

Loretto

MAGAZINE

Fall 2023

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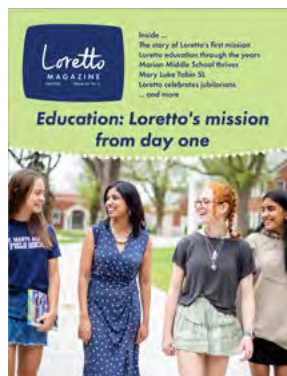
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Front cover:

Iswari Natarajan, wearing a blue dress, enjoys a walk with students at St. Mary's Academy (est. 1864) in Englewood, Colo. Iswari, St. Mary's Academy's eighth school president, began her new position on July 1. Prior to her appointment as president, she served as high school principal and vice president of academic affairs, among other roles at the school. Her previous careers were in electrical and computer engineering and research.

Photo courtesy of St. Mary's Academy



Back cover:

Nerinx Hall High School students study on the lawn on a beautiful fall day. Nerinx was founded by the Sisters of Loretto in 1924 and continues to provide an excellent education to young women.

Photo: Ava Carson



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,

One of the most memorable commentaries that Sister Mary Luke Tobin ever articulated came in reference to the Sisters of Loretto who made the decision to leave the congregation in the years following the Second Vatican Council. Mary Luke noted that these women had received high-quality

educations at Webster College (now University), Loretto Heights College, or any number of other colleges and universities throughout their years in Loretto, and noted that this gift would never leave them but had the potential to inform and inspire so many other people whose lives they would touch.

Such a belief in and commitment to education is a hallmark of Loretto. Many years later when asked by Mary Luke to draft a revised text of what had been called the Rule, Jane Marie Richardson SL (1928 - 2014) responded with the new constitutions of the Sisters of Loretto, *I Am the Way*. This inspirational and aspirational document could be considered the vision statement for all sisters and co-members of Loretto, and includes these words found in Article 37, "Our long and vital tradition of teaching takes many forms; we desire to educate others as well as ourselves to truth, beauty and the ways of peace, in the spirit of Jesus."

Reading the accounts of Loretto educators presented in this issue, I am moved by their compassionate and at times

heroic stories. Consider your own stories of education and teaching. Which classroom springs to mind? Do you readily remember a favorite teacher?

Personally, Sister Damian Mary Simmons SL who taught us science at Loretto High School in Louisville, Ky., had the most profound influence on my life. As I look back, an encounter that a friend, Rosie, and I had with her provided the most comical, too. You might ask me about that one day.

My first teacher outside our home was Mrs. Temple Lewis, my kindergarten teacher at Shawnee Elementary School in Louisville. One day Mrs. Lewis told us that her airplane pilot son reported that the flight was so bumpy that everyone was given Chiclets to chew so that their ears would not pop. I thought she said "chickens" and brought this story home. In my hearing every passenger was given a nice, plump hen to chew, and truly no one's ears popped!

Let's join together with thoughts of appreciation and prayers of gratitude for all educators past and present, and all students today, as we savor this issue of *Loretto Magazine*.

Sincerely,

Barbara Nicholas SL
President of Loretto

... gestures of generosity, solidarity and care cannot but well up within us, since we were made for love.

Pope Francis
From "A Prayer for Our Earth,"
Laudato Si'



*Fall wildflowers at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky.
Photo by Christina Manweller*

Ried Clark CoL and Frances Marie Walsh SL honored



The Distinguished Alumnae Award is presented to a grateful and deserving Ried Clark (at left) by Spirit of Loretto Chair Mary Geiffuss Sullivan (LHC '66). The ceremony was held in July at the former Loretto Heights College in Denver.

Photo: Ruth Routten CoL

Ried Clark CoL, Loretto co-member for 45 years, gratefully received the Spirit of Loretto's Distinguished Alumnae Award in recognition of her years living Loretto values and spirit. The ceremony was held at Loretto Heights College (LHC) in July.

The Lumen Christi Award was posthumously awarded to Frances Marie Walsh SL. Her nieces, Michaela Walsh and Sarah Walsh McClanahan, accepted the award on her behalf.

The awards are given annually to former LHC faculty or staff and outstanding alumni in recognition of personal achievement, substantial contribution of service to others and a commitment to the promotion of social justice consistent with the traditions and mission of the Sisters of Loretto. The Spirit of Loretto Committee is made up of LHC alums.



The Lumen Christi Award is presented to Frances Marie Walsh SL's nieces Michaela Walsh (at left) and Sarah Walsh McClanahan (far right). (See page 9 to learn about Frances Marie and her significant contributions to Loretto Heights College). Photo: Ruth Routten CoL

Check out additional photos of the weekend's events at this link:

<https://lorettocommunity.canto.com/b/OCS28>

Students find fulfillment and camaraderie volunteering at Loretto Motherhouse in Kentucky



Students from Loretto Academy in El Paso, Nerinx Hall High School in St. Louis and St. Mary's Academy in Englewood, Colo., volunteered at the Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky., for a week in June. Theresa O'Rourke, chaperone and librarian at Loretto Academy, said, "The trip was so wonderful and good for my soul. We enjoyed every minute, especially visiting with the sisters. I think the girls enjoyed planting and gardening and baking time. They also enjoyed the time they shared with the girls from the other schools."



Students at Loretto-affiliated schools — Loretto Academy in El Paso, St. Mary's Academy in Englewood, Colo., and Nerinx Hall in St. Louis — spent a busy, fulfilling week at the Loretto Motherhouse in June. They worked hard, visited with Community members and enjoyed time with one another. Photos: far left at top, by Celia Bard; above left by Mary Ann McGivern SL; above right by Theresa O'Rourke; bottom left by Amanda Mattingly; bottom right by John Hecei

'I had a dream ...' Nancy Wittwer SL's dream was the impetus behind Marian Middle School's founding



Nancy Wittwer SL had a dream that led to the reality of St. Louis's Marian Middle School 23 years ago.
Photo: Regina Drey SL

When Nancy Wittwer SL learned that a new Jesuit middle school for boys from low-income Black families was planned for St. Louis, she was prompted to ask a critical question. That question — "What about the girls?" — followed by dedicated work by Nancy and others, led to the opening of Marian Middle School in 2000. Today the school is a thriving haven of learning and safety serving girls of all backgrounds and the only private Catholic middle school in the St. Louis region that serves urban adolescent girls in a faith-based setting.

Watch a short video of Nancy talking about how she got the idea for Marian Middle School at our Spotlight Video page:

<https://www.lorettocommunity.org/spotlight>.

The Marian Girl's triumph

More than 316 girls have received a Marian education since 2000. During the past five years, 100% of Marian alums have graduated high school. Marian counts 60 alumnae in college as of this writing and 65 college graduates. Marian grads are pursuing advanced education, including Ph.D.s, law degrees and master's degrees in social work. Many contribute to their communities through thriving careers at leading institutions. (See [page 16](#) for more on Marian Middle School.)



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

Loretto education since 1812: A tradition of excellence

History relates that at Hardin's Creek in Kentucky in early 1812, 30-year-old Mary Rhodes began teaching her brother's children and some of the local girls. As her class grew, Christina Stuart and Nancy Havern joined her in the work. The three women approached Fr. Charles Nerinckx to express their interest in forming a new order. On April 25, 1812, the Little Society of the Friends of Mary under the Cross of Jesus (later shortened to Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross), the first Catholic order begun in the United States, became official. Shortly, they were joined by others, and the order began to grow. By 1852, Sisters of Loretto were traveling to New Mexico to teach, followed in the 1860s by Colorado and in the 1870s, Texas. Later, their reach was global, as they opened schools in China, South America, Pakistan.

*By Carolyn Dunbar, Loretto Magazine editor, 2008–2018,
originally published in summer 2010*

The turn of the 20th century brought no discernible pause in the Sisters of Loretto's ongoing educational mission. The new century followed a remarkable 70-year period from 1830 to 1900 when Loretto founded 99 schools in areas mirroring the country's westward drive to the Pacific Coast.

