

Loretto

MAGAZINE

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Colegio Loretto, La Paz, Bolivia

Expanding to Chile and Peru

LoVos support migrants at the border

Loretto spirituality and Laudato Si'

... and more



Celebrating 50 years

La Paz, Bolivia: Colegio Loretto Class of 1972

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Front cover:

Eva Marie Salas SL teaches a ball game to girls at Colegio Loretto, La Paz, Bolivia, in the early 1960s. Eva Marie was principal of the school for 12 years.

Photo: Loretto Archives



Back cover:

A 1966 class photo taken at Colegio Loretto in La Paz, Bolivia, appears alongside a photo of the students, now grown, taken in the same location in 2018.

Photos courtesy of Sandra Cecilia Ortiz Sanchez



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,

Summertime greetings to each of you who receives *Loretto Magazine*. Perhaps from the comfort of an easy chair or a back porch glider you have the opportunity to read of the presence of sisters and co-members of Loretto through a span of years and geography. We are so blessed with the knowledge and support that we do not do any of this alone!

You may be interested to know that you were each on my mind and in my heart as I spent five days as a resident in personal care at Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary. From the inside, I gained a contemporary perspective of the life of a resident in a facility that daily benefits from the support that you provide with your prayers and financial gifts.

I recently underwent an outpatient surgical procedure. When I learned that I was to walk and walk and walk afterward — a blood clot preventive activity — my next call was to Michelle Essex, administrator of the Infirmary, to see if there would be a room available for me, and there was. The staff could not have treated me with more kindness and professional attention.

Inside this venerable facility that dates from 1949, each resident's safety, healthcare, nutrition, spiritual life and emotional well-being are among the priorities of each employee. I can personally attest to all of this, and as I do, I acknowledge that you have made this happen all these years. The contributions that you designate for the retired sisters, or for Loretto's most pressing needs, are daily translated into salaries and upkeep and access to the beauty of nature outside each window and door. It is my privilege to thank you profoundly.

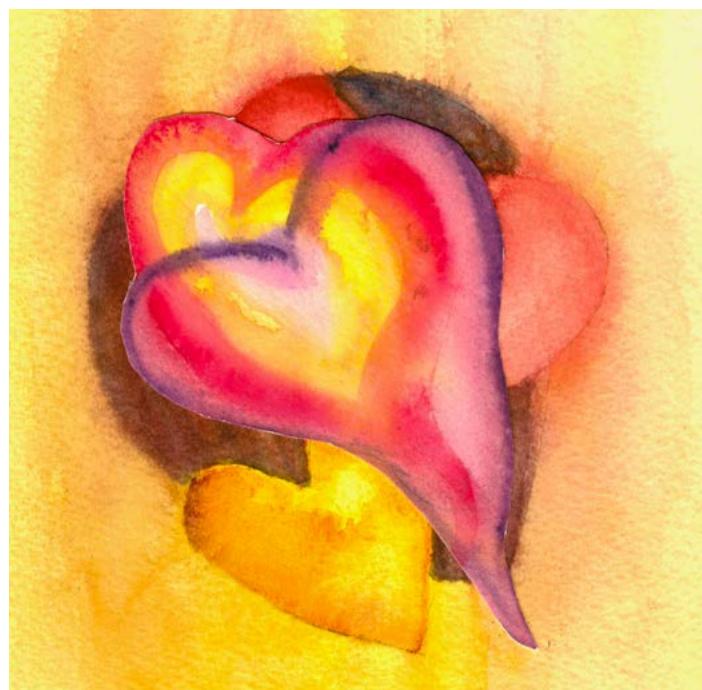
Within this issue, you will meet Loretto's new development director, Virginia Nesmith. At the same time that I was recovering in the Infirmary, Mary Ann McGivern escorted Virginia and her husband, Charlie, to their first visit to the Motherhouse. Even during the time of lingering COVID-19 precautions, the Motherhouse Community provided a warm welcome.

Maybe we'll see you there one day. You are always welcome!

Love,

Sister Barbara Nicholas SL

Barbara Nicholas SL
President of Loretto



"Simplicities/Complexities of Our Hearts," watercolor, by Vicki Schwartz SL

Buffy Boesen SL, longtime president of Loretto Academy in El Paso, passes the baton to Academy graduate

The goodness I have experienced here is a font of endless joy and energy for me.

Mary E. "Buffy" Boesen



For more than 22 years Mary E. "Buffy" Boesen SL has headed Loretto Academy in El Paso. She arrived to act as interim president for the 2000-2001 school year, fell in love with the school's extended El Paso/Juarez, Mexico, community and decided to stay. Buffy, who entered the Sisters of Loretto in 1978, will act as Loretto Academy's advisor to the president for a year to facilitate a smooth transition. Her post-retirement plans include traveling, spending time with family and friends and continuing to serve the Loretto and El Paso communities.

Buffy treasures her years at the school. "The students have given me life. I have made great friendships with students, teachers, staff and administrators. I treasure those relationships. The goodness I have experienced here is a font of endless joy and energy for me."

Nicole Ortega Cobb, El Paso native, Loretto Academy graduate and former Academy science teacher, has been appointed the school's next president. She plans to "honor Loretto's history and further integrate its core values and Catholic social teachings into everyday life at Loretto Academy."

Nicole holds a bachelor's in chemistry from Harvard University and two master's degrees from Stanford University — in biochemistry and in education. While teaching at Loretto Academy, she developed the Women in Science and Engineering Festival, and in 2018, she was named teacher of the year. She believes strongly in giving back to her community and co-founded El Jardin Birth and Family Resource Center, an El Paso advocacy and education nonprofit nurturing and empowering women during pregnancy, birthing and early parenthood. Serving as Loretto Academy's next president will offer a fresh opportunity to use her skills and experience in service of school and community.



Loretto's holistic approach to educating the mind and the heart is needed more than ever.

