2021**

Rose Marie made final vows in Loretto as Sister Rose Timothy in 1964, was dispensed in 1973 and became a Loretto co-member in 1978. Her mother was also a Loretto co-member. Rose Marie taught elementary grades in Illinois, Colorado and Missouri. In 1973 Rose Marie married Walter Nielsen. They adopted three children and had several foster children. Rose Marie and Walt moved to California where he worked in construction and she served as a board member and executive director for adoption agencies. After 20 years, she was happy to move back to Tennessee where the Niensens developed a 100-acre farm in Selmer. They had many animals for which they held great affection. She read increasingly about ecology and earth. Rose Marie died in senior housing in Memphis, Tenn.

**Eileen Loretto Wirtz CoL****April 14, 1927 — June 1, 2021**

Eileen died in Overland Park, Kan., in the 14th year of her Loretto commitment. She was capping a lifetime in and with Loretto as a high school student, college graduate student, teaching colleague and parent. She attended high school at Loretto Academy in Kansas City, Mo., and earned her teaching degree at Webster University in St. Louis. Eileen taught English at Loretto Academy and made many friends among her students. In 1951, Eileen married Vic Wirtz, and they had eight children. Eileen volunteered in many organizations in her lifetime. Years ago, Eileen gave each of her children a plaque that said, "God danced the day you were born." That is how she looked at life, and that is how she wanted us to see it.



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

Memorials and Tributes of Honor

June 2021 – September 2021

In Honor of: Requested by:

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

Elaine Rusche Carroll

John Carroll

Stephanie & Andrew Colt

Libby Eulberg

Barbara Doak SL (50th Jubilee)

Carol Ann Ptacek SL

Mary Jane O'Keefe Eggleston

Connie and Michael McArthur

Benedicta Feeney SL (75th Jubilee)

Carol Ann Ptacek SL

Maureen Fiedler SL

Jennifer Morgan

Sylvia Ginder

Maureen Flanigan*

Jeannine Gramick SL

Mary Patricia Baxter

John Le Bedda

Jennifer Morgan

Joan O'Neill

Mary Jo Highland

Mary A. Highland

Gabriel Mary Hoare SL

Mary Gail Horan

Evelyn Houlihan SL

Isabel Derr

Loretto:

**Sisters of Loretto who taught
at St. Cronan School, St. Louis**

Ryan Schiavo

Amanda Manning

James Spragens

Mary McAuliffe SL

Helen and Betty Bruck

Mary Ellen McElroy SL

Patrick and Mary Joe McElroy

Maureen O'Connell SL

Leslee Moore*

Marlene Spero SL

Margy and John Veatch

Kathleen Tighe SL

James Tighe

Phyllis Tighe

Webster College class of 1963

Carol Hohenberger

In Memory of: Requested by:

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

Barbara Anderson SL

Joy Addiego

Cathy Lee Box (Loretto

Academy, Kansas City, Mo. '66)

Sharon Mickelson

Helen Van Hecke

Mary Peter Bruce SL

Maureen Flanigan*

Mary Denis Bruck SL

Anna Cody

Patrick Campbell

Campbell Supply Company

Cynthia Campbell

Margaret Campbell

Margaret Ann Cason

Julia Woodward

Amy Earthman Cardwell

Sonja Earthman Novo*

Alda Collaço

Theresa Da Silva

Elizabeth Ann Compton SL

Ann Kammien*

Mary Conter SL

Sharlene Hower

Marilyn Cusick

Dorothy Cusick

DeCoursey Family

Maureen DeCoursey

Ame Calistiana de Leon

Ryan Pratt

Mary Jane O'Keefe Eggleston

Connie and Michael McArthur

Jossy Eyre*

Maureen Flanigan*

Marie Agnes Fobes SL

Robert and Toni Swanson

Martha Fly*

Robin Hultberg

David Schoeni

In Memory of:
Requested by:

Joy Gerity*

Diann Nestel

Paul Mary Grennan SL

Carol Harris

Marie Noel Hebert SL

James Hebert

Joseph Highland

Mary A. Highland

Thomas A. Horan

The family of Robert and Joan
Boisvert; Mark, Annette, Bob,
Evette and families

Jean Johnson SL

Tom Burke

Carol Weiss Dennes

Greg and Pam Donoho

Anne Murray Fallon

Rose Grenough Nett

Carol Keeling and the PAL Group,
Bardstown, Ky.

Ann Mary Mehling

Tami Pyles

Ann Schnurr

Mary Smoot

Eileen and William Twardowski

Cecily Jones SL

Mary Highland

Helen Jones

Jean Kelley SL

Rose Marie Hayden

David Kelley

Margaret Rose Knoll SL

Carol Johnson

Kay Lane SL

James Tighe

Phyllis Tighe

Marie Vlatkovich Markowski,

Webster College class of 1945

Robert Markowski

Bernice Lattin-Milan

Jean Allord

Paul Luersen

Mary Luersen

Ann Manganaro SL

Mary Ann Phillips

Edwin Mary McBride SL

Mary McManus

Maureen McCormack SL

Maureen Flanigan*

Lois McKeown

William McKeown

Richard G. McManus

Mary McManus

**Elizabeth "Betty" McWilliams
SL**

William and Shirley Hart

Christine Koza

Christella Morrison

Maureen DeCoursey

John Moskeland*

Victor and Kathleen Bean

Maureen Flanigan*

Rose Margaret Noe

Ernest and Peggy Noe Stevens

Rosalie Marie Phillips SL

Michael Stevison

Raymond Stevison, Jr.