During the next 60 years, Loretto would found an additional 107 schools — including two colleges. They would continue the mission in Santa Fe, N.M., and embark on an extraordinary adventure to China in 1923, providing education in Hanyang and Shanghai before the Communist Revolution and resulting upheaval would prompt their departure in 1952. Eight years later, the Catholic Church would urgently call for educators in South America, and Loretto responded, opening a school in Bolivia and teaching at a Jesuit school in Peru.

From their base at the Motherhouse in Kentucky, the sisters spanned the American continent from 1900 to 1960, founding 61 new schools in 15 states, including Virginia, Alabama, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico and California.

It was a period of tremendous growth that stretched the sisters and their resources to the limit. Each foundation has a fascinating tale of its own, with challenges and successes unique to that school, the local culture and the political and spiritual environment. From tiny settlements to bustling urban centers, Loretto built buildings and curricula to meet the needs wherever they were called to teach.



Mother Praxedes Carty SL, born in Ireland in 1854, entered the Sisters of Loretto at the age of 20. She served as superior general from 1896 to 1922, steering the order through great challenges and overseeing the opening of many Loretto schools, including Webster College (first called Loretto College, now Webster University) in St. Louis in 1916, Loretto Heights College in Denver in 1918 and Loretto Academy in El Paso following her "retirement" in 1923. Photo: Loretto Archives

Apostolate to educate

“Apostolate” is an old but familiar word to many Catholics. It literally means the mission, office or duties of an apostle. It has since broadened to indicate the purpose of a group dedicated to the propagation of a certain religion or doctrine. In the case of the Sisters of Loretto, their original apostolate was to educate children. In fact, the early rule said, “... all exertions shall be made to make and have as many [sisters] able for this important business as possible.”

Florence Wolff SL wrote in her “History Sampler” in 1986, “From the beginning, the Sisters of Loretto engaged in teaching as the primary focus of their apostolate. In 1834 they began establishing not only elementary schools, but also academies, which were the popular mode of higher education for women during the entire 19th and early 20th centuries. These academies offered a broad liberal arts curriculum which included history, science, languages, philosophy, religion, art, music and plain and fancy sewing.”

It was a natural fit for Loretto when in 1884 the Council of Baltimore called for every Catholic child in America to be enrolled in a Catholic school whenever and wherever possible. Loretto responded to this idea quite literally. With the Council’s directive as impetus, parochial education in the United States began to grow and flourish. Many other teaching orders met the challenge, too. Religious vocations increased, and with them, the pool of available Catholic school teachers grew. Loretto continued to move across the country, staffing schools and influencing young lives.



Loretto College, St. Louis, class of 1920
Photo: Loretto Archives

'Some of these sister presidents have been guiding enterprises of institutions whose balance sheets would make many businessmen stagger. The planning and decision-making that have gone into the conduct of the business of a great college have been incalculable and they have been directed by a woman.'

Mary Luke Tobin SL, on the occasion of Frances Marie Walsh SL's retirement as president of Loretto Heights College in Denver in 1964. (See photo of Frances Marie, [page 9](#); see feature on Mary Luke, pages [21-23](#))



Loretto Heights Academy (later College) under construction in 1887. Pancratia Bonfils SL chose the site south of Denver and supervised the building of the original Loretto Heights Academy building (later the college administration building), serving as the school's first superior when it opened in 1891. (See photo of Pancratia on [page 9](#).)

Photo: Loretto Archives

Extraordinary leadership

At times history takes unprecedented leaps forward, often as a result of the efforts of one person who came along at the right time and place. Praxedes Carty SL was one of those people whose boundless energy and vision meant she could work hard to resolve the pressing details of the moment while moving forward to fulfill the big picture. You could say Mother General Praxedes Carty, as she was known for her 26 years at Loretto's helm (1896-1922), was a consummate multitasker. Her drive, her yen for action and can-do attitude led to perhaps the most significant accomplishments for the order during the early 20th century. It was Mother Praxedes's firm belief that the best teachers are properly prepared to do the best job. She and other Loretto leaders at that time knew that if Loretto were to grow and evolve its teaching apostolate, Loretto sisters would need masters- and doctorate-level education and training. Universities in the U.S. during the 18th and 19th centuries had been almost exclusively the domain of men. At the start of the 20th century, however, admission for women became more common.

In their book, "Loretto in the Rockies," Sisters Mary Celestine Casey and Mary Edmond Fern wrote:

"When the Catholic University of America admitted the sisterhoods to the regular sessions, a fresh impetus was given to higher education. The example set by this institution was soon followed by many Catholic universities throughout the country. The Sisters of Loretto, like the members of other teaching communities, availed themselves of these educational opportunities that they might be better prepared for their profession."

In 1912 four Sisters of Loretto began coursework toward higher degrees at Catholic University. Meanwhile, Mother Praxedes felt that it was time to broaden the scope of the type of education Loretto could provide, and the plans to build a college began. Casey and Fern wrote:

"With Mother Praxedes to plan and dream was to execute. To the astonishment of many of the sisters of her own community, her dreams and plans began to materialize in the college which she was erecting in Webster Groves, Mo."

Loretto College, the first such institution for women in the St. Louis area, opened in 1915. In 1924 the school was renamed Webster College to avoid confusion with Loretto Academy, a high school in St. Louis.

Mother Praxedes had the same conviction that an institution of higher learning should be established to educate young women in Colorado, and that it should serve the surrounding states. In 1918 Loretto Heights College opened on the site of Loretto Heights Academy (estab-

lished in 1891) on a beautiful hill southwest of Denver. The college served both boarding and day students.

It would take much concerted effort in those early years to add new courses, staff the administration and faculty from the Sisters of Loretto, bring in priests and additional professors to augment the faculty, construct classrooms and develop the two new colleges into seats of educational excellence. But it was soon accomplished, and Webster and Loretto Heights began to graduate their first students.

As the years went on, the ability to finance these colleges from within the Loretto Community became more and more difficult. For financial reasons, Loretto transferred ownership of Webster College to a lay board of directors in 1967, which is still the model today. The college is thriving as a private, nonprofit, nondenominational university. Loretto Heights was sold in 1988 and is being repurposed for multiple uses including affordable housing units.

So many Webster and Loretto Heights graduates continue to tell the sisters how much their Loretto education, and their favorite Loretto sister-teachers, meant to them, and of the positive influence their college years have made in their adult lives. Perhaps because they lived "the spirit of Loretto" and came to know those who lived that spirit, these graduates are among Loretto's most loyal supporters today.

Loretto's expansion into the realm of higher education has also left a permanent and enduring mark on the sisters and co-members. Intriguing stories abound from their years as teachers and professors. Community members still welcome the days with a powerful love of learning.

This article was originally published in Loretto Magazine in summer 2010 and has been edited.



Students study in the library at Loretto Academy in St. Louis, circa 1905. Photo: Loretto Archives

Mother Praxedes Carty SL was acutely aware of the necessity to focus on higher education for the sister-teachers and encouraged the pursuit of advanced degrees. When Catholic University (soon followed by other Catholic institutions) opened courses to sisters in 1912, four Sisters of Loretto, including Miriam Judd SL, pictured below, began coursework toward higher degrees. They were groundbreakers, going on to generously share the fruits of their learning.



Pancratia Bonfils SL was born in St. Louis in 1852, entering Loretto in 1866. Two years later she traveled by train and stage-coach to Denver to teach at St. Mary's Academy. When Loretto Heights opened in 1891, she served as the school's first superior, going on to spend most of the rest of her life as superior at St. Mary's or Loretto Heights. Known as a woman of deep religion, outstanding personality and decisive leadership, Pancratia was loved within and without the Loretto Community.

Frances Marie Walsh SL, below, was born in 1893 in Kansas City, Mo. She entered Loretto in 1915 and taught at Nerinx Hall and Webster College in St. Louis before moving to Colorado where she served as president of Loretto Heights College from 1940 to 1964. She is credited with growing the school, including tripling enrollment and attracting first-rate faculty. Mary Luke Tobin SL described Frances Marie as "a woman of effective action, of daring and of far-sighted vision."