Nicole Ortega Cobb,
incoming president,
Loretto Academy

*Mary E. "Buffy" Boesen, left, retiring Loretto Academy president, and Nicole Ortega Cobb, incoming president, take a moment for a photo at the Loretto Academy entrance.
Photo courtesy of Nicole Cobb*

Sisters who taught in La Paz, Bolivia, recognize Colegio Loretto's 1972 graduating class with pride



Eva Marie Salas SL, left, reminisces with Guadalupe "Lupe" Arciniega SL. Eva Marie was principal at Colegio Loretto in La Paz, Bolivia. Lupe taught at Colegio Loretto for several years and went on to serve in Peru for another eight years. Photo by Amanda Mattingly

*We're so proud of the women
who were our students.*

**Eva Marie Salas SL
Lupe Arciniega SL**

In 1961 the Sisters of Loretto opened a school in La Paz, Bolivia. Colegio Loretto would provide strong academic grounding alongside Catholic social teachings and Loretto values. Today, graduates of that school are full of gratitude for the education they received (you will read in these pages just how deep that gratitude runs). Loretto is grateful in return for the opportunity to have taught and served the girls who went on to live Loretto values and to use their education to serve others. This year, 2022, marks the 50th anniversary of the school's first class to graduate, in November 1972.

Eva Marie Salas SL, Colegio Loretto's principal, recounts, "I was greatly enriched by the Bolivian peoples' acceptance of us. As I reflect on these 50 years, I am thankful for the many great accomplishments of the students, both in Bolivia and in other countries."

Lupe Arciniega, who first taught second grade, including First Communion classes, says of the girls she taught, "Now that they are adults, we are in touch ... those 75 women are doing great work, full of Loretto values; we are very proud of the first graduating class of Loretto College."

Watch a short video of Eva Marie and Lupe talking about their service in La Paz. Check out our Spotlight Video page here: www.lorettocommunity.org/spotlight.



Loretto in Bolivia: Planting seeds for

The Sisters of Loretto who went to Bolivia to start a school dedicated themselves completely to educating us as strong and independent young women In those first 12 years, Colegio Loretto became one of the best private schools in La Paz and was known for providing an outstanding level of education.

Ximena Ferguson, member of Colegio Loretto's first class

By Christina Manweller

We are in the city of La Paz, Bolivia, in a beautiful valley with an imposing mountain, the Illimani, which is the guardian of the city and at the same time marks its identity.

"Among the residents of this city, word spreads that a new school will open and it will be bilingual, English-Spanish. It will be run by nuns from the U.S.A. and two courses will be opened, kindergarten and first grade." Thus writes Frida Pett, among the first students to attend Colegio Loretto in La Paz.

In 1961, the Church asked religious communities in the U.S. to send 10% of their members to Latin America. Loretto already had a head start — the Community had committed to exploring new mission possibilities in South America, and in June of 1960, Mary Luke Tobin and Mary Peter Bruce had made an exploratory trip to Bolivia and Peru. The Most Rev. Abel Antezana y Rojas, Archbishop of La Paz, invited Loretto to open a bilingual school, and in November 1960, three sisters arrived in La Paz to open that school.

Mary Peter Bruce, Carol Dunphy and Eva Marie Salas located "a beautiful old building, four stories high. The rooms were easily turned into classrooms, a chapel and offices," Mary Peter later wrote. They hired two lay teachers and Colegio Loretto opened in February 1961 with 132 kindergarten and first-grade students. Parents were eager to send their girls to the new school. After three years, 415 students were enrolled. Each year, new Loretto sisters would arrive to teach, staying for varying lengths of time.



The building the sisters found in La Paz was ideal for housing the school, chapel and offices.

Photo: Loretto Archives

Inherent in the commitment to social justice was Loretto's belief that an excellent education should not be for the privilege of the wealthy alone, and many attended Colegio Loretto tuition-free. Traditionally, private schools in Bolivia, even Catholic institutions, were for the affluent, so mixing families of diverse incomes pushed into unfamiliar territory, prodding hearts and minds to open.

While teaching the conventional subjects and encouraging critical thinking, the sisters wove into their lessons the realities of Bolivia's social and economic injustices, teaching about the option for the poor and encouraging an active Christianity and commitment to service.

Jessie Vargas Maderholz writes that Lupe Arciniega (the fourth sister to arrive in La Paz, at 25 years of age) "sensitized us from a very young age to protect the homeless."

Colegio Loretto students visited a mine where they witnessed inequities first-hand. "We went to the Bolivian Institute of Social Studies directed by the oblate priest Mauricio Lefebvre," Jenny Ybarnegaray Ortiz writes. "There they opened the doors for us, showed us documents, lent us photographs, and with all that material we put together a kind of mural newspaper that exposed that reality. For us it was an impactful experience."

Pat McCormick taught Jesus' message of love and compassion and was able to expose the students, as she says, "to the struggles of the Indigenous families who lived in the barrios just a few miles from the school."

It was not all serious business. Students remember the sisters encouraging interest in art, music, dance and sports.

compassionate change



As they settled in, the sisters became increasingly involved in helping Bolivians outside of the school. Mary Peter was active with Indigenous groups in the altiplano and oversaw the formation of deacons and their wives within the Aymara, becoming lifelong friends with many. She founded Radio San Gabriel in order to aid communication among the Aymara, training young women to produce the programs.

Through examples of love in action, the students were encouraged to develop a strong commitment to societal transformation; generations of lives were impacted as a result. The school's graduates became teachers, psychologists, social workers, medical professionals, lawyers and so on. Many are lifelong volunteers, providing services to their communities and beyond. They've eagerly taught Loretto values to their families.

The sisters were young and full of energy, giving boundlessly of their knowledge, skill and compassion. The public school system was so inadequate that in addition to educating students, they dove into teaching Bolivian teachers and catechists, spreading their influence beyond Colegio Loretto.