Vicki Quatmann SL

Zaida Burton

Aidea Burton Sluyter

Mary Joyce Reasoner SL

Betty Arnold

Jane Reid

Buzick Construction

Marie Joann Rekart SL

John L. Rekart

Theresa Claire Reynolds SL

Michael Ryan

Gloria Tabacchi

Ann Lucille Ryan SL

Joan Sheffer

Ann Mary Schilling SL

Jean Clare Schilling SL

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Haner

Paul Sheffer

Joan Sheffer

Mary Lou Schifani Sherman

Diane and Victor Atchity

Jim and Jane Clawson

Patricia Gostine

Deana and David Huber

Anne Kineen

Joanne and Bill Klasinski

Margaret Schlachter

Jeanette Sherman

Mary Sweet

Janet Talley

Margaret Thurber

Eldon Shields*

Maureen Flanigan*

Theresa Agnes Tierney SL

Regina Schmidt

Genevieve McManus Tirpak

Mary McManus

Richard "Dick" Vitry

Martha Dell

Inez White

Regina and Tim Durbin

Theresa Louise Wiseman SL

Frank and Louise Chauvin

Myra Wisniewski

Arthur and Barbara Ratkewicz

Connected to Haiti through love and Loretto

The story of a Frenchman, a Loretto Community member and a Haitian student

By Francis Bidault

This is a strange story where the hands of the Lord help us.

I had been sponsoring a young girl in Haiti since 1999 when she started primary school. She was very young then, six years old, and did not do so well in school. Her grades were very low. I blamed it on the poor conditions in Haiti. But gradually she got better and better. I could see her transcripts improving to the point of being impressive. I felt so happy to help someone so deserving.

In January 2010, the earthquake hit the country. I only had a vague idea of where she studied. I only knew the name of the school and the village — no idea where it actually was in the country. A Haitian taxi driver here in Paris helped me locate the school. But what I was able to find on the internet scared me: I learned that her school had collapsed and that 150 students were killed. I was so worried, so anxious, so angry even, that I spent several nights trying to track someone who knew that school and could help me find out whether she was alive. Thank God (literally!) I found out on the internet that a lady by the name of Barbara Wander [Loretto



Francis Bidault

co-member] had been visiting that very school on the day of the earthquake. Then I found the email address of a friend of hers who put me in touch.

Barbara quickly learned that my “God daughter” was alive (thank God again). A few years later I visited San Francisco and was able to meet Barbara. I saw first-hand that she is as wonderful as I had suspected. Since then, she has always been an inspiration for me. I am so grateful to have met her and learned so much from her. I know this cannot be just by chance.

Loretto Donors Respond to Haiti’s Cries

Loretto has recently received over \$130,000 from 82 individuals and religious communities in gifts ranging from \$20 to \$15,000.

To give through Loretto, make your check out to the Sisters of Loretto and write “Haiti” in the memo line.

To give online visit www.lorettocommunity.org/donate

The back story

Dear Friends of Loretto,

During these dark days of the coronavirus, your generosity has increased. The outpouring of checks to assist the people of Haiti has amazed me. The steadiness of your giving — annual contributions and recurring donations — takes my breath away. The memorial tributes to sisters and to your loved ones stir my heart. Thank you.

Despite COVID-19, or maybe because of it, I feel an increased vibrancy within Loretto. Members are taking action against injustice, for peace, for a healthier earth. I was in a Zoom planning meeting yesterday and we were asked, “What have you witnessed in your lifetime that you had thought was impossible?” Answers included putting a man on the moon, the Berlin Wall falling, the election of Kamala Harris, majority approval of the protests at George Floyd’s killing. Even though we were all on Zoom, energy was high. During the two-day meeting we looked then at some of the big problems we face. For the record, we didn’t solve anything: not racism or new forms of Loretto governance or climate change or COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy. We did decide on next steps for ourselves like recommending participation in Pope Francis’s “Laudato Si” Action Platform. And we prayed.

A Creed for Creation (Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF)

We believe in the deepest goodness of things
We believe in the relationship of all things
We believe we are entangled with all Earth life and living creatures
We believe this future is the relational unity of all things in God
We believe this Earth has a future entangled with God
We believe the heart of God is love.

You and I, dear readers, are God’s stewards, entrusted to care for a small portion of the earth. We are of Loretto, formed by everyone in this Community who has gone before and by those who stand with us now. Our work shapes the present and reaches into the future we cannot see.

Gratefully,



Sister Mary Ann McGivern SL
Development Director



Photo courtesy of Barbara Wander CoL

Loretto Community member Barbara Wander CoL is pictured here, seated on the floor, with Little Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in Haiti. Barbara has worked for many years to help the Haitian people. As she has said, “... the Haitians don’t quit, so I can’t either.”



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**‘Whoever welcomes a
little child in my name
welcomes me.’**

Matthew 18:5