Photos: Loretto Archives



Above, Miriam Judd SL, born in 1874 in Kentucky, held bachelor's and master's degrees from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and a doctorate from De Paul University in Chicago. One of the original faculty members of Webster College and head of the classical languages department for 19 years, she had a speaking and teaching knowledge of Hebrew, Greek, Latin, German and Italian. She also served as the dean of studies at Webster from 1932 to 1935. Miriam was teaching classical languages at Loretto Heights in Denver at the time of her death in 1939. Photo: Loretto Archives



Loretto classes through the years



*In this late 19th-century photo, students at Loretto Academy in Las Cruces, N.M., participate in music class.
Photo: Loretto Archives*



*A Loretto Academy class at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. The blackboard reads, "The Palmer Method of Business Writing Class of 1904."
Photo: Loretto Archives*



*Students ready to learn at St. Patrick Cathedral School in El Paso, 1960s. Loretto opened the school in 1923.
Photo: Loretto Archives*

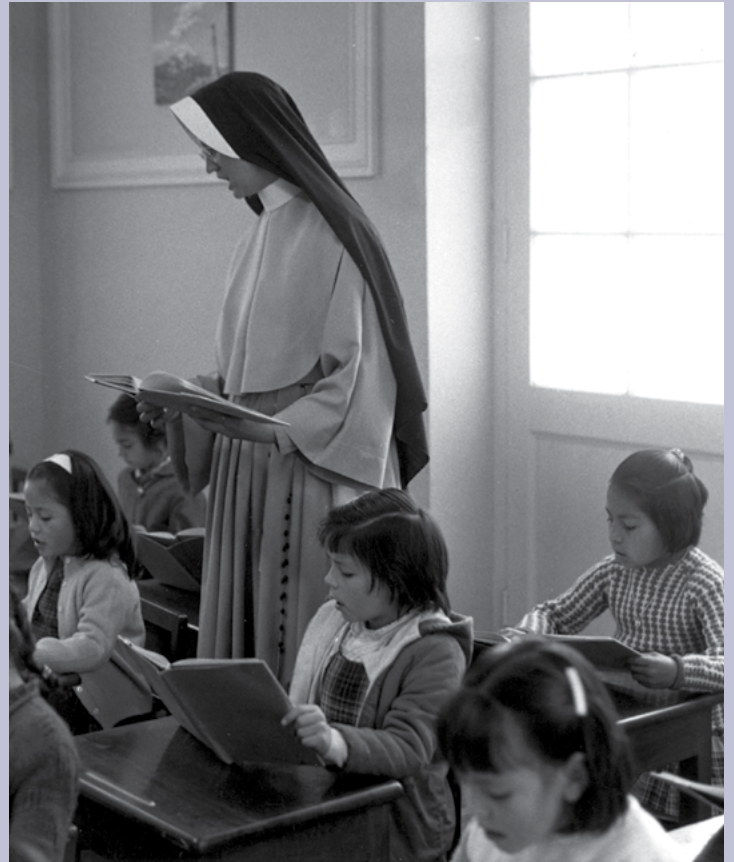


*A class participates in a stamp drive for charity at Holy Name School in Los Angeles circa 1961-1962.
Photo: Loretto Archives*

Loretto education outside of the U.S.



The last Loretto graduates in Shanghai (1949) pose with their diplomas. Enrollment in the school had decreased considerably due to emigration after World War II, leading to a very small graduating class. [See page 13](#) for more on Loretto in China. Photo: Loretto Archives



Mary Peter Bruce SL teaches at Loretto's school in La Paz, Bolivia, in 1961. Mary Peter spent 16 years teaching and serving in Bolivia. For more on Loretto in Bolivia see the [summer 2022 issue](#) of Loretto Magazine. Photo: Loretto Archives



Valerie Ann Novak SL teaches in Tacna, Peru, 1965. She was in Peru until 1970. Photo: Loretto Archives



Students engage in a learning activity at St. Anthony School in Lahore, Pakistan, where Loretto has been teaching for many years. Photo: Loretto Magazine archives



100 years ago

Loretto Academy in El Paso opened its doors

On the occasion of this important milestone, Mary E. "Buffy" Boesen SL writes:
It's hard to believe that 100 years have gone by since Mother Praxedes's dream of Loretto Academy in El Paso became a reality.

I am grateful to those who have gone before us, particularly Eileen Custy SL, Bernice Hys SL and Jane Clarke SL, who steered Loretto Academy in the 21st century — for almost 40% of the school's history. I hope that the next generation continues the keen passion for education, honoring the Loretto Community's core mission, 'We work for justice and act for peace because the Gospel urges us.' I pray that this great institution carries on for another 100 years.

Buffy Boesen SL served as president of Loretto Academy for more than 22 years, retiring in 2022.

Photo: Loretto Archives

Above, opening day at Loretto Academy in 1923 is a grand affair. Below, the younger students at Loretto Academy commemorate the school's 100-year anniversary. Read about Loretto Academy's history in the spring 2019 issue of Loretto Magazine: <https://www.lorettocommunity.org/loretto-magazine-spring-2019>.



Photo courtesy of Loretto Academy



Loretto sisters first arrived to teach and serve in China



Sister Clementia teaches English class in Hanyang, China. Photo: Loretto Archives

By Christina Manweller

In 1922 Father Edward Galvin, co-founder of the Missionary Society of St. Columban, visited Loretto Superior General Praxedes Carty to ask if Loretto sisters would be willing to teach in China. The next year, six sisters traveled to Hanyang and began their first assignment at St. Columban's Mission where an embroidery school helped girls from the countryside earn money, learn a useful skill and gain a basic Christian education. From 1923 to 1952, 30 Loretto sisters would serve in China, teaching, running

schools and providing religious education and training, in addition to responding to urgent crises. It was a challenging era for the Chinese — considerable suffering was caused by poverty, floods, disease and war. For the final two years of World War II, 15 Loretto sisters were interned with other religious. Then, with the government change in 1949, school enrollment dwindled as many families emigrated. At the same time, operating in China was becoming increasingly difficult. In 1952 the last U.S. sisters who had arrived 30 years before reluctantly left their beloved second home.



Stella Tompkins SL attends to a soldier. She served in China from 1923 to 1950. During those years, the Chinese endured civil war and an invasion by the Japanese. Photo: Loretto Archives



In summer 1931 massive flooding brought about extensive homelessness (30 million people), starvation and rampant disease. Justa Justyn SL and Mary Jane McDonald SL travel by boat to deliver water and medicine. Photo: Loretto Archives



Justa Justyn SL oversees students at the embroidery school in Hanyang, China. Photo: Loretto Archives

Schools founded by Sisters of Loretto carry on Loretto's tradition of excellence

Nerinx Hall High School Missouri



Nerinx Hall High School, established by the Sisters of Loretto in 1924, celebrates its 2023 grads in June. Nerinx Hall is recognized as one of the top all-girls high schools in St. Louis, with a 100% college acceptance rate. A graduating class typically has completed more than 20,000 hours of volunteer work. Photo courtesy of Jill Clark

Loretto Academy Texas



Loretto Academy grads toss their caps at the commencement ceremony. Loretto Academy was established by the Sisters of Loretto in 1923. Loretto Academy students have a 100% college acceptance rate. Photo courtesy of Loretto Academy

St. Mary's Academy Colorado



RDG Photography

St. Mary's Academy Englewood, Colo., celebrates graduates at the school's 148th commencement exercise. The class engaged in 7,800 hours of service learning and has a 100% college acceptance rate.

Webster University Missouri

'I am grateful for the strong example of Loretto women who created and led this institution and continue to support us through their generous friendship and service.'

