

Loretto

MAGAZINE

Spring/Summer 2024 Volume 65, No. 2

Inside ...

Loretto, Earth and spirituality

Walking in Ann Manganaro SL's footsteps

The Loretto Hunger Fund turns 50

Welcoming a new Loretto sister

2023 Annual Donor Report

... and more

Loretto Spirituality and Earth



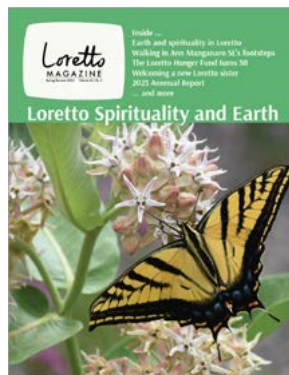
In this issue . . .

Loretto, Earth and spirituality	6
Fifty years of serving by providing food to those in need	12
Loretto Community members and students bond	17
Serving in Ghana	20
Doctor follows in Ann Manganaro SL's footsteps in Central America	22
Welcoming a new Loretto sister in Pakistan.....	24
2023 Annual Donor Report.....	26
Remembrances	31
Memorials and tributes of honor	32
Plantings honor loved ones	34

Front cover:

A swallowtail butterfly visits a milkweed plant in Colorado. The loss of milkweed in the U.S. is a primary cause of the decline of another butterfly species, the monarch.

Photo: Ruth Routten CoL



Back cover:

Loretto tends Earth, Loretto teaches about Earth. Clockwise from top, Jessie Rathburn CoL brings insect life to children at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. (photo: Mary Ann McGivern SL); Mary Swain SL and volunteer Esther Hurlburt cut weeds before they go to seed in the new pollinator planting at the Motherhouse (photo: Susan Classen CoL); a Loretto Academy (El Paso) student poster from Dr. Benavidez's sophomore class celebrating *Laudato Si'* Day in March (photo: Loretto Academy). See more posters on [page 4](#) of this magazine.



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, seek to abolish nuclear weapons, work with people who are poor and marginalized and minister to those 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.

For information on co-membership: <https://www.lorettocommunity.org/join-us/co-members>

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Photo: Donna Mattingly SL

Dear Reader,

Greetings on this near-summer day. This season seems to have been a long time coming with its intermittent sunny temperatures followed by snowy afternoons or cloudy mornings. All the while, our editor and authors and photographers have

been hard at work creating this issue of *Loretto Magazine* to be filled with stories of Loretto life.

Writing that sentence reminds me of an experience I had in the early 1970s when a friend and I rode the elevator to the top floor of a recently completed tower of the World Trade Center. The elevator stopped, the door opened to a giant floor-to-ceiling sign that read, "You are about to see one of the most spectacular sights in the world." It is true that the vision of New York City and environs below and beyond us would turn out to be spectacular. However, I have always thought that there should have been a huge window greeting us rather than a printed sign!

And so, rather than offering a preview, I leave it to you, dear reader, to discover all that these pages have to reveal. I hasten to add that we do not do any of this alone. Your faithful remembrances of us in your prayers and your steady

and generous financial contributions are part of these pages. I invite you to linger over a story or photo or name as it calls to mind your special connection with Loretto today.

In *I Am the Way*, the Constitutions of the Sisters of Loretto, we find many profound and inspiring words that serve the Loretto Community as a guide for our lives. These words from article 33 are meaningful to me these days. I'd like to offer them to you as acknowledgment that with your kindness and support we make strides, as you will see in these pages, to make the words a reality:

"... we strive to bring the healing Spirit of God into our world and we commit ourselves to improving the conditions of those who suffer from injustice, oppression and deprivation of dignity. In this way, we participate in the church's mission of proclaiming the transforming love of God."

Thank you, profoundly.

With love,

Sister Barbara Nicholas SL

Barbara Nicholas SL
President of Loretto

On healing Earth

I ask everyone to accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful, because that commitment has to do with our personal dignity and highest values.

Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*



An egret wades at Baden Pond at Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. Photo: Loretto Archives



Jeannine Gramick SL meets with Pope Francis in Rome

Jeannine Gramick SL and friends from New Ways Ministry, the organization she co-founded to support LGBTQ+ persons, traveled to Rome last October to meet with Pope Francis. Jeannine and the pope had been corresponding for some time, and he had expressed interest in and support for her work. When she told him she'd like to meet, he replied, "Your letter made me very happy. I will gladly meet you." And so began her journey to Rome, along with New Ways Ministry team members Frank DeBernardo, Bob Shine and Matt Myers CoL.

When they met, Jeannine hugged the pope, who she says has a "shepherd's heart," and he listened attentively as she spoke about her longtime commitment to help LGBTQ+ persons, and her pain at the Vatican's condemnation of this work in 1999. Jeannine shares that in his belief that God loves all people, the pope feels no one should be turned away from the Church. Jeannine left the meeting with the gift of a rosary with a Mother and Child medallion.

The pope and Jeannine Gramick SL meet in Rome.

Photo courtesy of New Ways Ministry

Students celebrate *Laudato Si'* Day

At Loretto Academy in El Paso, *Laudato Si'* Day in March was a fun and educational day for students and teachers.

Students created posters focusing on their understanding of environmental challenges and possible solutions. The posters here and on the back cover represent four classes from sixth through 12th grades. Thank you, Loretto Academy, for your efforts and education on behalf of our Earth home.



Mr. Barrios's senior class poster
Photo: Loretto Academy



Mr. Jensen's 6th grade class poster
Photo: Loretto Academy



Mr. Benero's sophomore class poster
Photo: Loretto Academy

Maribah Ishaq steps into a new life in Loretto, pronouncing first vows



Maribah Ishaq takes a selfie with Claudia Calzetta SL. Maribah pronounces first vows as a Sister of Loretto in June!

Photo: Maribah Ishaq

Maribah Ishaq is excited to pronounce first vows as a Sister of Loretto. In our newest Spotlight Video, she talks with Claudia Calzetta SL, Loretto's formation director for Pakistan.

Maribah attended the InterCongregational Collaborative Novitiate program in Chicago in 2023 and has since completed her second year of formation, known as the apostolic year. She has been teaching in Pakistan and volunteering her time in service in the U.S. during visits. In April, she gave a presentation to students at Loretto's Foundation Day celebration at Nerinx Hall High School in St. Louis, speaking about women's lives in Pakistan.

On [pages 24 and 25](#) of this magazine, Nasreen Daniel SL shares about the joy of welcoming a new Sister of Loretto to the Community.

Watch a short video of Maribah and Claudia talking about Maribah's profession as a Sister of Loretto at our Spotlight Video page: <https://www.lorettocommunity.org/spotlight>.



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

Vector World Maps

How does our relationship with Earth affect our relationship with Earth?

Earth our teacher



A duck at rest in the shrubs at Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky.
Photo: Loretto Archives

By Susan Classen CoL

Earth as teacher. That's what immediately comes to mind when I reflect on how I experience the relationship between spirituality and nature.

Here is one of many life lessons taught to me during the years I lived in Latin America. My teacher in this case was a plant hanging in a basket above the dirt floor of my porch.

A fungus was ruining one of my hanging plants so I trimmed it back, not paying attention to the stems that fell to the ground. A week or two later, I was watering the still-sickly plant when something bright and colorful on the ground caught my eye. The discarded stems were flowering! The water had been dripping onto the stems below. The plant in the hanging basket eventually died but the cuttings I discarded are thriving.

"OK," I said, smiling as I shrugged my shoulders. "You didn't want to grow in the pot. You wanted to grow in the ground. So be it." I hope I bring that sensitivity to my life and ministry. It involves not trying to force people into my way of doing things but discerning the Spirit's movement and celebrating when an idea takes root even if it's not what I had in mind!