They worked hard; in spite of their youth, the responsibilities and reality on the ground proved exhausting. Even so, Angie Murphy, who spent 10 years in Bolivia, and is remembered by Rosario Gutiérrez Costas driving students in the Volkswagen "school bus," called these some of the happiest years of her life. She later wrote, "I always say that it was my favorite place to live."

In the early 1970s the political situation made La Paz increasingly dangerous for sisters and staff — the school and convent had been searched and at one point, bullets blasted into the dining room. Loretto entered a process of turning over the school to a lay board that would continue to teach Loretto values; the school would go on as a Bolivian institution. Ximena Ferguson writes, "The education that Colegio Loretto was providing was ahead of its time, but by 1972 the authorities in government, the parent-teacher association and some of the parents perceived such education as revolutionary, and the activism of the sisters was viewed as an intrusion into national affairs."

Loretto's legacy in Bolivia did not end with the sisters' home-bound trips. Former students credit Colegio Loretto with providing an invaluable education, leading to impressive careers and, most importantly, helping to shape lives of compassion, service and deep commitment to social change.

These pages share a few excerpts from the many messages of gratitude written by former students in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Colegio Loretto's first graduating class in 1972.

'I venture to say that each and every one of the students of the class of 1972 has contributed ... to the growth of justice in her environment, not only on a personal level but also achieving an impact on the population that she could influence.'

'During my life, I performed social work on a voluntary basis, supporting, for example, American military doctors who came to Bolivia through the embassy to perform surgical operations and medical evaluations for those without resources. I worked as a volunteer at the Children's Hospital in La Paz Bolivia (eight years), also in the Spanish Red Cross; currently I work in the Order of Malta in Germany. I have worked in several United Nations agencies with paid contracts but always at the service of the needy.'

Jessie Vargas Maderholz



Mary Luke Tobin SL, left, and Mary Peter Bruce SL, departing Louisville, Ky., for an exploratory trip to Bolivia in 1960.
Photo: Loretto Archives

50 years later: ‘The seeds have grown



Colegio Loretto grads visit with their one-time teachers at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky., in May 2014. Top row, from left: Isabel Martinez, Eva Marie Salas SL, Martha Cáceres, Susy Palazzi, Bebe Mendieta, Naya Ponce, Elena Sandoval, Marlene Borda; bottom row, from left: Mary Peter Bruce SL, Delia Palazzi, Angie Murphy SL.
Photo courtesy of Isabel Martinez

‘We are daughters of Colegio Loretto; the seeds you planted in us are multiplying in our sons and daughters and our grandsons and granddaughters.’

From a presentation prepared by the class of 1972 for a visit to the Loretto Motherhouse in 2012

‘Sister Eva Marie Salas and I have kept in touch on and off over the years. In one of our correspondences, she said that she had helped plant 15,000 small trees around the Loretto Motherhouse. I responded:

Evita, you said that planting 15,000 trees was very special to you. But long before you planted those trees, you, and the Sisters of Loretto, sowed many seeds in La Paz, Bolivia, and now those seeds have grown into strong, tall trees, with branches that extend high and wide around the world. We, your students, have been successful in life because of what we learned under your quiet and steady guidance. There is much for you to be happy about.

Ximena Ferguson

‘We did not know that the memories of our childhood would accompany us daily for the rest of our lives, but we are now daily grateful for having belonged to Colegio Loretto.’

Sandra Cecilia Ortiz Sanchez

into strong, tall trees ...'

'It was the sisters who really made Loretto such a special place to grow up. They always encouraged us to be free-minded and to speak up for what's right. We remember that they led by example, joining in demonstrations for political change in our country.'

'They were developing our future leaders! ... Looking back at our many friends and classmates, we now see many exemplary women who have become leaders in politics, the arts, human rights and many other fields.'

Patricia Agramont Bascon

'If there is a stage in my life that I keep in my heart and memory with great love, emotion, nostalgia and in a special way as something almost magical, it is my first years at Colegio Loretto.'

Cecilia Losantos Quiroga



Mary Luke Tobin SL, Loretto's mother superior, in black, visited Colegio Loretto in 1966. Back row, from left, Angie Murphy SL, Mary Peter Bruce SL, Imelda Quesada SL, Matthew Geraghty SL, Arlene Bundschuh SL and Ellen Maloney SL; front row, Eva Marie Salas SL, Marie Louise Ramirez SL, Mary Luke Tobin SL and Peter Michael (Carol) Dunphy SL
Photo from a presentation by Mary Peter Bruce SL



A Colegio Loretto first grade class in 1963.
Photo Courtesy of Patricia Zenia Cuellar Otero



Blooming through generations

'All of us who passed our childhood and part of our youth in the school's classrooms can be considered fortunate to have received an education with solid values to face life with a sense of responsibility, respect and solidarity. Loretto taught us to live in a dynamic world, be open-minded and committed in our community. The spirit of Loretto has been always present in my daily life, within my family, work and friends. I learned that faith and religion are a matter of love and forgiveness, to give instead of receive, to seek for peace and justice. We have been taught to be independent women with full rights, active in our society and not afraid of challenges. I tried to educate my sons under these comprehensive and liberating concepts. I hope I have succeeded. I studied economics which led me to work with different institutions and organizations.

'All my life I have participated as a volunteer and I still do in small projects in my town. We should keep and spread the philosophy of Loretto for a brighter and more peaceful world. Always thankful and forever!'

Corina Murillo de Larrea

Our sisters gave us great power and strength to go through the obstacles of life, facing adversity with courage, justice and love

Lillian Lopez

'In addition to my family, Loretto was the cradle of my training. There, I learned the values I retain to this day, especially those referring to my ideological orientation, my vision of the world and the meaning I give to each of the causes to which I have dedicated myself for more than 45 years. I consider myself a person forged in the classrooms of Loretto where I learned about the principles, commitments and values that I follow now. These are my beacon and my light.'