Beth Stroble, chancellor, Webster University

Webster University, previously Webster College, was founded in St. Louis by the Sisters of Loretto in 1915 and today is a thriving institution of higher learning with campuses worldwide, including in Athens, Vienna, Netherlands and Ghana. Beth Stroble, Webster's chancellor, says of the school's relationship with Loretto, "The connection between Webster and Loretto endures through our shared commitment to the mission of meeting unmet needs. As educators, we seek to provide opportunity to all. Webster thrives as we honor the historic connection with Loretto as our founders and as the source of inspiration for taking education to our students where they are. As Webster continues to innovate to provide high-quality educational experiences that transform students around the world for global citizenship and individual excellence, we build on the living example of Loretto.

"I am grateful for the strong example of Loretto women who created and led this institution and continue to support us through their generous friendship and service."



Loretto Hall at Webster University, built in 1927. The school, originally named Loretto College and then Webster College, was founded by Loretto in 1915. Photo: Loretto Magazine archives

Loretto School Values

Loretto encourages an approach to all of life that promotes mutuality, collaboration and compassion and rejects relationships based on dominance or submission.

We embrace the following values:

Faith

Experiencing the enduring love of God, we build hope, foster community and act in charity and service.

Community

We strive to build interdependent relationships which are affirming, inclusive, empowering and compassionate.

Justice

We promote change in systems and in relationships that are oppressive.

We work to create systems in which people, especially women, are treated fairly and impartially.

Respect

We are open to differences and believe in the potential of each person. We promote the dignity of each person and protect the sacredness of all creation.

The Loretto school values were developed in 1997-1998 by Loretto school administrators and Loretto staff as a statement of values held in common by the Loretto Community and Loretto schools.

Educating Girls for Life at Marian Middle School in St. Louis



Marian Middle School students (wearing dark blue uniforms) spend time with graduates (wearing their current high school uniforms).
Photo courtesy of Barbara Roche SL

'Coming to Marian as a student, you learn that it's an investment in yourself. Marian extends their love to you in middle school, high school, college and even beyond. Marian is a family that's never going to let you go.'

Carly Rae, Marian alumna

By Barbara Roche SL

In December 1998 Nancy Wittwer SL read about Loyola Academy, a middle school for boys opening in St. Louis in the fall of 1999, and was moved to ask, "What about the girls?" The answer to that question blossomed, growing into Marian Middle School. (See [page 5](#) for a link to a video of Nancy talking about her dream.)

Under the initial leadership of Nancy and Ursuline Sister Madonna O'Hara, seven congregations of women religious came together and committed to opening a middle school for girls in St. Louis. After more than a year and a half of planning, including finding funding and a location, hiring staff and recruiting students, Marian Middle School opened in the summer of 2000 with 14 students in grades 5 and 6.

"At Marian, we celebrate our first women of vision, our foundresses, who envisioned equitable education for young

girls with limited means, but high potential. Their faith laid the foundation for our Marian Girls who are making history today!" shares Mary Elizabeth Grimes, president of Marian Middle School.

Marian is an all-girl, family-focused and faith-based school committed to breaking the cycle of poverty through providing a life-altering education for girls. Students are challenged academically and receive enrichment programming during their middle school years. The Graduate Support Program follows them through high school and college so they can develop the critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership and life skills needed to succeed.

Throughout their entire time at Marian Middle School and after they graduate and go on to high school and college, Marian provides social-emotional counseling,



A proud family celebrates on graduation day. Photo courtesy of Marian Middle School



Students collaborate on a science project at Marian Middle School. Photo courtesy of Marian Middle School

licensed therapy and wrap-around support to ensure every young girl has the tools and resources she needs to succeed and overcome the trauma that she may face.

Marian has grown in numbers and in programming since first opening its doors. Located in the Tower Grove South neighborhood of St. Louis since 2006, in the building that once housed Holy Family School, Marian's enrollment is small by design, averaging 70 students in grades 5 through 8. In this setting, students receive individualized attention to meet their academic needs. As a result, students who

'With all that our girls face in life — poverty, trauma, violence and more — we know there is a light within them powerful enough to overcome any obstacle. From the moment a child becomes a Marian Girl, she is encircled with love and unyielding support from all corners. Perhaps for the first time in her life, she feels truly celebrated.'

Mary Elizabeth Grimes,
president, Marian Middle School

come to Marian one or two years behind academically are on or above grade level by 8th grade.

Marian provides financial support to students who attend tuition-based high schools, and graduate-support staff members help students and families negotiate scholarship and financial aid applications for both high school and college. Whether it's help getting books, connecting students to internship and career opportunities or receiving care packages before exams, Marian's graduate support staff are always there for the girls. As they say at Marian, "Once a Marian Girl, always a Marian Girl!" As NaKaila, a Marian alumna says, "The Graduate Support Team at Marian was vital to my success in high school. No matter what I needed, they were able to provide: dual enrollment classes, ACT fees, college application fees, and the prestigious and highly competitive Washington University College Preparatory Program. Marian stood alongside my family and me through this entire journey."

Marian Girls are truly making a difference. They are accomplished young women equipped to make informed decisions and create enduring positive change.

To learn more about Marian Middle School, check out marianmiddleschool.org.

Barbara Roche SL is one of the founders of Marian Middle School. In addition, from 2013 to 2021 she served as academic associate, overseeing recruiting and admitting new students, coordinating volunteers and connecting students and families with summer programs.

Marian Girls excel at STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)



Photo courtesy of Marian Middle School

In 2023, Marian once again achieved platinum level at the local robotics competition in St. Louis, the highest level of performance. The annual event hosts 34 competing middle schools. Marian's team is the most decorated, reaching the platinum level for five consecutive years.

Marian Middle School founding congregations

Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province

Sisters of Loretto/Loretto Community
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union



*Founders of Marian Middle school include, standing, from left: Barbara Roche SL; Carol Reeb SSND; Nancy Wittwer SL; Joan Filla CSJ; Janet Kuciejczyk CSJ; Patricia Harris; Madonna O'Hara OSU; Monica Marie Laws OSF
Seated: Maureen Bannister DC; Marie Sherman; Nadine Flott CPPS; Aurelia Weil. Not pictured: Marian McAvoy SL
Photo courtesy of Barbara Roche SL*

Mary

Luke

Tobin

Award

2023

The senior recipients, in their years at Holy Family, have consistently echoed the cry of the poorest of our society for dignity and labored in their own way for justice and peace — both inside and outside the Church.

Ken Fitch, award co-founder

By Christina Manweller

Adyson Hill has received the 2023 Mary Luke Tobin SL Social Justice Award. The award has been granted annually to a graduating senior at Holy Family High School in Broomfield, Colo., since 2012, and is a partial scholarship toward tuition.

Adyson's concerns include supporting the dignity of all people, particularly those living in poverty; human rights; and care for God's creation. She is attending Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

Toward a world of justice, of peace

Ken Fitch, Holy Family graduate and former teacher, was inspired by Mary Luke Tobin SL's commitment to social justice and came up with the idea of a scholarship award that would assist students who put social justice front and center. He also encouraged Holy Family to start a social justice class, which is now offered for seniors. In describing the scholarship awardees, Ken shared, "The senior recipients, in their years at Holy Family, have consistently echoed the cry of the poorest of our society for dignity and labored in their own way for justice and peace — both inside and outside the Church."



Adyson Hill was awarded the 12th annual Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award. Photo: Ken Fitch



The 2023 Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award Committee poses with Adyson Hill, this year's recipient. From left: Marty Lally CoL, Anna Koop SL, Joan Spero SL, Adyson Hill, Joe Galmish, Mary Joy Peter OSF, Jeff Gonsalves-McCabe. Photo: courtesy of Ken Fitch

Holy Family has a long relationship with Loretto. Sisters of Loretto opened the school in 1920, initially a grade school and then expanding to high school starting in 1922. They continued to staff the school for many years.

Loretto Community members and friends serve on the award committee with Holy Family faculty who are familiar with the students and their activities. The Rev. Marty Lally CoL shares, "It's a wonderful tribute to Luke. Of course, she was a remarkable woman, and I'm honored to do anything to help draw attention to her work and all she did. It's also a tribute to Loretto, and as a graduate of Holy Family, I'm glad they're continuing the award." He is inspired by Loretto's ongoing commitment to social justice and to students. Joan Spero SL, Holy Family graduate, and Anna Koop SL are Loretto members also serving on the committee.