Life with economically poor people in the rural Latin American countryside constantly reminded me of this basic wisdom: We're not in control, and we need each other. As I anticipated returning to live in the U.S., I was aware that there are buffers here that shield us from that wisdom, pro-

*But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth,
and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
In [God's] hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.*

Job 12:7-8, 10

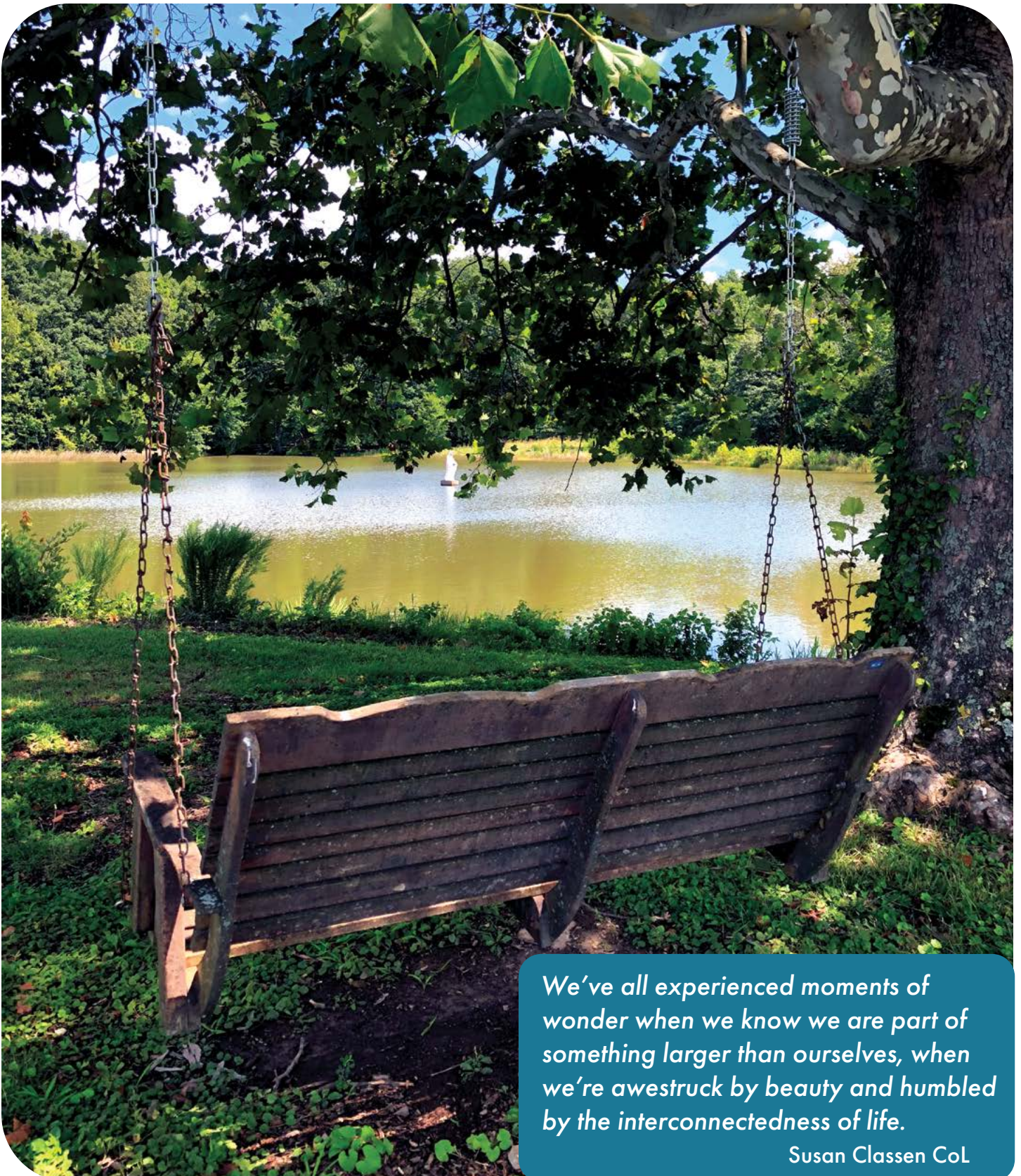
moting instead the illusion of control and individualism. Then it struck me. Nature teaches us the same lessons. Who feels in control when it rains on a long-planned picnic? Who thinks they can go it alone when they're stuck in a snowdrift? I realized that living close to Earth was crucial to staying in touch with life's wisdom as I returned to my own home culture.

Now, as the caretaker of Cedars of Peace, a cluster of eight retreat cabins in the woods at Loretto Motherhouse, I often find myself chafing at the reminders that I'm not in control. Squirrels chew the wooden steps and siding of the cabins and nest in the attics despite my efforts to stop them. A narrow band of straight line wind tears through the woods. Asian beetles and stink bugs find their way through what I thought were tightly sealed windows. I'm not in control!

But there's the beauty, oh the beauty. A sunset paints the sky in shades of red and orange against the dark backdrop of the woods. Native grasses and bright yellow flowers sparkle in the morning dew. A butterfly lands on my shoulder. We've all experienced moments of wonder when we know we are part of something larger than ourselves, when we're awestruck by beauty and humbled by the interconnectedness of life. That's when the knowledge that I'm not in control comes as a gift to celebrate, and the awareness that I can't make it alone becomes a portal into relationship with all living beings.

Earth affect our spirituality?

How does our spirituality aff



We've all experienced moments of wonder when we know we are part of something larger than ourselves, when we're awestruck by beauty and humbled by the interconnectedness of life.

Susan Classen CoL

Swing at Mary's Lake, Loretto Motherhouse Photo: Susan Classen CoL

We are very vulnerable; we cannot do it alone. We need to be bound back (re-ligare: the root meaning of religion) to Earth without whose nurturance we cannot exist. We need to reconnect with each other, lest in our greed-fueled hostilities we destroy ourselves and the planet. We need, finally, to know ourselves one in our God, the Source of all life and goodness. ...

We live in complete dependence upon an inescapably interconnected world, which itself is held in being only through the gift of the Creator.

Elaine Prevallet
"In the Service of Life"



- Elaine Prevallet SL
Photo: [NASA](#)



Jessie Rathburn CoL teaches children about plants and planting at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky.
Photo: Loretto Archives



Photos by Donna Mattingly SL

Precisely because our culture lures us to breadth without depth, a primary practice that is incumbent upon us is the practice of attentiveness. This practice is universal: It has been bedrock for almost all religious traditions. Attentiveness focuses energy; it establishes a sense of mutuality, intimacy, presence to the other. ... Attentiveness enables us to get out of the way in order to receive the other. Attentiveness prepares the way for communion.

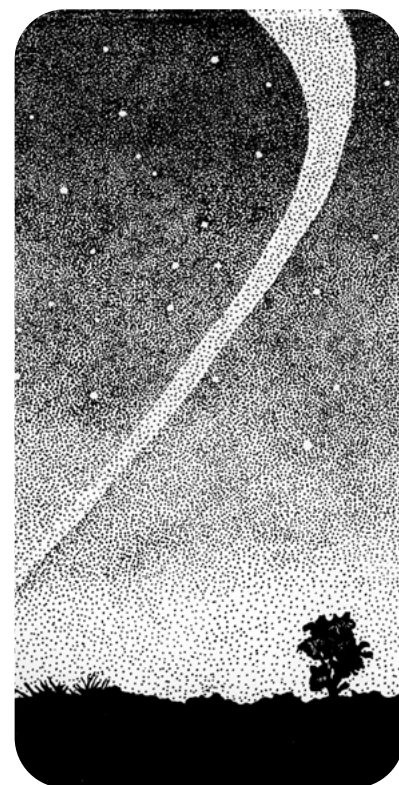
Elaine Prevallet SL
"In the Service of Life"

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si'

Over the last two decades, we [in Loretto] have more consciously expanded our reach to understand our connection with all living and non-living things on Earth and to marvel at the vastness and beauty of the cosmos. We have a new appreciation of our 14-billion year history and how creation evolved. ... Those who are drawn to help create a new universal humanity give a high priority to global community, spiritual practice and co-creating a vastly better future for all Earth life.

Maureen McCormack SL
Loretto Earth Network News, spring 2010





Awake with love for one another and for Earth

*Our care for one another and our care for the earth
are intimately bound together.*

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

By JoAnn Gates CoL

How does my spirituality influence my way of living on Earth? I ask myself this as I begin to write. Two minutes of pondering and I remember the mysterious truth of it: For me, there is no longer a “my spirituality,” separate from any other aspect of my life. For me, there is no longer a God to be pleased, appeased, convinced of another’s need. Somewhere along the line, my spirituality became who I am; and God / Love / Source / Divine Mother simply disappeared into life.