'My life choices, starting with my professional career as a social psychologist, all the places where I worked for more than 35 years and my activism in what I call 'just causes' (particularly feminism), up to the present — they are all rooted in that period of my formation.'

'At Loretto I learned that I am not an isolated person, that I live in a society, that society is a group of people, with some more — and others less — favored by circumstances, their origin, the social class to which they belong, the opportunities that life offers them; I learned that circumstances are not equal for all.'

'I also learned that honesty is a principle of life that cannot be broken without consequence. That life becomes meaningful to the extent that one finds a purpose and, under the educational philosophy of the school, there can be no other than social justice and peace among peoples.'

Jenny Ybarnegaray Ortiz

'Many of us have been involved ... as political activists, in social work, or educating children with the principles that will pass on the legacy of social justice to the next generations.'

Jessie Vargas Maderholz



Graduates of Colegio Loretto visiting with Mary Peter Bruce SL in 2010; Mary Peter is in the middle row, second from left.

Photo from a presentation by Mary Peter Bruce SL



*In November 1972, the first class to graduate from Colegio Loretto in La Paz, Bolivia, prepares for the happy day with a photo shoot.
Photo courtesy of Ximena Ferguson and Frida Pett*

A legacy of compassion

'My sister Rosemary Quiroga Arce, "Rosmy," was the product of an education where women are protagonists of the changes in society. This small-in-stature, prominent anthropologist wearing her white coat spoke for the Indigenous people of our country. She has left her mark, fighting also to improve the education and the living conditions of the marginalized.'

'Rosmy is always present in our lives with her carvings in wood, her beautiful art pieces.'

'I think that it was Loretto which made the path for her, with ideals that allowed her to love life.'

Maria Eugenia Quiroga Arce



'... my dedication to others for 32 years as a psychologist can be read as related to the principles of the educational philosophy of the school.'

Paula Benedict de Bellot

'... I can say that [Colegio Loretto] has made a person who — in any place or situation — I am part of the solution and not the problem.'

Zoe Albarracin



Angie Murphy SL, left, who lived and taught in La Paz for 10 years, with Ximena Ferguson, graduate of Colegio Loretto
Photo courtesy of Ximena Ferguson

'With Sister Pat McCormick, a few of my classmates and I participated in social activism, took part in demonstrations against the government's abuse of power and supported a hunger strike by women workers.'

'We went to Indigenous communities to teach young mothers how to care for their children, and we volunteered in poor neighborhoods at the periphery of the city and in public schools.'

'We were determined to make a difference.'

Ximena Ferguson



The Colegio Loretto sisters and staff in 1963; from left, Eva Marie Salas SL, Esperanza, Mary Peter Bruce SL, Celia, Marius

(Elena) Sandoval SL, Sofia, Angela Murphy SL and Rosa

Photo from a presentation by Mary Peter Bruce SL



Eva Marie Salas SL teaching students at Colegio Loretto, La Paz, Bolivia. Eva Marie was principal of the school for 12 years.

Photo from a presentation by Mary Peter Bruce SL

For assistance with this feature, thanks are due to Lupe Arciniega SL, Pat McCormick SL and Eva Marie Salas SL. Thank you to former Colegio Loretto students for sharing your memories and photos. Thank you to all of the Loretto sisters who served so selflessly and compassionately in South America.

Invaluable to compiling the article were Loretto publications: "A Century of Change 1912 - 2012: Loretto's Second Century" and "Naming Our Truth: Stories of Loretto Women."

Carrying seeds of love to Peru & Chile



*Lupe Arciniega SL gives literacy lessons to Indigenous women in Tacna.
Photo: Loretto Archives*

In 1964, two years after Colegio Loretto opened in La Paz, Bolivia, a Loretto house opened in Tacna, a city in the Andean foothills of southern Peru.

In the photos at left, Guadalupe "Lupe" Arciniega, who had taught at Colegio Loretto in La Paz, teaches adults and children in Tacna.

Lupe, who would spend eight years in Peru, also developed educational programming for Telescuela Popular Americana to improve literacy and teach life skills and assertiveness training to impoverished Indigenous women.

Seventeen sisters would take part in missions in Peru and Chile. The experience of serving in South America changed their lives. The sisters embraced the cultures of the countries. They understood that their work was to walk with the people, not to act for them. It was understood that the U.S. history of domination and exploitation of the people in what was then known as the Third World must end.

As they returned from South America, the sisters raised the consciousness of Loretto, saying: "How privileged we are! How much we have to learn from the people of South America."



Above, Lupe Arciniega SL teaches a class at Colegio Cristo Rey in Tacna, Peru. Of her time teaching in Latin America, Lupe has said, "It was a time of mutual learning." She was learning about the local cultures and they were learning about hers. Above right, Valerie Ann Novak SL teaching in Tacna, Peru, in June or July 1965, wintertime in Peru. Photos: Loretto Archives



In 1962, the Community announced plans for a new kind of mission in Santiago, Chile's capital which is overlooked by the beautiful snow-capped Andes mountains.

For the first time in South America, Sisters of Loretto would not go to staff a school. Collaborating with many entities, including a broad mix of religious and clergy from congregations serving in South America, the Sisters of Loretto in Santiago made a conscious decision to live with the poor.

Maria Visse went to offer her experience in teaching music. She served in Chile from 1963 to 1979. Kristen McNamara served from 1963 to 1970 and was hired by the diocese of Santiago to start a program supporting catechists — the program served parishes throughout Chile. Maria and Kristen lived in a low-income section of Santiago.

Jean Kelley, a trained sociologist, taught students how to conduct surveys with the Indigenous so that programming would fit local needs. In the photo below, she pauses while spending time with a family in Santiago.