The first Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award recipient, Jordan DiTirro, poses at Holy Family High School in 2012 with Ken Fitch. Photo courtesy of Ken Fitch



At left, Joan Spero SL speaks at the 2023 award ceremony. Joan is a graduate of Holy Family High School and serves on the Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award Committee. Photo by Ken Fitch



In this photo from the 2022 award ceremony, the Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award Committee members pose with awardees. From left: Mike Gabriel (former Holy Family principal), Anna Koop SL, Patrick Staff (awardee), Isabelle May (awardee), Joan Spero SL, Marty Lally CoL and Ken Fitch, Holy Family teacher. Photo courtesy of Ken Fitch

Donations to the Mary Luke Tobin SL Social Justice Award Fund help carry forward the legacy of Mary Luke Tobin SL and Vatican II principles and Catholic social justice teachings, assisting young individuals as they contribute to the work toward world peace and social justice through higher education. Donate at [Loretto's website](#). Select "Other Ministries" and in the donation comment box type in "Mary Luke Tobin Award."



Mary Luke Tobin SL

was a woman of wisdom and insight led by the Gospel, her Community and her conscience to work for justice and act for peace.

'Every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, color, social condition, language or religion is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent.'

Statement treasured by Mary Luke Tobin SL from the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Vatican II

Finding challenge and inspiration at Vatican II

By Christina Manweller

Mary Luke Tobin SL (Loretto's superior general, 1958 - 1970) was one of 15 women invited to audit Vatican II proceedings in 1964. Though her role was limited, she later said, "I felt responsible for pushing the cause of women forward in the Church as much as I could. Of course, that was not very much, and there were all those who wanted to keep the Church where it was, if not further back." Three women were invited to take part in sub-commissions. Mary Luke was pleased to participate in the laity commission and a commission on the Church in the modern world. She later wrote that, although the women could not vote, "We were able to speak at the commission meetings so that we could put our influence into the documents, and [we] helped form the final document that was produced."

She was greatly inspired by insights gained during the Second Vatican Council, including a council statement that she recited throughout her life: "Every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, color, social condition, language or religion is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent." As she put it more than 50 years later, "Now that's a



Photo: Loretto Archives

Mary Luke Tobin SL talks with, clockwise from her left, Bishop Charles Helmsing of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., Bishop Victor Joseph Reed of the Diocese of Oklahoma and Tulsa, Okla., and Cardinal Joseph Elmer Ritter of the St. Louis Archdiocese.

message to my Church and me, and I've been dedicated to that ever since then in every way I can do it, within my own Community and in others." At the council, Mary Luke met key figures, including theologian Karl Rahner SJ whom she called her great mentor, and who, along with her close friend Thomas Merton OCSO, would prove an influence on her spirituality for the rest of her life.

Merton, for his part, referred to Mary Luke in his 1966 Christmas circular as "our Council Observer and our pride and joy. In a journal entry on Sept. 26, 1964, he had written,

"Mother Luke (as I rather expected) is one of the women observers at the Council — the only American. Wonderful! ... I can hardly think of a better person for this."

Mary Luke and Merton felt keenly the urgency to address the "social evils," as she called them, of war and racism. She referred to their friendship as prophetic. Each was a prophet in their own right.

Mary Luke's commitment to peace and to justice for all lives on in the Loretto Community and in the world.

When a young Mary Luke Tobin stepped toward leadership

By Mary Catherine Rabbitt SL



Sister Mary Luke Tobin SL (formerly known as Mother Mary Luke Tobin, later known as Luke) was the superior general of the Sisters of Loretto from 1958 to 1970, years that marked great changes in Loretto. Much has been written about her leadership during those years and thereafter, but I was especially

interested in learning about what had preceded those years in elected leadership. In mid-January 2023, I spent time in the Loretto Archives and was able to read the unpublished manuscript about Luke's life by Cecily Jones SL. In a chapter entitled, "The Road to Loretto Leadership," Cecily details the years 1946-1952, when Luke moved from leadership in various Loretto schools (as teacher, principal and local superior) into formal elected leadership within the Sisters of Loretto.

Luke was a delegate to Loretto's 1946 general chapter. Prior to that gathering, Mother Edwarda Ashe, SL then mother superior, asked Luke to research possible ways to divide the congregation into provinces. Luke met with the leadership of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chicago to learn of their experience with provinces, which she reported to the mother superior and her council. As Cecily noted, it was clear that Mother Edwarda saw in Luke great potential; she also asked her to look into the practice of individual sisters having access to money they received through gifts. This practice, commonly known as the "envelope system," involved the local superior holding funds for an individual sister who, with permission, could

use these funds for her personal use. Luke felt strongly that this practice was not in keeping with the vow of poverty.

It was during the 1946 chapter meeting that Luke met Rose Maureen Sanders SL (later known as Helen Sanders SL), who was also a delegate. As Cecily remarked in her unfinished biography of Luke, "The two women would become friends and collaborators in significant developments in the history of the Loretto Community." Their chief recommendation to the chapter was that "all small money gifts received by a sister become part of the common fund," effectively doing away with the envelope system. Cecily went on to remark that "from citations in the minutes, Luke's participation in the 1946 chapter might seem rather minimal." Yet, those two contributions concerning provinces and poverty marked the beginning of Luke's rise to elected leadership in Loretto. It was clear that Mother Edwarda saw something in this young religious that she wished to nurture and encourage.

At the general chapter in 1952, Luke was again a delegate; she urged the delegates to affirm "that the young sisters earn their bachelor of arts before they begin teaching." A motion to that effect followed, which was adopted by the general chapter. During that same chapter, Luke was elected to serve on the general council — the beginning of nearly 20 remarkable years in which she served the Loretto Community. As Cecily remarked, "She would set out on a road that would change her life and greatly influence the life of the Loretto Community." Indeed, she did, for which we are all grateful.

Author's note: My thanks to the staff of the Loretto Archives for permitting me to review Cecily Jones SL's unpublished account of the life of Mary Luke Tobin. Many of the details in this article come from the chapter "The Road to Leadership: 1946-1952."

Mary Catherine Rabbitt SL is a former president of Loretto (2001-2006) and currently serves on the Executive Committee.



'It's a tough world out there. If every act of ours comes from that center where God and I are at one, then life is going to be as it should, and we are going to walk on a good way. Not that we won't make mistakes, but even so, it calls us ever forward on this path that Jesus has so well shown to us.'

Mary Luke Tobin SL

Mary Luke on women's dignity

'We need to believe and therefore to hope that eventually the status of women will reach full equality. I feel heartened by every gain that has been made, by every initiative taken by women, by even a small glimpse of progress in the fields of politics, work, economics, religion, autonomy, advocacy.'

On care for Earth

'The Church should be among those most eager to promote the good of the planet and the good of the earth, because of the gift that it is — for thousands of reasons.'



Photos above and at top: Loretto Archives

On the Church's future

'I trust that Catholic spirituality of the future will always be characterized by openness — to appreciation for all of creation, to ecumenical influences, to Eastern thought, to feminist insights, to the call of the poor, to the mysticism in our tradition. I cherish the dream of a faithful openness to the Spirit in our spirituality.'

On living boldly

'Go out on a limb. That's where the fruit is.'



Widely respected leaders of the Loretto Community, Helen Sanders SL, left, and Mary Luke Tobin SL, enjoyed conversation on many topics, including theology. Helen led the congregation from 1970 to 1978, following Mary Luke's term (1958-1970). Photo: Cathy Mueller SL, Loretto president 2007-2012 and current member of the Executive Committee.



Loretto honors

75 years

Cabrini Bartolo SL

Cabrini celebrates the 75th anniversary of her reception into the Loretto Community this year, having entered as a 17-year-old.