St. Symeon (949-1022), Eastern Orthodox monk and poet, said it this way:

“We awaken in Christ’s body as Christ awakens our bodies, and my poor hand is Christ. He enters my foot, and is infinitely me. I move my hand, and wonderfully my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Him (for God is indivisibly Whole, seamless in His Godhood). We awaken as the Beloved in every last part of our body.”

“Our care for one another and our care for the earth are intimately bound together,” Pope Francis states in *Laudato Si'*, his 2015 encyclical on the environmental crises. And I would paraphrase: Our care for one another and ... for Earth, and our love of God, are intimately bound together; are, in fact, all expressions of love of/for the One Love. We plant a seed, we bandage a wound, we sit silently in the church pew: all one love. We watch the news, we distribute food to immigrants, we pray the rosary: all one love.

Francis begs us, “I ask you, in the name of God, to defend Mother Earth.”

In his words, I hear echoes of Archbishop Romero the day before his assassination: “In the name of God, and in the name of this suffering people ... I implore you ... stop the repression!”

Defend Mother Earth! Defend our coastlines! Stop killing one another! Defend our kin who cannot feed their children! Defend birds and fish poisoned by polluted waters! Defend all creatures of/manifestations of the One Love!

All creatures in the One Love. Love all with the One Love. Love the One Love in all our loving.



Black and white illustrations pages 11 through 13
by Sandy Ardoyno SL



Loretto members gather in the company of a tree with members of the West End Louisville Women's Collaborative. Clockwise from top right Martha Alderson CoL, Carolyn Jaramillo CoL, Alicia Ramirez SL, JoAnn Gates CoL, Liz Foley, Cecilia Reyna, Susan Classen CoL, Mariel Gardner. Photo courtesy of Susan Classen CoL

Exercise: An encounter with a tree

Inspired by Belden C. Lane, who says that trees bring us out of ourselves, "reminding us that we aren't in control, taking us to our knees in awe." ("The Great Conversation") Native American Cherokee tribe members refer to trees as standing people.

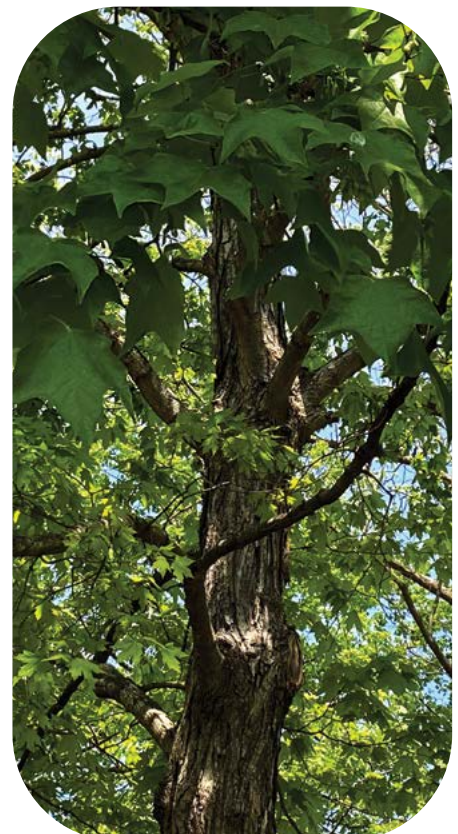
Approach a tree, gently and with reverence. It may be an old dignified or gnarled tree, or a fresh sapling.

Wait in silence; become aware of the tree's presence. Once you feel a connection with the tree, you might tell it your story. Maybe you'll share your wounds and joys. Become silent once more. The tree may share its own story in a tree's silent language.

Make a regular practice of spending time with trees; perhaps befriend a particular tree. We must reopen dialogue with the other members of creation.

My Place in Nature

A powerful exercise developed by Carol Christ, Ph.D. and adapted by Sandra Hareld CoL, Ph.D. may be found here: <https://www.lorettocommunity.org/my-place-in-nature/>



A maple tree flourishes at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. Photo: Christina Manweller

Sharing with grateful hearts



From left, Allison Lemons CoL, Karen Knoll CoL and Sharon Palma CoL volunteer at Jemez Helping Hands, a food pantry for elders at the Jemez Pueblo in New Mexico in 2023. Karen manages the pantry. Photo: Mary Ann McGivern SL

Loretto's Hunger Fund has helped feed the hungry for 50 years. The Stop Hunger Fund, as it was initially called, was established in 1974 in response to worldwide hunger, especially in India, where drought had led to famine and starvation. Loretto Community members were indefatigable in raising money. They babysat, collected aluminum cans, sold paintings and more. Loretto schools collected donations and held bake sales and raffles. (Today, students at St. Mary's Academy in Denver raise money for the Hunger Fund.) The effort does not let up, offering assistance to groups that provide groceries, stock pantries, serve meals or otherwise feed the hungry. In recent years, donations have helped feed people in the U.S., Haiti, Mexico, Pakistan and Uganda, among other locations. The photos on these pages feature a few of the fund recipients.



Lunchtime at Casa Arcoiris, a shelter in Tijuana, Mexico, for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers, offers the opportunity to slow down and relax in spite of life's difficulties. Photo courtesy of Casa Arcoiris



Espacio Migrante, a shelter in Tijuana, Mexico, received a donation from Loretto's Hunger Fund; the organization feeds shelter guests as well as those on the street hoping to receive asylum. Photo courtesy of Espacio Migrante

*By Barbara Hagan CoL
Chair, Loretto Hunger Fund*

The Loretto Hunger Fund grants funding to various groups that reach into the community to feed those who are less fortunate. These agencies serve those who are homeless, low-income people, immigrants, soup kitchens and others. So many people do amazing work to help those in need of food.

At the 1974 Loretto Assembly a proposal was passed and a goal established to raise \$180,000 to start the Stop Hunger Fund. Helen Sanders SL, president of Loretto at the time, wrote, "Through much discussion and prayer and in response to many pleas for a simpler lifestyle and a willingness to sacrifice and share, the assembly voted to propose to the entire Loretto Community an ongoing program with a goal of supplying a sum of \$180,000 to help alleviate conditions in underdeveloped countries which are causing starvation to millions of human beings" (*Interchange*, Sept. 1974). Francis Jane O'Toole SL of Louisville, Ky., took on this challenge by committing to raise \$90,000 to match the \$90,000 given from the general fund of the Sisters of Loretto.

Each issue of *Interchange* (the Loretto Community newsletter) would give an update on the amount raised that month. By December 1975, \$60,000 of the \$90,000 had been raised. Money was brought in through personal donations, bake sales, raffles, school mission days, etc. Cecily Jones SL helped to raise awareness at St. Pius School in St. Louis with the help of Eileen Kersgieter SL during the school's mission day to raise \$1,500. Susan Swain SL raised funds at the Lower School of Loretto in Kansas City using UNICEF boxes (UNICEF gave approval for the money to go to the Stop Hunger Fund). Individual sisters were asked to make donations from their personal budgets.

By 1976 the goal of \$90,000 was achieved! Loretto provided \$180,000 to address hunger, an enormous sum at the time.

The name was eventually changed to the Hunger Fund, and Cecily was one of its leading members. The Hunger Fund meets annually to disperse available funds.

As we continue this important mission into the future, please remember the Hunger Fund with your kindness by making a donation to this great cause. It is a wonderful way to share our blessings.

Community members made and still make sacrifices for the Hunger Fund. We try to give more than the scraps from our table. This is a great and lasting grace that we received almost 50 years ago.

Mary Ann McGivern SL

Hunger in the U.S.

In 2022, 44.2 million people lived in households that struggled to provide adequate food for their members (a significant increase from 33.8 million in 2021). Those households included more than 13 million children, an increase of about 45 percent from 2021.

During the same year, an average food-insecure household spent 15% less on food than the typical food-secure household of the same size and composition.