Top right, In 1964 in Santiago, Chile, Maria Visse SL, who stayed in South America until 1979, plays guitar while Lupe Arciniega SL looks on. Above left, in 1963, Jean Kelley SL visits with a family during the mission campaign to Santiago. Above right, Marius (Elena) Sandoval SL, left, and Kristin McNamara SL in Santiago, Chile, in 1962. Photos: Loretto Archives

LoVos come together in



Loretto Volunteers hike to the top of Mt. Cristo Rey (Christ the King), elevation 4675 ft., in Sunland Park, N.M., a short drive from El Paso. The Volunteers were at the border in March 2022 to learn firsthand about the migrant experience.

From left, Kayla Howell, Alisa Ndoci, Julia Regalbuto, Jax Viteznik, Georgia Rawhouser-Mylet, Emily Fordham and Manon Nadeau.
Photo by Brother Todd Patenaude

support of migrants

'I will be advocating for the rights and dignity of all people, as well as large-scale reform in policy.'

Emily Fordham

By Annie Rosenkranz, Director, Loretto Volunteer Program

Encuentro is Spanish for meeting, gathering, encounter — the act of coming together. For the Loretto Volunteer Program, our experience of *encuentro* at the U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso this past March was eye-opening. This was the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic that Loretto Volunteers gathered in-person instead of online. It was the first time the LoVo Program returned to the border in several years, joining with the Loretto Community in its work there for justice and peace and encountering the harsh realities of the migrant experience.

In partnership with the [Encuentro Project](#), Loretto Volunteers participated in a robust schedule of education, service, reflection and community activities framed by Catholic social teaching. Our Volunteers from Denver and El Paso brought different perspectives to the gathering and collectively reported the power and impact of the experience.

Emily Fordham (Denver LoVo serving with the Women's Bean Project) was struck by the resilience she experienced in those she encountered. "Many of the people we met in El Paso left significant impressions on me and I am carrying with me the stories they shared with us. The strength, hope, passion and grit of the people we were fortunate to spend time with were truly inspiring. I will be advocating for the rights and dignity of all people, as well as large-scale reform in policy."

Kayla Howell (El Paso LoVo serving with Villa Maria) voiced a commitment to continue to learn about and be present with individuals and communities suffering as a result of border injustice. "The immigration system is very complex and although I learned so much, I know I have so much more to learn — and it's my responsibility to be active in that search for knowledge — there is only so much you can learn by reading. Truly experiencing and seeing firsthand how the U.S. immigration system treats humans seeking asylum with little to no human dignity — it is an atrocity no one should stand for."



'If you are reading this and have not lately thought about the privilege of your citizenship, I hope you take a moment to do so soon.'

Alisa Ndoci, Loretto Volunteer and Albanian citizen

Alisa Ndoci (Denver LoVo serving with Angelica Village) found that the border experience hit close to home – Alisa is a citizen of Albania who has been in the U.S., away from her family, for the past five years, navigating many of the challenges of the U.S. immigration system. Her time at the U.S.-Mexico border prompted her to issue a call to us all, “If you are reading this and have not lately thought about the privilege of your citizenship, I hope you take a moment to do so soon. I hope you also take a moment to learn more about current immigration policies that are harmful, and I hope you find a way to help — not to save anyone, for no one needs saving, but I hope you find a way to further the liberation of others in hopes of furthering yours. For as long as some of us aren’t free, none of us is.”

Jax Viteznik (Denver LoVo serving with Loretto at the UN) felt the *encuentro* experience provided a visceral layer of understanding to her awareness of and advocacy around human rights issues at the border: “I thought I knew what

migration was like in this country, with all of the news stories and human interest stories I consume. But the reality is a lot more grim.”

Georgia Rawhouser-Mylet (El Paso LoVo serving with Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center) found that the *encuentro* experience helped ground her daily work as a legal assistant at a legal immigration nonprofit in the historical, social and political forces at play at the border: “It helped me put my day-to-day work in its bigger context. I will carry away from this experience a deeper understanding of the ways that the immigration system is cruel, de-humanizing and imperialist, from the moment a migrant attempts to enter the United States and through their entire legal process. However, there are dedicated, creative people working to help migrants navigate this system and push for change.”

Upon their return from the border, the Volunteers gathered online with Loretto’s Latin America/Caribbean Committee to exchange reflections and connect to Loretto’s ongoing work for justice for migrants and refugees.

Volunteer Director's note: The Loretto Volunteer program will pause at the end of the current program year to engage in a process of learning, exploring and planning for a new vision of Loretto mission work. This process will be done in collaboration with Sisters INSPIRE, a learning cohort sponsored by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and facilitated by the Catholic Volunteer Network that is supporting us in our re-imagining process. - Annie Rosenkranz



A Border Patrol agent speaks with the Volunteers who get a dose of the desert heat routinely experienced by migrants.
Photo by Coralis Salvador, Encuentro Project



LoVos visit Sacred Heart Church in El Paso; left to right, Julia Regalbuto, Georgia Rawhouser Mylet, Jax Viteznik, Kayla Howell, Alisa Ndoci, Manon Nadeau, Emily Fordham and Mary Margaret Murphy SL. Photo by Coralis Salvador, Encuentro Project



Georgia Rawhouser-Mylet, left, and Julia Regalbuto pause outside Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, an organization providing legal resources for immigrants in El Paso. Photo by Kayla Howell

Loretto is embracing Laudato

By Libby Comeaux CoL

In "Laudato Si'" Pope Francis urges upon us nothing less than an ecological conversion. Conversion connotes a life-changing spiritual, and resulting physical, transformation. It can be something familiar, like leaving all to follow a religious vocation, or welcoming a baby into a home and community. Like birthing, it can come through a measure of upheaval, but the point is the ecstasy.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) sets forth seven goals. The spirituality goal reads: "Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to 'discover God in all things,' both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities."