Throughout her working life her passion was confronting injustice — acting as a voice for those who were voiceless, fighting for those who could not fight for themselves.

Among her many vocations, Cabrini spent several years serving in healthcare in Calgary, Canada; she worked with those suffering addiction and served six years on the National Clergy Council on Alcoholism and Related Drugs board starting in 1978; she was a certified Catholic chaplain; she spent many years teaching, mostly in Missouri — another great passion in a long and active work life.

In the 1990s she turned her heart toward her home state of West Virginia and opened the Care Center in a tiny space beside the road in Fairmont where she helped with urgent needs, including providing food and clothing and assisting with landlord evictions. In 2000 she received the Women of Distinction Award from Soroptimist International of Fairmont for her human rights work.

Cabrini has always appreciated life's simple pleasures, chocolate and cold beer included.

A surprise talent: Rita Bruegenhagen SL remembers Cabrini as a baton twirler extraordinaire, providing entertainment on visits to Community members.

Carla Comer, Cabrini's niece, assisted with this profile. Her aunt, she says, "was always up for an adventure." Socializing has been one of Cabrini's favorite pastimes, and she has always enjoyed family, including her great nephews, Carla's sons.

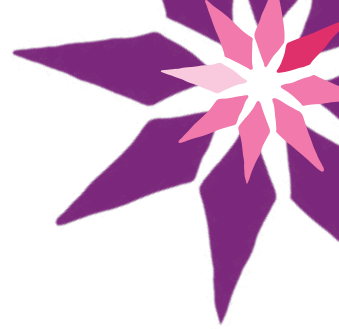


Photo: Peg Jacobs CoL



2023 jubilarians

50 years



Magdalena McCloskey CoL



Photo: Loretto Archives

Magdalena credits Loretto with teaching her important life lessons when she attended Loretto Academy in St. Louis as a child. "That initial impression of valuing everyone and reflecting joy and light is always with me," she shared. She became a Sister of Loretto and taught for 18 years before she was called to a different life. She married Don McCloskey and the two became Loretto co-members in 1973. Magdalena is a proud member of the Colorado Peaches softball team. This year she threw the first pitch at the Colorado Rockies game. She says of Loretto, "No matter the obstacles, setbacks, hardships, disappointments, Loretto stays on the path moving forward."



Edward Sakurai CoL



Photo: Edward Sakurai CoL

Edward and his wife, Anna Barbara, became co-members when Loretto first established the option in 1973. Anna Barbara previously had been a Sister of Loretto. He says he has always felt very close to the Community. Of his relationship with Loretto, he says, "Overall I have all good feelings about the order and all the people I've met. My relationship with Loretto has been very, very wonderful."



Celebrating

Vivian Doremus CoL



Photo: Loretto Archives

Vivian joined Loretto as a 17-year-old just out of high school. As a young sister, she discovered she loved teaching. She says, "Teaching was really the gift Loretto gave me, and it shaped the subsequent course of my life." This gift started her on a path of analyzing the necessary skills for successful teaching and polishing those skills over the next decades. This work became central to her life. "Another wonderful surprise," she shares, was how "a classroom full of students is another potential community of mutual respect, affection and relationship. Hundreds of young people enriched my life immeasurably. Many of them have subsequently told me that I helped them grow. Who could ask for anything more?"

Patricia Hennessy CoL



Photo: Loretto Archives

Pat was a dear friend to Rosemary Grawer SL, former principal of St. Ferdinand School in Florissant, Mo., who died in 2018. Pat taught at St. Ferdinand for many years, including the years 1983-2000 when Rosemary was principal.

Pat would often visit Rosemary at the former Loretto Center on Nerinx Hall High School's campus.



25 years

Peg Jacobs CoL



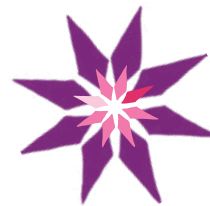
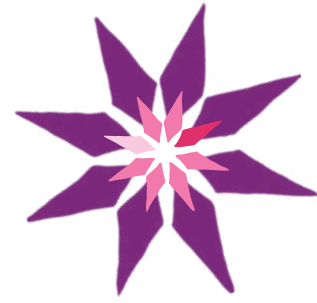
Photo: Leslee Moore CoL

Peg has shared her gift for photography with the Community for many years, taking pictures at Loretto events at the Motherhouse which has resulted in a first-rate photographic record.

Peg has shared that she met Mary Luke Tobin SL in the 1960s and considered this the start of her interest in and connection with Catholic communities. She became a co-member in 1998.

Peg has been committed to Loretto's maxim to "work for justice and act for peace," participating in social protest, especially against racism, in Boston and elsewhere.

She has a great love for Loretto and is a dear and loyal friend to the Community.



For the love of Christ ...

‘We are called here in Pakistan to stand at the foot of the cross.’

Nasreen Daniel SL

By Nasreen Daniel SL

To my bafflement and grief, Sharifan Bibi, who is about 40, entered my school office, dumped herself on the chair and started crying. I gave her a glass of water and asked the reason for her crying. She said that she has three children: a boy who never went to school and is learning to repair motorcycles and two girls, 13 and 14, who never attended school and were looked after by their paternal grandmother. Now the grandmother has died, and what to do with the young growing daughters? Sharifan said she is hesitant to take her daughters to work with her to clean houses, and she can't leave them alone at home.

I had her wait in the school office and asked two Loretto sisters and two young women who are prospective members of our Community to come to the convent, where I shared Sharifan's problem. "What can we do?" I asked.

We are called here in Pakistan to stand at the foot of the cross, and the cross has many shapes and sizes for us each time we come across it. This time we were facing a different challenge. I asked my Community, "If I take the girls even though they have never attended school — normally the kids come at the age of 3; they are not three but 13 and 14 — which class could they join?"

After much pondering, knowing that we in Loretto have never turned anyone from our door, we decided to ask Sharifan to bring the girls to school; they would sit in my office, and I would teach them there. If I were not free I would request that any free teacher teach them. In the evening we each would take a different subject and try to teach them two classes per year. In a few years they would reach their age group in the class.

We have been faithful to our commitment, and the girls have been eager to come and learn. As for our Community prayer time, we shifted it a bit later so we can accommodate Christ who comes to us in many faces.

Pakistani women's plight

When I was writing my Ph.D. thesis on women, violence and religion, I prayed and hoped that in my lifetime the situation would change, and that I would be so lucky to see that change happening. This was about 15 years ago. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, every year more than 1,000 young women from minority groups are raped, tortured and forcibly converted. Knowing the situation of women overall and Christians in particular, I knew that they are the easiest prey because they don't have money to bribe and don't have anyone rich in a position to help.

While it is true that Christian women are worse off than Muslim women, all Pakistani women, regardless of their religious affiliation, are seen as not fully human and consequently become victims in a male-dominated society.

Editor's note: In August, the Sisters of Loretto in Pakistan were informed that another congregation of sisters would take over St. Anthony School. The Sisters of Loretto in Pakistan are moving to a new location in Lahore where they will continue the mission of teaching and being of service as they stand with the people at the foot of the cross. Please pray for the sisters, their students and friends and the Loretto Community during this transition.

Donations to our Pakistan fund will supply scholarships and meals.

Please use the envelope provided or visit our website:

www.lorettocommunity.org/donate



Two siblings who have never before attended school, ages 13 and 14, learn at St. Anthony's School in Lahore, Pakistan. The Community made special accommodations to help the girls reach their grade level.

Photo: Nasreen Daniel SL

... for the love of teaching

Join the Loretto Bequest Community

... a powerful way to ensure that your commitment to Loretto's people and mission continues

By Virginia Nesmith, Loretto development director

Loretto donors are essential to our work, and we are thankful for each of you. Loretto's good work is also furthered by those who are now deceased and have left a gift in a will for Loretto. We are grateful for their thoughtful foresight. And we are grateful that in recent months, 75 current donors and friends have told us that they have included a gift for Loretto in their will or have committed to do so. You can join them in making a Loretto bequest.