Report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Oct. 2023, "[Food Security in the United States in 2022.](#)"



A student from Florida Southern College volunteers to deliver food for Meals on Wheels of Polk County, Florida, one of the organizations Loretto has helped with funds. Photo: Meals on Wheels of Polk County



Scott Hourigan, left, mobile pantry driver, greets Sandy Camargo, manager of the organization. In the background, the Rev. Jacob Zulu, associate pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Bardstown, Ky., chats with LaFern James, volunteer, next to the newly-refurbished food truck. Photo: Bread for Life



Bread for Life Community Food Pantry now makes use of a mobile pantry, enabling the organization to deliver food to surrounding communities. Photo: Bread for Life

Bread for Life Community Food Pantry, located near the Loretto Motherhouse in Bardstown, Ky., works with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Joseph Parish and other ministry programs to house the homeless and feed the hungry, serving hundreds of families each month.

Bread for Life has purchased and refurbished a food truck to make its pantry mobile; it features appliances that can be used as refrigerators or freezers, depending on need.

The Loretto Hunger Fund has gratefully supported this ministry.





Susan Eldridge, executive director of Meals on Wheels of Polk County, Florida, visits Lenore who just turned 107.
Photo: Meals on Wheels of Polk County

The Hunger Fund's aim is to fulfill the Laudato Si' goal of promoting eco-justice by a response to the cry of the poor, and to fulfill our mission #33 from I Am the Way (Loretto's Constitutions): 'We commit ourselves to improving the conditions of those who suffer from injustice, oppression and deprivation of dignity.'

Pat Frueh SL



Loretto members participate in a drive each year to help the South-west Improvement Council in Denver, an organization working to improve quality of life for Southwest Denver residents.

*The Loretto Hunger Fund has also contributed to this equity-driven organization.
Staff photo*



Photo: Interchange, Nov. 14, 1974

Feeding the unfed

Loretto responds to famine in India in the mid-1970s

Loretto's Stop Hunger Fund (now simply called the Hunger Fund) financed the nonsectarian Child-in-Need Project for India which fed starving children in two regions following severe drought and crop failure. Loretto worked with Catholic Relief Services which identified the most urgent needs and oversaw food distribution. In addition, a project was initiated to provide nutritional training once the emergency eased. The New York Times provided in-depth reporting on the emergency and its causes in [an article published on Sept. 6, 1974](#).

Children's lives are being saved day after day, through the sacrifices, and in the name of, the Sisters of Loretto.

Eileen Egan, Catholic Relief Services,
Interchange, June 28, 1975



In this photo taken in 1975, mothers in Thakurpukur bring children to a clinic funded by the Child-in-Need Project to bring food to those affected by severe famine.

By July 1976, the program, organized under Loretto's Stop Hunger Fund (founded in January 1975), had served 12,777 infants and children under the age of five in densely-populated areas around Calcutta (now Kolkata) and in remote, highly inaccessible areas in the provinces of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

The photo appeared in Loretto's *Interchange* publication on July 18, 1975.

Donate to Loretto's Hunger Fund online or by mailing the provided envelope. Some choose to make a monthly contribution. Perhaps you'd like to donate in memory or in honor of someone you love?

www.lorettocommunity.org/donate

Loretto Community members and students bond

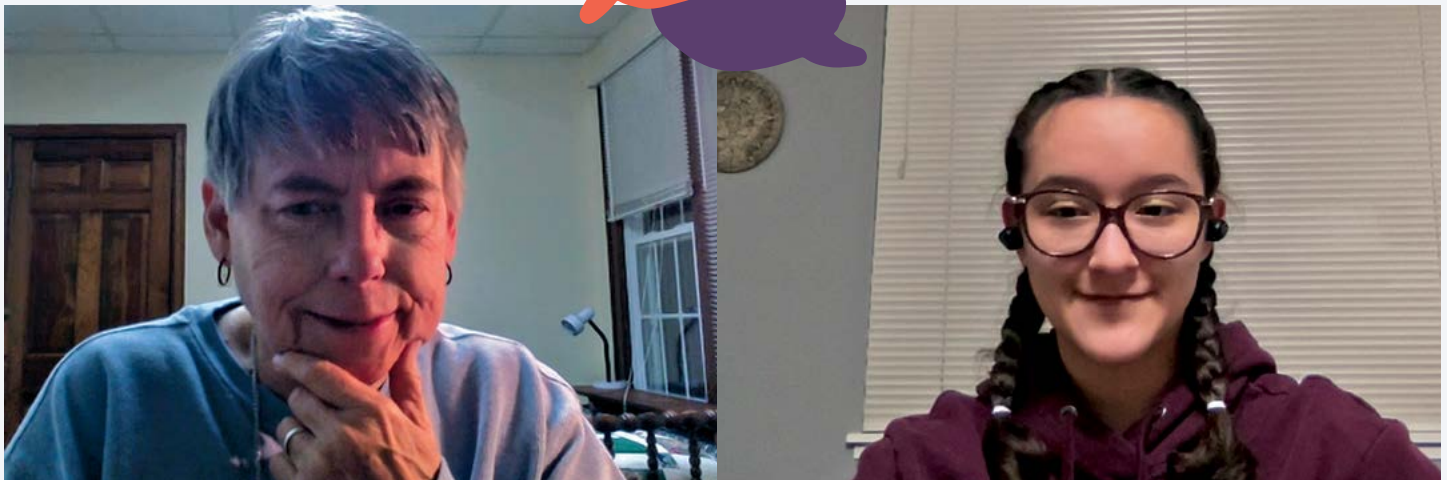
Sister of Loretto and teen cherish their connection

This has been a very positive opportunity for conversation with the younger generation.

Maria Visse SL

Not many teenagers have the opportunity to speak with someone like Sister Maria.

Nastasia St. Amor Joan of Arc Rivas



Maria Visse SL meets with St. Mary's Academy student Nastasia St. Amor Joan of Arc Rivas online. The weekly meetings, ongoing for four years, have been treasured by each.

Photo: Nastasia St. Amor Joan of Arc Rivas

Nastasia St. Amor Joan of Arc Rivas, a student at St. Mary's Academy in Denver, and Maria Visse SL, a resident at Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky., started meeting when Nastasia was in search of a service learning project during the Covid-19 shutdown. This led to weekly conversations throughout her high school years. Nastasia, a graduating senior, plans to attend college outside of her home state of Colorado, majoring in astrophysics. She says her conversations with Maria have taught her the importance of hearing the perspective of elders and of humbly listening, allowing others to be heard. She believes bridging the gap between generations would lead to a brighter future for

all. Nastasia writes about the meetings and how they have impacted her:

"Nearly every Friday Sister Maria and I meet via Zoom to check in with each other and discuss how our week has been. I usually ask her what is new at the Loretto Motherhouse. For example, recently she told me that the old tobacco barn is being renovated, and around Christmas time, we spoke about the Christmas train that she sets up at the Motherhouse every year.

"I originally started my meetings with Sister Maria for my school's service learning requirement during my freshman year, but since then it has turned into something much more. I

continued ...

ST MARY'S
ACADEMY

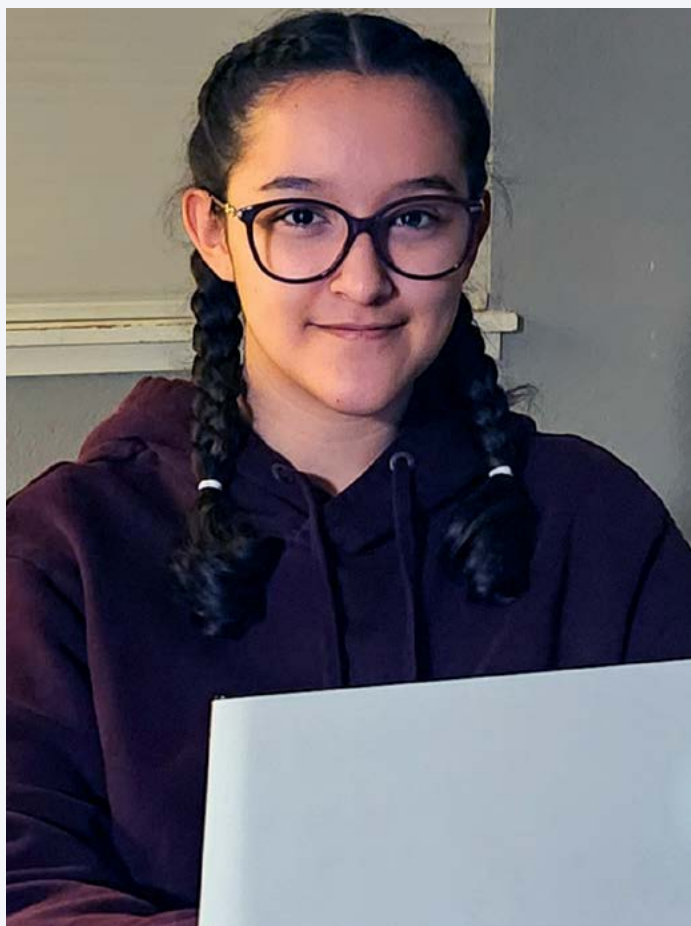
cherish the knowledge from her many life experiences, and I am glad that I have had this opportunity to get to know her. Her honest opinions and character are refreshing and have helped me understand her unique perspective on our society and world. Not many teenagers have the opportunity to speak with someone like Sister Maria. I love being able to ask what her opinions are on current events and hear how they relate to similar events from the past.