Pope Francis invites us into a humility that recognizes our human community as young compared to the rest of creation. We were fashioned to receive the vast intelligence of the cosmos as a lived experience. Many Indigenous peoples today carry this wisdom. Our ancestors include forests, living soil and myriad natural beings, giving back as they receive in the reciprocal generosity that fosters the web of life. Laudato Si' connects traditional Catholic teachings with this wisdom stream.

Over the past 30 years the Loretto Community has centered our spirituality on gratitude for God's unfolding Creation. If we can turn toward ecological conversion, we may find the ecstasy that was ours all along.

Humankind did not weave the web of life, but is merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves.

Chief Seattle

Create your own Laudato Si' spirituality resources

Laudato Si' Action Platform spirituality activities include: creation-based liturgical celebrations, ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programs.

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/laudato-si-goals/>



A student at St. Mary's Academy in Denver checks out a frog on one of the ecological exploration days during a trip to the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky., in April 2022.

Photo by Jessie Rathburn CoL



Jennifer Staed, left, and Johanna Brian SL participate in a Loretto Outreach retreat at the Loretto Motherhouse in 2018.

Photo by Leslee Moore CoL

Si' spirituality

'We offer spiritual nurture in the form of seasonal reconnections, as well as retreats that literally reground our souls.'

Libby Comeaux CoL



Participants in a 2016 retreat visit Rockhaven Ecozoic Center in Missouri to learn about our sacred connection to Earth and the "great work" needed to live in harmony with creation. Participants: front row, left to right, Natalie Gaviria (Loretto Volunteer), Cathy Hartrich, Nikki Munsayac (Loretto Volunteer), Mary Louise Pabello (Loretto Volunteer), Loeva Bonino and Caitlyn Hagarty (Loretto Volunteer); middle row: Carol Devanny, Sarah Hoeynck, Deborah Casias-Noonan, Jill Quinlan, Sylviane Bonino and Roberta Hudlow SL; back row: Ashley O'Shaughnessy, Noeli Lytton, Beth Blissman CoL and Jen Staed.

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Staed

Loretto activities encouraging ecological conversion

Loretto Outreach sponsors study circles, the most recent using Robin Wall Kimmerer's "Braiding Sweetgrass" — an invitation to recover Earth-based wonder.

Encouraging mutual relationship with the Earth community, we offer spiritual nurture in the form of seasonal reconnections, as well as retreats that literally reground our souls. We engage with students as they turn toward the current ecological reality and the resulting challenges we sadly must hand off to them. **Regenerating the land has spread as spiritual practice throughout the Community, most notably at the Motherhouse Farm.**

Please visit the Outreach page of Loretto's website and fill in the contact form to learn about retreats, study groups and other offerings: <https://www.lorettocommunity.org/outreach/>.



Blessed are you ...

‘The trust of the Loretto Community helps me hold my ground.’

Nasreen Daniel SL



Nasreen Daniel SL teaches a seminary class in Pakistan. Photo courtesy of Nasreen Daniel SL

‘When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.’

Luke: 1: 41-42

By Nasreen Daniel SL

I often find myself the only woman on the seminary staff or the National Education Commission, and this inspires me to change the gender in Luke’s verse to “Blessed are you among men.” Pakistan has a very strong patriarchal society where women are considered insignificant and taught to think less of ourselves. The cultural attitude sneaks into religious communities as well. Women inside and outside of religious communities are lagging behind in all spheres of life, be it education, health or other settings.

I, a sister of Loretto, am the only religious woman with a Ph.D. in Pakistan. I am asked to join the seminary staff and the education commission because of the degree. Whenever I am invited to join a commission, I think, “I have enough on my plate,” but then I remember that I am the only woman they’ve asked, so for the sake of my fellow women I accept.

As the sole woman in these groups, I feel uncomfortable, awkward and at times unwanted. The trust of the Loretto Community helps me hold my ground.

**Donations to our Pakistan fund will supply scholarships and meals.
Please use the envelope provided or visit our website:**

www.lorettocommunity.org



Photo by Regina Drey SL

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca

Loretto Heights provides affordable housing

By Mary Nelle Gage SL

Pancratia Hall has been carefully restored and renovated into affordable housing apartments including a number of three and four-bedroom units suitable for families.

Hartman Ely Investments' announcement of the grand reopening read, "Pancratia Hall, named for Mother Mary Pancratia Bonfils, founder of Loretto Heights Academy, was designed by noted architect Henry W.J. Edbrooke and completed in 1930. The adaptive reuse of the classroom and dormitory building into 74 affordable housing residential lofts will provide a unique opportunity for families to live in a building that celebrates the rich history of Loretto Heights."

Historic photographs, including a large portrait of Mother Pancratia, hang throughout. Energy-efficient features have been incorporated, such as all-electric heat (fossil fuels will not be burned for heat or water). Free vehicle chargers are available, encouraging the use of electric vehicles.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 12, the feast of St. Pancras, was headlined by remarks from Denver City Mayor Michael Hancock. Present were Loretto Community members, Loretto Heights alumni, as well as neighbors and friends.



Top of page and bottom right, Pancratia Hall on the Loretto Heights campus is now home to affordable housing. Above, Loretto Community members gather at the reopening beneath a portrait of Mother Pancratia. In front, from left, Reidy Clark CoL, Mary Catherine Rabbitt SL, Lydia Peña SL. Back row from left, Pat McCormick SL, Regina Drey SL, Mary Nelle Gage SL, Mary Helen Sandoval CoL and Magdalena McCloskey CoL. Bottom left, the basketball hoop that once provided recreation to students lends a nostalgic touch to an apartment. Photos above and below by Ruth Routten CoL



Gabriel Mary Hoare SL**March. 28, 1929 – May 1, 2022**

Gabriel Mary Hoare was born in Denver and entered the Sisters of Loretto in 1951. Gabe earned several degrees in her 93 years: a bachelor's in speech and drama from Loretto Heights, a master's in art from Notre Dame, a master's in gerontology from Webster University. Her use of the degrees are homages to her sharing of talent. Gabe taught art and drama, beginning at Nerinx Hall High School, then at Webster College (now University). She taught art and worked in administration at Webster for many years. During that time she founded and coordinated a program for older adults and taught art at the St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center. She was a singer, drama student, artist par excellence, a source of kindness to many and a joy to her friends.