You may know Loretto as an alum, a partaker in its work for justice and peace, a relative of a sister or co-member, a friend of the Pakistani sisters, a participant in Motherhouse events, because you have a loved one in the Loretto Living Center or through another of the many ways that Loretto touches lives. Leaving a gift to Loretto in your will helps

ensure that Loretto continues to impact lives, leaving them for the better.

Your bequest can be designated for a particular Loretto fund you care deeply about or left undesignated for the Loretto leadership to determine the best use for it. And it's not complicated! Simply choose any dollar amount or percentage of your estate to leave to Loretto. In past years some have chosen to designate Loretto as a beneficiary of a trust or life insurance policy.

However you choose to make a bequest it is a powerful way to ensure that your own commitment to Loretto's people and mission continues. It is a blessing for Loretto's work, and it is peace of mind for you.

If you'd like information about how to leave a gift in your will to Loretto, or to let us know that you have done so, please contact me at (270)431-0100, ext. 5102 or at developmentdirector@lorettocommunity.org.

Where there's a will, there's a way!

If you don't have a will or need to update one, you can do it yourself at no cost through freewill.com. Gifts of any size help Loretto's mission live on.

'There is one right that few people think about: the right to say what happens to your assets after you are dead. As you think about creating or revising your will or estate plan, don't see it as a chore. See it as a way to continue the important commitments you made during your life and to uplift the values and faith that guided you. This is a wonderful human right.'

Kim Klein, Loretto co-member



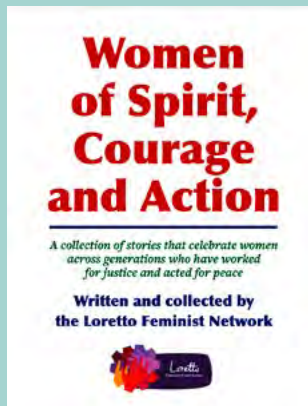
Photo: James Wheeler, Pexels

New Loretto books of interest

Women of Spirit, Courage and Action

This booklet is a collection of profiles and stories of members of the Loretto Community, along with stories of women across the world who have made a difference by promoting change, working for justice and acting for peace. We hope that those of you reading these stories and responding to the questions and activities presented will be inspired to continue this work in the spirit of Loretto and in the context of the 21st century and all its challenges.

From the introduction, "Women of Spirit, Courage and Action"



The Loretto Feminist Network is pleased to offer "Women of Spirit, Courage and Action," a collection of stories about the lives of those who embody the Loretto mission to work for justice and act for peace. Each section includes the story of a Loretto member who is matched with a young activist outside of the Community. For instance a section on living nonviolence includes the stories of Pat McCormick SL and X González of Parkland, Fla.

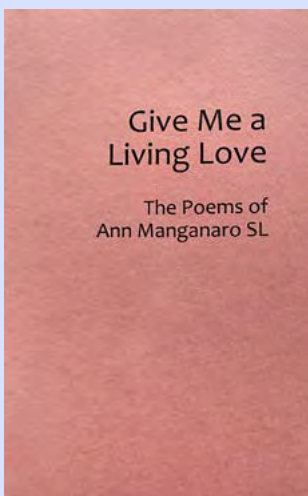
The booklet will be especially valuable for teens, who will find encouragement to pursue their own callings and find their unique voices. These inspiring stories are excellent teaching tools of Loretto values. The book would make an absorbing, thought-provoking gift for a teenager.

You'll find the book, available as a downloadable PDF (donations appreciated), on the Loretto website at <https://www.lorettocommunity.org/about/artists-authors/books>. A hard copy may be ordered for \$5.

Ann Manganaro SL's poetry receives rave reviews

*I came here gasping for God as if for air.
And came to the right place it seems, for God
Hangs in the very air like incense here*

Excerpt, "La Palma, 14 September 1992"



Ann Manganaro SL's poetry book, "Give Me a Living Love," has been released to rave reviews.

In a long, detailed piece in Today's American Catholic, Michael Centore [writes](#), "It makes sense, with a life so other-centered as Manganaro's: In all of her works of mercy, as in all of her poetic lives, she kept herself completely open to the movement of the Spirit."

In the Catholic Worker Newsletter guest writer Anne Marie Kaune ends her review with, "The Sisters of Loretto, Kathleen DeSutter Jordan and Lee Miller have given us a gift in this beautiful book. These poems show us that God gave Ann the grace she prayed for. She became a living love."

If you missed the spring/summer 2023 issue of *Loretto Magazine*, which included a profile of Ann and sample poems, you will find it on the Loretto website here:

<https://www.lorettocommunity.org/loretto-magazine-spring-summer-2023>.

The book makes a wonderful gift for family and friends and may be purchased at <https://www.lorettocommunity.org/about/artists-authors/books>. Or send a check (memo line: Ann Manganaro) for \$10, which includes shipping and handling, payable to Sisters of Loretto: Loretto Books c/o A. Mattingly, 515 Nerinx Rd., Nerinx, KY 40049.

Kay DeMarea SL

April 28, 1931 – June 8, 2023

Kay's exceptional teaching ministry spanned more than a half century. In Milledgeville, Ga., she was an associate professor of education, director of religious education and provided private tutorial services. In St. Louis, she taught in parochial schools, at Webster University's College School and at the Loretto Center for Learning, where she offered a special ed emphasis. She also was a teacher and chair of the special ed department at Fontbonne University. In Kentucky, Kay taught parochial school students, was coordinator of the Loretto Literacy Program, directed an outreach program in Marion County and directed the Loretto Child Care Program. She was active in parish music everywhere she lived. Reflecting on her years of service, she said, "Everything has been worth it. They have been wonderful years."



Ruth McDonough Fitzpatrick CoL

March 10, 1933 – June 15, 2023

Ruth, a co-member since 1994, was a good friend of Loretto and shared many of Loretto's causes and concerns. She was known for having made a signal contribution through her leadership of the Women's Ordination Conference and participation in the Women-Church Convergence coalition. Longtime Loretto friend Mary Hunt offered the following: "Let us rejoice in the wonderful life and contributions in the world of this beloved and respected friend and colleague. Her work for justice in El Salvador, her tireless efforts on Catholic women's ordination, her commitment to the Loretto Community and to Sisters Against Sexism, her Irish humor and artistic abilities only begin to describe a central figure in American Catholic feminism. Long may her spirit soar and inspire similar good work."



Mary Kenneth Lewis SL

June 15, 1924 – May 20, 2023

Mary Ken taught in grade and high schools for the first 25 years of her Loretto life. Her next 23 years were spent in parish religious education leading the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process, giving retreats and days of reflection. Twice she was invited to teach in Ghana, West Africa: In 1990 she taught a six-week course in conscience formation for the novices and new members of a religious congregation; in 1993 she and the Rev. Marty Lally CoL taught a six-week course on the Sacraments. Mary Ken began the Loretto Spirituality Center in Denver in 1993. She offered retreats and classes in Denver and at Loretto houses around the country. Her constant theme was, in her words, "If you don't remember anything else, remember that God loves you, by name, without any conditions, and all we are called to do is live our lives in response to that love." She served in Denver until her retirement to Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky., in 2012.



Gabriel Mason SL

June 28, 1927 – May 15, 2023

Gabriel (Peggy to family and friends) grew up in St. Louis, attending Nerinx Hall High School and Webster College (now University). She later earned a master's degree in psychology. Gabriel taught psychology and was a counselor at Loretto Heights College in Denver. She later worked with several poverty programs in the Denver area, teaching at-risk students and assisting families with emergency needs. Among other ministries in Denver and later in St. Louis, she provided counseling, taught adult GED certificate prep courses, taught special needs adults and served women and children in crisis. After retirement, she studied astronomy and physics and became a docent at the Space Odyssey Exhibition Hall in Denver. In 2013 she moved to Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky., where she pursued her love of astronomy and fishing.