"Sister Maria has inspired me to travel the world. For those of you who don't know, Sister Maria traveled through Central and South America for her music, and aside from that, lived in Colorado, New Mexico, New York and her home state of Missouri. I was definitely inspired by her

travels, and I hope to attend graduate school at the University of Oxford after my undergraduate experience in a new state in the United States."

For her part, Maria says she has valued the opportunity to "connect with someone from another generation of experience and thought. I think what I have learned from Nastasia is big changes come with challenges to move ahead and plan for that future. She is both creative and responsible in attending to the details of planning her future.

"This has been a very positive opportunity for conversation with the younger generation."



Nastasia St. Amor Joan of Arc Rivas, graduating senior at St. Mary's Academy, plans to study astrophysics in college.
Photo: Regina Drey SL



Maria Visse SL, a gifted musician, with her guitar in Santiago, Chile, in 1964. She stayed in South America until 1979. Guadalupe "Lupe" Arciniega SL looks on. Photo: Loretto Archives

I originally started my meetings with Sister Maria for my school's service learning requirement during my freshman year, but since then it has turned into something much more.

Nastasia St. Amor Joan of Arc Rivas

Loretto members and students share lunch and smiles at St. Mary's Academy

In January, students who are Loretto Leaders at St. Mary's Academy in Denver had lunch with their buddies — Loretto Community members they had been communicating with through letters, cards and videos. The Loretto Leaders program at the school is spearheaded by Regina Drey SL and helps lower school students learn about and live Loretto values.



Above, Loretto Community members, front row, pose with their buddies at a luncheon at St. Mary's Academy in January. Photo courtesy of Regina Drey SL



Clockwise from left, enjoying lunch with their buddies are Loretto Community members Mary Ellen McElroy SL, Donna Hamburg CoL and Mary Kay Widger SL.

Photos courtesy of Regina Drey SL



Serving in Ghana

'A spirit of joy is truly prevalent at Blessed Trinity Leadership Academy.'

Pauline Albin SL



Students show Pauline Albin SL their work at the school Loretto helped build. Photo: Marie Ego SL

By Christina Manweller



A Ghanaian mother and child
Photo: Marie Ego SL

The congregation of the Daughters of the Most Holy Trinity (FST) is a Ghanaian community founded 40 years ago to serve the spiritual and physical needs of the “poorest of the poor” in rural areas of the Kumasi diocese. In November 2009, with Loretto's help, the FST sisters opened Blessed Trinity Leadership Academy in Kumasi with a pilot group of 11 students. Marie Ego SL said at the time, “This is a precious beginning for young minds so eager to read and learn.”

Today the Leadership Academy thrives, serving over 400 students. FST Sister Frances Emily Owusu-Ansah, a Loretto co-member, explains, “The school is from creche to Junior High School, with day and boarding options. Several of the graduates from the school are now at universities in Ghana, including the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, pursuing varied disciplines in the arts and sciences. The positive impact from the school, through the quality foundational education given, is far-reaching!”

Loretto's service in Ghana began in the 1980s when Marie and Cathy Mueller SL traveled to Ghana on a teaching ministry. The very next year they returned. Marie would formally move to Ghana in 1989 and stay until 2005. Her education and training led her to work all over the country leading workshops in counseling skills, psychology and communication.

In 1993, Pauline Albin SL would also move to Ghana, serving in the Sunyani Diocese as a secondary school teacher. In addition, from 2000-2010, she served as vice chair of the Catechetical Commission of Ghana.

Over 20 Loretto Community members visited Ghana through the Loretto Africa Project started by Marie. As she has shared, “From the start, involvement of other Loretto members was crucial to Loretto's mission in Ghana.” In keeping with Loretto's teaching charism, many helped train teachers and counselors.

A sister community relationship developed between Loretto and the FST sisters during the years Marie and Pauline lived in the country. Today, the FST-Loretto Sister Community Committee for Ghana meets online to expand the relationship. On occasion, an FST sister visits the Loretto Motherhouse, which helps nurture the connection.



Young FST sisters pose with Marian McAvoy SL (third from left), Pauline Albin SL (center) and Marie Ego SL (far right) in 2013.
Photo courtesy of Marie Ego SL

FST sisters find joy in service

'For us [the Rural Ministry] provides the opportunity to share God's love that brings us joy.'

FST Sister Frances Emily Owusu-Ansah CoL, Ph.D.

With thanks to FST Sister Frances Emily Owusu-Ansah CoL, Ph.D.

One of the important ways the Sisters of the Daughters of the Most Holy Trinity spread God's love is through the Rural Ministry. They travel to remote villages to share education on important topics like preparing nutritious meals; they provide religious support; and they bring donated clothing, food and other necessities to people who need them.

FST Sister Frances Emily Owusu-Ansah CoL writes, "All the villages are remote, although some are farther than others, and the roads are decrepit from lack of proper maintenance, or they are simply poor untarred roads that are worsened with heavy rainfalls, making it dangerous to travel. Many of the roads cannot be traveled without a truck or four-wheel drive car because they are dotted with numerous large potholes. Yet, none of these challenges deters our sisters. They sit at the back of the pickup truck and journey joyfully to share the Word of God with the people and to share the donated items.

"All sisters, regardless of our primary apostolate, participate in Rural Ministry Sundays, which are undertaken at least every quarter. This way, united as a family, we share this ministry together. We also involve our younger sisters who are under formation (postulants and novices) in this special ministry. Active participation in the Rural Ministry is important to us as an institute because we consider it to be core to our establishment as a community for the rural poor. This ministry, although challenging, is a very fulfilling experience for us as FST sisters and for the people too. For us it provides the opportunity to share God's love that brings us joy. The people we visit often tell us that they are encouraged in their Christian journey to know that there are others who think about them and care enough to visit them despite the extreme difficulties in getting to their villages. It is a win-win! And God is glorified!"



FST sisters prepare to set out to serve the rural poor in Ghana.
Photo courtesy of FST Sister Frances Emily Owusu-Ansah CoL



Left, young FST sisters and a postulant (without the veil) smile for the camera. At right, an FST sister and a postulant prepare to distribute clothing in rural Ghana. Photos courtesy of FST Sister Frances Emily Owusu-Ansah CoL



Doctor follows in Ann Manganaro SL's



Ann Manganaro SL, M.D., in El Salvador, where she arrived in 1988 to provide medical care and training during the civil war. Her life and example motivated Lauri Pramuk, M.D. right, to become a physician and serve an Indigenous Guatemalan population. Photo: Mev Puleo



Pediatrician Lauri Pramuk, inspired by Ann Manganaro SL, helped open a clinic in Guatemala. Here she shows student Ricky Perez how to examine a tympanic membrane (eardrum). Ricky, who plans to attend medical school, continues his involvement with the clinic's work. Photo: Edgar Mateo

'I see Ann as a sister poet and pediatrician who tried to ease the suffering of a community the world had cast aside. Her intense drive to teach and to accompany is beautiful and inspiring to me.'