**Janel Crumb CoL****May 8, 1932 – May 12, 2022**

Janel Crumb, a sister of Saint Francis of Rochester, Minn., and Loretto co-member, died on May 12 at the age of 90. Janel had been an eager participant in many Loretto events and gatherings, along with her friend and fellow Franciscan, Severin Duehren; both celebrated the beginning of their Loretto commitments in 1985. Janel's life, like the many landscape drawings and watercolors she created, is a canvas of vast horizons, locations, communities and people whom she served. Her life was art lived in works of justice and care for those suffering economic inequities. Like her landscapes that depicted many different geographies, her life spanned many ministries — including teaching young children and teaching students at the College of St. Teresa in Winona, Minn.

**Mary Louise "Billie" Vandover SL****February 13, 1937 – June 12, 2022**

Billie was born in St. Louis, Mo. When she graduated from Nerinx Hall, she wanted to go to the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky.. Her father told her she was too young. Finally, in 1961, at the end of her second year of teaching at Nerinx Hall, she left for Loretto. In 1980 she underwent major surgery to remove a large brain tumor. Her sight, mobility and thought processes were compromised. She later said she survived due to the determination of Sisters Marie Lourde Steckler, Kay Carlew and Alban House. In 1981 she finally heard her father say the words she had been longing to hear since high school, "Well, my girl, I believe you are in the right place."



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

Memorials and Tributes of Honor

March 2022— May 2022

In Honor of:

Requested by:

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

Barbara Ann Barbato SL

Donna Marie Campbell

Carol Colligan

Mary Akers

Mary Helen Gautreaux

Donna Day SL

Dennis Cuddihee

Antoinette Doyle SL

Cynthia Giguere-Unrein

Maureen Fiedler SL

Jennifer Morgan

Mary Nelle Gage SL

Paul McLoughlin

Jeannine Gramick SL

John H. Le Bedda, II

Jennifer Morgan

Joan O'Neill

Ryan Ignatius Pratt

Loretto:

Dearest Loretto teachers 1944-1956 Sterling, Ill.

Cliff Wise

The Sisters who taught me at St. Michael's Ele- mentary, Houston, Texas

Walter Sullivan

Beatrice Klebba SL

Michael McCann

Barbara Nicholas SL

Bea and Harold Combs

Lydia Peña

Cynthia Giguere-Unrein

Elaine Marie Prevall SL

David Carlen Maddux, Sr.

Mary Swain SL

Cathy Ford

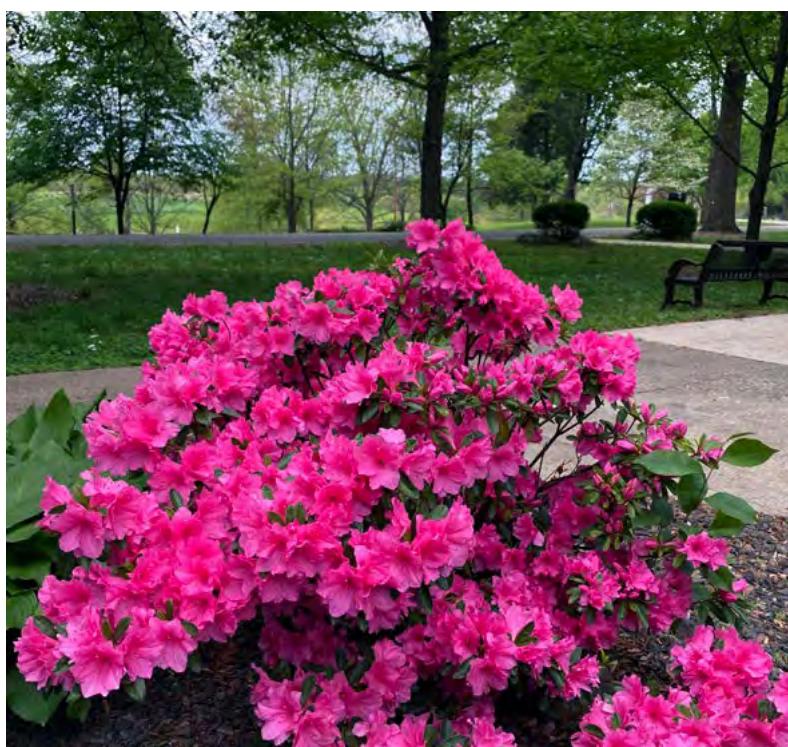
Gladys Ford

Kathleen Vonderhaar SL

Rosemary Casey*

Barbara Wander*

Joy Addiego



*Spring flowers in their glory
at the Loretto Motherhouse in
Nerinx, Ky.
Photo by Donna Mattingly SL*

In Memory of:

Requested by:

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

Barbara Anderson SL

Joy Addiego

Martha Belke SL

Michael and Kathleen Dicken

Kristin and David Schwarz

Rita Carol Bennett

George Ballard

Mary Peter Bruce SL

Lillian Moskeland*

Alda Collaço

Theresa Da Silva

Mary Campbell Moore

Coorsen

Jeanine Sandlin

Lorraine Crank

Kathy Davenport

Marilyn Cusick

Dorothy Cusick

Rosie Cusick

Mary and Guy Silva

Peggy Danborn

Barbara Cummings

Linda "Rockie" Deboben

John Deboben

John and Mary Dulla

Yvonne Harding

Elizabeth Dyer SL

Rosemary Casey*

Marie Agnes Fobes SL

Bob and Toni Swanson

Ann Francis Gleason SL

Carol Mattingly

Marie Noel Hebert SL

James Hebert

Gabriel Mary Hoare SL

Therese Breen

Phyllis Fresta

Mary Gail Horan

Mary and Phillip Schenkenberg

Virginia and Russell Viehmann

Marie Patrice Hoare SL

Therese Breen

Mary Gail Horan

Mary and Gene Kaiser

Colette and Terry Purcell

Mary Lynn Meade Lally

Kevin Lally

Mary Leibman*

Rose Hayden

Francene Lum SL

Monica Chew

Ann Manganaro SL

Helen and Bernard Hensgen

John Moskeland*

JoAnn Mulligan and Family

Bud and Alva Nicholas

Bea and Harold Combs

Aurelia Ottersbach SL

Carol Mattingly

Rosalie Marie Phillips SL

Raymond Stevenson, Jr.