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

Memorials and Tributes of Honor

May 2023 — August 2023

In Honor of:
Requested by:

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

Barbara Ann Barbato SL

Donna Marie Campbell

Rosemary Chinnici SL

Sheila Zipse

Donna Day SL

Dennis Cuddihee

JoAnn Gates*

Cindy Childress

Jeannine Gramick SL

John Le Bedda, II

Jennifer Morgan

Mary Jo Highland

Mary A. Highland

Anna Koop SL

Mary Sue Anderson

Loretto

All Retired Sisters of Loretto

Sheila Zipse

1962 novitiate class

Barbara and Robert Havira

Mary McAuliffe SL

Sheila Zipse

Mary Ellen McElroy SL

Francesca Howell

Pam Morgan*

Martha Alderson*

Barbara Nicholas SL

Helen Jones

Lydia Pena SL

Bernice Strawn*

Elaine Marie Prevallet SL

Helen Jones

Eva Marie Salas, SL

Ximena Ferguson

Barbara Schulte SL

Carol Rossi

Susie Schulte

Carol Rossi

Marlene Spero SL

Carol Rossi

In Memory of:
Requested by:

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

Leon Albin

Anita Wathen Schumacher

Domitilla Brown SL

Rev. Robert Osborne

Mary Peter Bruce SL

Lillian Moskeland*

Kay Carlew SL

Kathleen Rogers

Michael Kearney Cavanaugh

Sally Bisson-Best

Elizabeth Ann Compton SL

Sr. Kathleen O'Malley, CSJ

Doris M. Cuddihee

Donald Cuddihee, Sr.

Rose Patrick Curran SL

Kathleen Ronnenberg

Marilyn Cusick

Dorothy Cusick

Mary Jayne Fassel

Barbara Gallop Fassel

and Melinda Gallop

DeSutter-Jordan Family

Kathleen DeSutter Jordan

Kathryn Klein

Nancy Roach

Marie Agnes Fobes SL

Bob and Toni Swanson

Ressa Frazzano

Sr. Janet Peterworth, OSU

Patricia French

Helen Teter

Bill Hartrich

Kathy Hartrich

Marie Noel Hebert SL

James Hebert

Joseph Highland

Mary A. Highland

Gabriel Mary Hoare SL

Michael Hartley

Jane Carroll Bickett Hummel

Jim and Sally Bickett

Ann and Tom Bizzell

John Cubine

Joanne Curry

Edward Curtis

Mark and Gemma Eberle

Bert and Christina Hummel

In Memory of:
Requested by:

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

(Jane Carroll Bickett Hummel, cont.)

Thomas and Sarah Jerker
Sue Ledford
Judy Mattingly
Family of Coach Paulie and Mary Miller

David and Melissa Parrish
Michael and Kathleen Reilly
Charlie and Bev Ruckriegel
Peggy Stevens
Rebecca Wilson

Douglas and Laura Wolz

Barbara Kinney*

Tina Blatter*

Mary Lynn Meade Lally

Kevin Lally

Mary Leibman*

Rose Marie Hayden

Mary Edna Lenzen SL

Patricia and Dallas Edwards

Loretto

All Deceased Sisters

Mary Sue Anderson

Loretto Heights College

Jean and Rudolf Bradac

Sister of Loretto who was my first-grade teacher and taught me English

Gary Kress

Ann Manganaro SL

Jack and Kathleen McCarthy

Gabriel Mason SL

Family of Sue Kenney

Kam and Michael Martin

Adele and Gerry Phelan

Martin Sauer

Marcie Wanner

Jacqueline McArthur

Browning Arms Co. (Arnold Distr.)

Avis Causey

Katy Pawlowicz

John Rekart

Michele Stephens

Quentin Seitz McCarthy

Keta Seitz McCarthy

Patricia Eve Singer McCracken

Alice Bidwell

Kathy and Alan Leis

Elizabeth "Betty" McWilliams SL

Sandra Wronski

Stuart Melvin

Catherine O'Grady*

My mother and sisters:

Helena, Catherine and Betty

Adele and Bill DeLine

Claire Nix

Victor Mike and Dianne Atchity

Jerry Nix

Peter and Caroline, slaves

sold from Clement Hill

estate to Fr. DeParq in 1834

Catherine Crews

Rosalie Marie Phillips SL

Dorothy and Randall Dean

Thomas Stauder

Stevison Family

Raymond Stevison, Jr.

Carol Ann Ptacek SL

Michael and Kathleen Dicken

Kathy and Mike Mele

Cathy and Thomas Ptacek

Sandra and William Ptacek

Vicki Quatmann SL

Jim Quatmann

Ellen Rehg

Michael Rehg

Theresa Claire Reynolds SL

Gloria Tabacchi

Jane Marie Richardson SL

Mary Vincent Breeck

Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Schmidt

Regina Schmidt

Rose Alma Schuler SL

Donald Cuddihee, Sr.

Mary Jane Schutz

Stephen and Carol Classe

Alonza Smith SL

James Carter

Mel Strawn

Bernice Strawn*

**Rosemarie Saner Voelker,
Webster College '49**

Dorothy Matern

Inez White

Bertha Timmel

Jane Wilcox SL

William Wilcox

Rosemary Wilcox SL

William Wilcox

Ann Madeleine Willard SL

Jean Wedekind

Bernardine Wiseman SL

Mary Wiseman Roscoe

Susan Wiseman Stevenson

Joyce and Hank Wiseman

Josepha Wiseman SL

Mary Wiseman Roscoe

Susan Wiseman Stevenson

Joyce and Hank Wiseman

Theresa Louise Wiseman SL

Mary Wiseman Roscoe

Susan Wiseman Stevenson

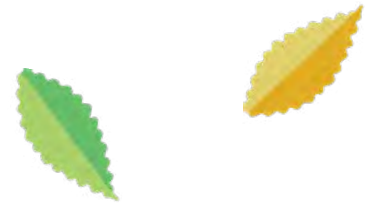
Joyce and Hank Wiseman



Photo by Christina Manweller



Postscript



Dear Loretto Friends,

This time of year brings up memories for me of going back to school. Whether it was getting new pencils and notebooks, entering a different grade or heading off to college, it was a time of new beginnings and possibilities.

Many members of the Loretto Community greeted fall as teachers: teachers in schools across the United States and around the world; teachers who often provided the first educational opportunities for girls; teachers who opened new schools and colleges; teachers who made a profound difference in people's lives.

We are blessed that you often share the impact of your Loretto education with us: "Loretto taught me that a woman could do or be anything she wanted." "Loretto taught me courage in the face of adversity." "Loretto showed love to my father when his parents couldn't." "Loretto took my mother in when she was orphaned." "Loretto taught me to use my God-given gifts for others." "Loretto taught me to make a positive impact in the world." There are many notes of gratitude for the elementary, high school and college teachers whose names you remember well.

Education still thrives in Loretto. Sisters of Loretto in Pakistan have been teaching children, women and seminarians for years. Loretto has established long-term relationships with sisters operating schools in Ghana, Haiti and Guatemala. Students in Loretto-founded middle and high schools learn about Loretto values and the mandate to "work for justice and act for peace." Loretto co-members educate all of us about immigration issues, women's rights, care for Earth and more.

Keep your pencils sharpened. We still have much to learn from Loretto and from each other. Thank you for continuing to share your gifts and memories with us and your talents with the world.

Gratefully,

Virginia

Virginia Nesmith
Loretto Development Director
vnesmith@lorettocommunity.org



Students read in Havern School's library. Founded by Loretto in Littleton, Colo., Havern is a leading school for kids with learning disabilities. Serving those from kindergarten through eighth grade, it was one of the first of its kind when it was founded in 1966. Read more about Havern in the [winter 2020 issue of Loretto Magazine](#).

Photo courtesy of Havern School



A student works in class at Escuela de Guadalupe, an English-Spanish pre-K through eighth grade school in Denver that was founded in 1999 by Loretto members and others in the local community. When students graduate, they are fully biliterate. Read more about Escuela de Guadalupe in the [spring 2022 issue of Loretto Magazine](#).

Photo courtesy of Escuela de Guadalupe



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