Dr. Lauri Pramuk

By Lauri Pramuk, M.D.

Inspired by the story of Ann Manganaro SL and her commitment as a pediatrician to the people of El Salvador, in 2020 I helped open a primary care clinic for a community of Indigenous Mayans near Cobán, Guatemala. The clinic is located at Ciudad de la Esperanza (City of Hope), which also houses a school and community center educating 450 children from preschool through high school.

The story of how I came to this medical work in Guatemala began with Ann. While living at a Catholic Worker-inspired home in Denver, Romero House, I heard Father John Kavanaugh talk about Ann's work in El Salvador, and I was mesmerized. Her story was calling me. I had to do something with my life like she had done with hers.

Ann, already a Sister of Loretto, went to medical school while living at Karen House, a Catholic Worker House in St. Louis of which she was a founding member. After finishing her medical training in January 1988, she went to work in El Salvador in the midst of a brutal civil war. She established a medical clinic in Guarjila, then a newly-settled village for refugees returning from exile in Honduras where all had lost family members in the war. This community of trauma-

tized refugees found a remarkable healer in Ann. The clinic she began, today called the Ann Manganaro Clinic, still thrives, carrying forward her legacy.

Having worked in Guatemala for 12 years, inspired by Ann's example, I have learned that the primary goal of programs like this is to build the capacity of the local community to be able to take care of themselves. Last year, I established the Ann Manganaro Institute for Guatemalan Accompaniment (AMIGA) in partnership with Regis University to build long-term capacity at Ciudad de la Esperanza. The university had established a partnership with the Ciudad community in 2019. Along with a dedicated group of all-volunteer professional healthcare workers, I spend each year preparing a dozen undergraduate students to travel to Cobán to help staff the clinic for a week. Additionally, we fundraise to provide a year's worth of pharmaceutical and medical supplies for the community, and to support the salary of a Guatemalan physician who serves the clinic part-time year-round. This year, AMIGA is holding an additional fundraising drive in partnership with Project CURE to send a 40-foot cargo

footsteps, serves in Central America

pod of much-needed laboratory and physical therapy/rehabilitation equipment.

Ciudad de la Esperanza was founded in 2003 by Guatemalan diocesan priest Father Sergio Godoy, and is located adjacent to a sprawling landfill where Indigenous Guatemalans make a living recycling trash and other found materials. In addition to the clinic, school and community center, Ciudad includes a job training center and provides free psychological and legal support for families. With Regis's assistance, the primary care clinic at Ciudad de la Esperanza is now open year-round to cover the healthcare needs of children and their families. Since 2020, the clinic has added a dental room and pharmacy, and the construction of a lab

and physical therapy rehabilitation room is in progress. The medical clinic at Ciudad has been an important partner with the local ministry of health in closing healthcare gaps for the most needy in the area.

The undergraduate students who have participated in this project are inspired to continue to work with marginalized communities. The progress they have seen the clinic make in just a few years is inspirational.

Contact Dr. Pramuk: teamguatemala8@gmail.com

To see photos and read about Ann Manganaro SL and her work in El Salvador, [click here](#) to access the spring/summer 2023 issue of *Loretto Magazine*.



Serving at the clinic has changed students' lives; many have continued to serve in Guatemala post-graduation. Monserrat Pineda Lagunas, left, takes a birth history. Now a nurse at Children's Hospital of Colorado, she continues to serve in Guatemala each year as the medical trip coordinator.

Below left, Bella DeLeon, a pre-med student, shares a hug with a child.

Below, the interfaith aspect of the annual medical trip is celebrated in Guatemala every Friday as the community shares in Shabbat. Richard Walter, M.D., center, is an internist who has been working with the project since its inception.

Photo: Edgar Mateo



Photo: Luis Aguilar



Photo: Luis Aguilar

Our hearts are full: Welcoming

'The new sister becomes a thread in the intricate design of our congregation, weaving her story into the larger narrative of faith, devotion and fellowship.'

Nasreen Daniel SL

By Nasreen Daniel SL



Maribah shares a reading.
Photo: Nasreen Daniel SL

In the tapestry of faith, the threads of community weave together to create a vibrant and diverse congregation. Our spiritual family is being enriched with the addition of Sister Maribah Ishaq, bringing a renewed sense of joy and connection.

The arrival of Maribah in Lahore, Pakistan, in 2020 was cause for celebration. It was a moment that echoes the teachings of love, acceptance and unity that form the foundation of our faith.

After a considerable span without the new addition of a sister to our Community, she is a breath of fresh air, infusing our spiritual journey with a renewed sense of anticipation and excitement. After four years living with sisters of Loretto in Pakistan and in the U.S., Maribah decided to ask

Barbara Nicholas SL, Loretto's president, if she could be admitted to vowed life. And on June 23, 2024, a long-awaited day arrives when a new vowed member is entering the Loretto Community.

As we extend a warm embrace to our Sister Maribah, we recognize the importance of fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity within our congregation. The transition into a new spiritual community can be both exciting and daunting, and it is incumbent upon us to make this transition as smooth and comforting as possible. The shared values that unite us in this congregation create a common ground upon which genuine connections can be forged. Our collective experiences, shared moments of worship and acts of kind-

ness contribute to the tapestry of our shared journey. The significance of a new sister in the congregation goes beyond the individual. It serves as a reminder that our spiritual family is dynamic and ever-evolving. Each member brings a unique perspective, contributing to the richness and diversity that defines our communal identity. The new sister becomes a thread in the intricate design of our congregation, weaving her story into the larger narrative of faith, devotion and fellowship.

As we embrace our new sister, let us also reflect on the responsibility we bear as a Community to nurture and support her holistic growth. By opening our hearts and minds, we create an environment in which all members flourish and contribute to the collective spiritual journey. Together, we embark on a shared expedition of faith, strengthened by the bonds of unity that define us Sisters of Loretto.

Welcome Maribah!



From left, Shaista Aylas, Maribah Ishaq and Saima Munir study together at home in Lahore, Pakistan. Shaista and Saima entered the first phase of the Pakistan Formation Program in 2023.
Photo: Nasreen Daniel SL

a new Loretto sister in Pakistan



*Claudia Calzetta SL and Maribah Ishaq enjoy Easter in St. Louis at the end of March.
Photo courtesy of Claudia Calzetta SL*

'Maribah is a talented young woman who has great potential for Loretto in Pakistan and for the Loretto congregation. As she moved closer to the decision to pronounce her first vows, I observed a committed, enthusiastic, generous and loving woman. Loretto will be all the more enriched by her committed membership.'

Claudia Calzetta SL, Pakistan Formation Program director



*Shaista Ayla prepares bread at the Loretto home in Pakistan. Saima Munir, far right, lends a hand while Maribah Ishaq, in the background, forms bread.
Photo: Nasreen Daniel SL*



To donate to Loretto's work in Pakistan
Please use the envelope provided or visit our website:
www.lorettocommunity.org/donate