Larry Purcell

Shannon Olinger

John and Carolynn Milek

Mary & Bill Purcell

Colette and Terry Purcell

Lucy Ruth Rawe SL

Mary Helen Gautreaux

Marija Puc-Remec

Andrej Remec

James Rogers

Brenda McCubbins Johnson

Rose Mary and Tom Wargel

Dorothy Scheopner SL

John and Theresa Stevi

Schiavo Family

Ryan Schiavo

Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Schmidt

Regina Schmidt

Magdalen Mary Skees SL

Sheila O'Donnell-Schuster

Pat Griffin Slate, Loretto

Heights College, 1952

Judy Murphy

Christine Marie Stewart SL

Kristin and David Schwarz

Ronald Stone

Ann Marie Stone

Mary Luke Tobin SL

Barbara Warner

Ann Patrick Ware SL

Gloria Robb Wells

Jane Wilcox SL

William Wilcox

Rosemary Wilcox SL

William Wilcox

Myra Wisniewski

Arthur and Barbara Ratkewicz



Photo by Donna Mattingly SL

Postscript

Dear Loretto Friends,

I greet you as Loretto's new Development Director with gratitude to my predecessor, Mary Ann McGivern SL, who did this work with much hope, joy and care. She is an inspiration to me.

Hope, Joy and Care — how we need them! We could easily be overwhelmed by the daily news or by personal challenges. Loretto abounds in these virtues that ground us.

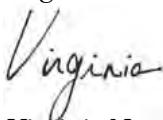
Hope and Joy are intrinsic to Loretto. These sustaining gifts are borne from more than 200 years of Loretto Community members, rooted in faith, who have carried Loretto's mission throughout the U.S. and around the world. They are the fruits of the Community's work of educating students for the future, of forging new paths and of accompanying people who carry on in the midst of poverty and suffering. "Sí, se puede! — Yes, it can be done!" Loretto lives out this cherished farmworkers' motto daily.

Care, another Loretto hallmark virtue, permeates both the Community's mission work and life at "home," the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. In a recent visit, I witnessed that loving care everywhere. Infirmary residents spoke of how well they were cared for and staff throughout the

Motherhouse were helpful and kind to residents and guests. Loretto history lives on thanks to the vigilant care of the Heritage Center staff. The Motherhouse grounds reflect loving care over its nearly 800 acres: A new retreat cabin and a renovated barn reveal the value of reclaimed wood; native plantings harbor pollinators and flowers bloom brightly. The original buildings are well preserved. As I said to those who remembered polishing step as novices, "They are still shining." And I heartily agreed with Cathy Smith SL, Community Life Coordinator, who remarked that "You could eat off any of the floors here."

Such care — for people, for our surroundings and for our planet — is good stewardship, a tribute to our ancestors and a basis for our future. It gives me hope, it gives me joy. As does your care and support!

Let us know what has led you to care for Loretto. We are so grateful.



Virginia Nesmith
Development Director



Loretto cares! Here, Anna Koop SL hangs out with Asenate, a young resident at the Denver Catholic Worker House which Anna helped found. Anna continues to serve passionately on behalf of the Denver Worker House. Asenate and her family are from the Democratic Republic of Congo.
Photo by Benjamin Dunning



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Left, in this class photo from 1966 Eva Marie Salas SL, principal of Colegio Loretto in La Paz, Bolivia, stands behind the girls on the steps in the main foyer. The photo on the right is of the same students, now grown, in the same location in 2018.

Photos courtesy of Sandra Cecilia Ortiz Sanchez

Thank you to Colegio Loretto graduates who sent in remembrances and statements of gratitude for their education and for the sisters who founded the school in La Paz, Bolivia, taught and cared for the girls in so many ways.

Maria Eugenia Quiroga Arce (on behalf of
Rosemary Quiroga Arce)
Maria Ximena Machicao Barbery
Sisters Agramont Bascon, (Patricia, Erika,
Ximena, Jacqueline)
Paula Benedict de Bellot
Marlene Borda
Martha Cáceres
Elia Perez Carrasco
Rosario Gutierrez Costas

Patricia Cuéllar
Barbara Díaz
Marisol Díaz
Ximena Ferguson
Patricia Galindo
Cynthia González
Carmen Granier de Alcoreza
Margarett Hurtado
Zoé Albarracín Lavayén
Lillian López

Isabel Martinez
Mónica Noya
Carmen Pett
Cecilia Losantos Quiroga
Corina Murillo de Larrea
Jenny Ybarnegaray Ortiz
Sandra Ortiz Sanchez
Jeanette Terrazas
Patricia Unzueta
Jessie Vargas Maderholz

In Memoriam, Colegio Loretto Class of 1972

Our commemoration of Colegio Loretto would not be complete without remembering you.

Margarita Alvirez de Jimenez, Rosemary Quiroga Arce, Carola Centellas Guachalla, Naya Ponce Fortún, Patricia Gambarte de Ortega, Patricia Carrasco Jahnson, Carmen Mansilla de Bustillos, Rosarito Nuñez, Carmen Pett Vázquez, Elizabeth Sotelo de Mendez, Gerty Winkler Velarde