Annual Donor Report: 2023



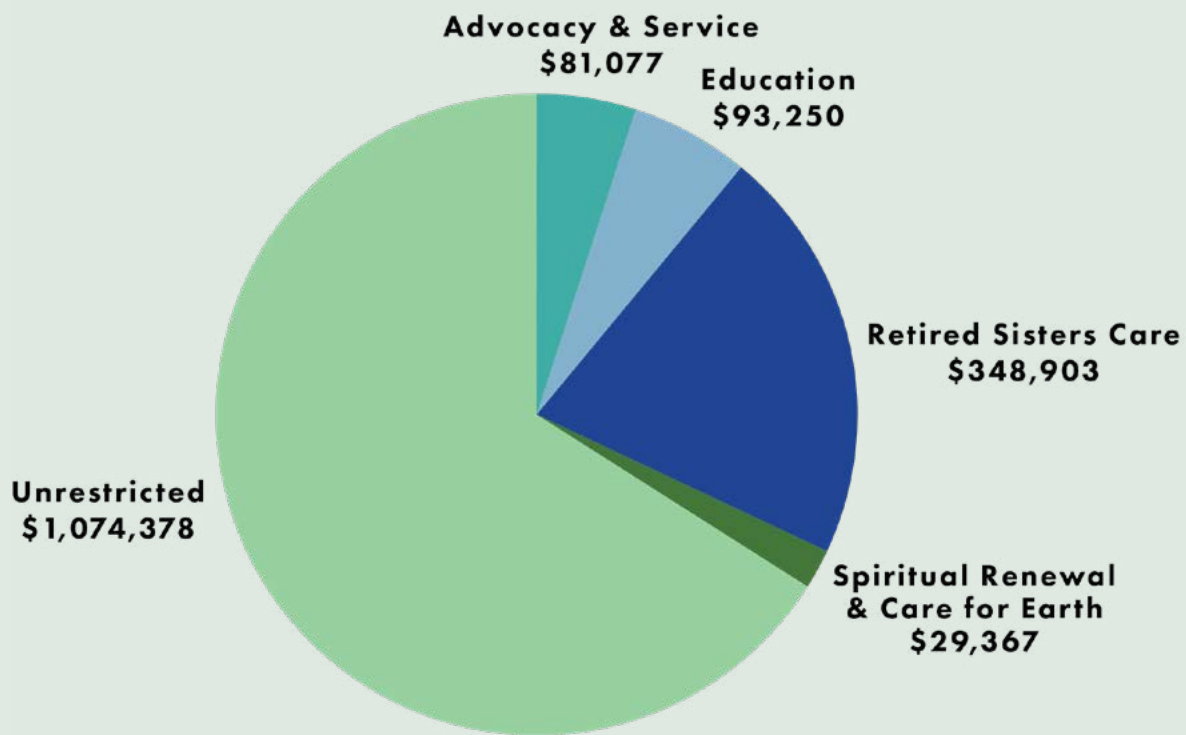
**\$1,626,975 in donations
received from 1,120 donors**

Children come out to greet Anna Koop SL and Mary Ann McGivern SL as they arrive at their school in Lahore, Pakistan, in April 2023. Photo: Mary Ann McGivern SL

*With joyous hearts
we give thanks*



2023 Donations



- Advocacy & Service:** Includes gifts to support serving those in need of food, shelter and medical care; supports our work advocating for peace, immigration justice, women's and children's rights and more.
- Education:** Includes gifts that support Loretto's commitment to education for all, including our mission in Pakistan, schools in Haiti and Ghana and more.
- Retired Sisters Care:** Includes gifts for the Retirement Fund, the Loretto Living Center, Motherhouse upkeep and more, ensuring that those who spent their lives giving to others are cared for as they age.
- Spiritual Renewal & Care for Earth:** Includes gifts for renewal and healing of ourselves and Earth through the retreat centers, Carbon Reduction Fund, Motherhouse Farm and more.
- Unrestricted:** Includes gifts that allow us the flexibility to put funds directly to use where they are most needed. (The total this year includes a significant one-time gift.)

Read about all of the funds to which our generous donors gave in 2023 on the following pages.

Annual Donor Report: 2023



Donations were made to these Loretto funds in 2023.

Anna Koop SL Ministry supports Anna's work with the unhoused and the ministry of the Denver Catholic Worker house. Watch a video about Anna's life and work here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s2zvdfa>.

Ann Manganaro Fund Supports purchases of medicine and other needs at the clinic Ann Manganaro SL founded in Guarjila, El Salvador. "Give me a Living Love: The Poems of Ann Manganaro SL" was published by Loretto in 2023 on the 30th anniversary of her death and can be ordered here: <https://www.lorettocommunity.org/about/artists-authors/books/> Read about a doctor inspired by Ann on [pages 20 and 21](#) of this magazine. Learn about Ann's life and work in the [spring 2023 issue](#) of *Loretto Magazine*.

Earth Education and Advocacy works to preserve and care for Earth at the Motherhouse and beyond. Notably, in January 2023, 650 acres, over 80% of Loretto Motherhouse property, was permanently preserved through a conservation easement. Loretto continued its commitment to the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform based on Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'* encyclical, and embraced *Laudate Deum*, the pope's urgent follow-up to *Laudato Si'*.

FST Sisters, Ghana, helps support the school and programs of the Daughters of the Most Blessed Trinity (FST), a Loretto Sister Community celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2024. Read about Loretto, the FST sisters and Ghana on [pages 22 and 23](#) of this magazine.

Jeannine Gramick SL Ministry advocates on behalf of LBGTQ+ rights and acceptance, particularly within the Catholic Church. Jeannine is co-founder of New Ways Ministry. She and other New Ways Ministry staff, including Matthew Myers CoL, met with Pope Francis for 50 minutes in 2023. See photo, [page 4](#) of this magazine.

Haiti Projects Fund supports the many schools, orphanages and social services of Little Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Barbara Wander CoL leads fundraising for this effort. The severe unrest this past year prevented Barbara from traveling to Haiti, though she continues to send much-needed funds. See the [spring 2023](#) issue for more.

Hunger Fund distributes aid to various organizations, as well as groups served by Loretto Community members



Children wash up in Haiti. See photos and an article about work being done in Haiti in the [spring 2023](#) issue of *Loretto Magazine*. Photo by Barbara Wander CoL

(for instance, the Jemez Helping Hands food pantry at the Jemez Pueblo in New Mexico). St. Mary's Academy (Denver) students help raise funds for this program. See the article about this fund starting on [page 12](#) of this issue.

Immigrant Support and Advocacy helps to meet the needs of migrants on both sides of the Mexico/U.S. border and in the agricultural fields of the U.S. Funds help with food, laundry and shelter, educational trips, presentations and work with groups on the ground advocating for change. Includes the work of the Latin America/Caribbean Committee and additional Loretto Community members around the country. Donations also include gifts to La Casita in Louisville, Ky., in memory of Guadalupe "Lupe" Arciniega SL who served immigrants' needs throughout her life. See the [winter 2024 issue](#) for more on this work.

Loretto Carbon Reduction Fund supports projects that mitigate carbon emission damage, help heal and balance Earth's ecosystems or provide education. In 2023 grants



were made to Preservation Farm and Garden in St. Louis, Sacred Earth Community Garden in Louisville, Ky., the Global Village Children's Project in Uganda, Springhouse Community School in Virginia and Biodiversity for a Livable Climate. Read about this fund in the [spring 2023 issue](#).

Loretto Feminist Network (LFN) acts for the empowerment of women and all people. This includes mobilizing support for the Convention to End Discrimination against Women and passing the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. In 2023 LFN published "Women of Spirit, Courage and Action," stories of women across generations embodying Loretto's mission to work for justice and act for peace. The book can be downloaded or ordered here: <https://www.lorettocommunity.org/about/artists-authors>.

Loretto Heritage Center: Archives and Museum documents and shares Loretto history through the lens of our members. Professional preservation efforts are essential to the work, which includes continuing research initiatives, developing interpretive exhibits and more. In 2023 programs included the launch of a genealogy project, the addition of 9,000 pictures to the digital photo collection and the creation of a display featuring art education in Loretto's history.

Loretto Justice Fellowship sponsors undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Texas, El Paso, with paid social justice internships at organizations serving immigrants and others in need. The fellowship launched in 2023 with seven fellows. Community building among the fellows and with Loretto is an important aspect of the program. Read more in the [winter 2024 issue](#).

Loretto Living Center at Loretto Motherhouse (previously Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary) provides care for Loretto sisters and co-members, former employees and friends and neighbors in need in rural Kentucky. The Living Center consistently receives five-star ratings and is a major employer in Marian County. In 2023 the Living Center began work on independent living apartments.

Loretto Mission in Pakistan serves communities in Lahore. Loretto Community members in Pakistan have taught children and seminarians, met the needs of neighbors, helped empower women, installed solar panels and provided training in their installation. In 2023 Maribah Ishaq entered the



Annie Rosenkranz, center, director of the Loretto Justice Fellowship program, poses with four of the seven 2023 Loretto Justice Fellows. From left: Alicia Villareal, Jessica Garcia, Annie, Larissa Meza and Anabel Theriault. Photo courtesy of Annie Rosenkranz

novitiate program and pronounces first vows in June 2024. Shaista Ayla and Saima Munir entered the formation program in 2023.

Loretto Motherhouse Fund supports care and maintenance of the Motherhouse buildings and grounds in Nerinx, Ky., and provides for appreciation events for residents and staff. Guests to the Motherhouse often remark on the beautiful upkeep of the property and buildings.

Loretto Motherhouse Farm raises grass-fed beef and grows non-GMO grains using conservation practices that keep a significant amount of carbon in the ground and out of the atmosphere. Regenerative farm practices are shared with others through farmer education events, group tours and the annual Ag Bash — in 2023, an estimated 500 guests attended. In 2023, a Good Ideas Field Day for farmers was held; due to its success, another is planned for 2024. Read more about the farm in the magazine's [spring/summer 2020 issue](#).

Loretto Motherhouse Nature Preserve Cemetery provides for green burials on three acres of woodland on the Motherhouse grounds.

Loretto Motherhouse Tree and Native Plant Fund purchases and plants trees and native plants to help mitigate climate change and add beauty at the Motherhouse in

Annual Donor Report: 2023



Volunteers take a break from spreading mulch. Students from Loretto Academy in El Paso, Nerinx Hall High School in St. Louis and St. Mary's Academy in Denver volunteered at the Loretto Motherhouse in June 2023. Photo: Theresa O'Rourke

Nerinx, Ky. In 2023 a new garden was planted behind the Living Center. Students from Loretto-affiliated high schools help with gardening during annual visits to the Motherhouse. See [page 34](#) of this issue for more on this fund.

Loretto Peace Committee advocates for the abolition of nuclear weapons and reduction of the U.S. military budget, and works with groups such as Nuns against Gun Violence which sponsored a Lenten fast in 2023. Read about Loretto's work to abolish nuclear weapons in the [winter 2021 issue](#).

Loretto at the UN works toward international peace, climate justice and for the rights of women and children. Each year, we host college interns and bring high school students to New York City to experience the U.N. In 2023, 15 students were among a group of 30 who joined Loretto for the 67th annual U.N. Commission on the Status of Women. The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dubuque, Iowa, partner with Loretto in this work.

Mary Ann Gleason SL's Ministry cares for patients at St. Mary's Hospital Lacor in Northern Uganda. Mary Ann has served in Uganda since 2013, primarily in oncology care and with patients with complications of HIV. A recent news story discussed Mary Ann's dedication and her presence with patients from early in the morning to late at night.

Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award honors students with partial college scholarships in memory of Mary Luke Tobin SL, renowned for her pursuit of social justice. A committee of Holy Family High School (Denver) staff, Loretto members and friends selects honorees based on demonstrated commitment to social justice. Scholarships have been awarded annually since 2012. Read about the award in the magazine's [fall 2023 issue](#).

Retirement Fund ensures that retirement provision is made for Sisters of Loretto who received little to no compensation for work in service ministries. Retired sisters volunteer as they are able, working on justice and peace issues, pastoral concerns and internal Loretto needs.

Retreat Centers: Cedars of Peace and Knobs Haven provide space for rest, beauty and transformation. Cedars offers eight cabins in a wooded area for those seeking solitude. Knobs hosts groups and individuals in two beautiful buildings on the Motherhouse campus. In 2023, 329 individuals were hosted at Cedars cabins for short or extended stays, and 800 attended group retreats at Knobs Haven. Read about the retreat centers in the [winter 2022-2023 issue](#).

Special Needs Fund provides long-range social change grants to organizations whose work reflects Loretto priorities. In addition, the fund assists individuals impacted by emergency events.

Where Funds Are Most Needed supports our mission and gives Loretto's leadership the flexibility to allocate funds as needed. Your confidence in our work is gratifying.



One of Loretto at the UN's most important activities has been participation at the annual U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, an international conference promoting girls' and women's rights. Students from St. Mary's Academy in Denver and Loretto Academy in El Paso regularly participate. Photo of 2023 attendees courtesy of Citadines Connect

Pauline Albin SL**January 25, 1933– February 18, 2024**

Pauline Albin, the eighth of 12 children, grew up in Brainard, Neb., a small village originally settled by those of Czech descent. She taught at Christ the King School in Louisville, Ky., was away for four years, then returned as principal. The school was in the west part of the city that became increasingly home to Black residents in the years Pauline was there. She was very involved in demonstrations and multi-racial meetings during those years. Later she was principal of St. Francis School in Santa Fe, N.M. In 1993 she went to Ghana, West Africa, the fulfillment of a childhood dream. For the next 18 years she was involved in education then catechetics. She served as vice chair of the Ghana National Catechetical Commission. Her last years she lived in community at Loretto Motherhouse.

**Patty Brush CoL****February 10, 1941 – February 11, 2024**

Patty Batton entered the Loretto novitiate in 1958 from Kansas City, Mo., leaving just before first vows. In 1966, Patty married John Brush, and they had three children. John died in 1995. "I had lost my best friend and life companion," Patty wrote later, when recounting her life. She accepted the invitation of Loretto friends to reconnect with the Community. She became a co-member in 2004 and for a decade served the Loretto Community in Kansas City as health care contact and hostess of Community Group #16. Many in Loretto enjoyed wonderful meals at Patty's. She moved to Loretto Living Center at Loretto Motherhouse in 2020. Her daughters and son and their families visited her often and had planned a birthday visit for the week after Patty died.

**Ann Skeffington SL****January 30, 1936 – March 28, 2024**

As a child, little Eleanor Ann "always knew I wanted to be a sister." After graduating from Newman High School, Sterling, Ill., she joined the Sisters of Loretto. Ann mainly taught kindergarten. She also served as a part-time teacher's aide, tutored and routinely helped family and others with homework. Ann loved working with children in any way she could, and taught in many schools. She loved Santa Fe, N.M.; it was the most beautiful place she ever saw, the place of her happiest memories. Ann lived near her family members in Illinois most of her religious life. She was well-known by the youngsters in her family for her zucchini and pumpkin breads. A quiet and private individual until her death, Ann gave Loretto her whole self for her whole life.



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

Memorials and Tributes of Honor

January 2024 — April 2024

In Honor of: Requested by:

Barbara Ann Barbato SL

Donna Marie Campbell

Tina Blandford

Ernestina and James Blandford, Jr.

Buffy Boesen SL

Mary Winifred Salopek

Johanna Brian SL

Anne Fajardo

Nasreen Daniel SL

Jacqueline St. Joan

Donna Day SL

Donald Cuddihee, Sr.

Jeannine Gramick SL

Nancy Krody

John Le Bedda, II

Carolyn Jaramillo CoL

Kim Anderson

Loretto:

**All Sisters at Loretto in Kansas
City, 1965-1974**

Kimberly Schlichter

Gina Miller

Penny Cuttone

Anndavid Naeger SL

Martha Alderson CoL

Suzanne Reasbeck

Barbara Nicholas SL

Harold and Bea Combs

Terry Purcell

Colette Purcell

Jessie Rathburn CoL

Libby Comeaux CoL

Anthony Mary Sartorius SL

Suzanne Reasbeck

Webster College Class of 1963

Carol Hohenberger

In Memory of: Requested by:

Pauline Albin SL

Sam and Vivian Brocato

Michael Lesch and Family

Marquita Monsour and Roger Metry

Janis Rothermel CoL

Sally Arpe

James Arpe

Lauretta Bedard

Bob and Patricia Triggs

Martha Belke SL

David and Susan Bischof

Michael and Kathleen Dicken

Paula Wilder Belleville

Martha Alderson CoL

Richard and Connie Allen

Kim Anderson

James and Rita Barry

Sally Barry

Thomas and Susan Beatty

John and Mary Carman

Patricia Cecil

Leo and Sharon Ciacio

Ellen Hage

Terrence and Stephanie Harris

Robert and Sally Hattemer

Rose Marie Hayden

Helen Ryan Kindler

Dan and Leslie Lanham

Steve and Donna Lanham

Jane Locke

William and Susan Martin

Delia McGrath

Karen Mcintosh

Mary Ann Neff

Virginia and Charles Nesmith

Marguerite Shulhafer

Cheryl Rumpke and Kristin Stewart

Gloria Stofan

Barbara Young

Adrienne Zanini

Curtis and Charlene Zoeller

Veronica Bonino

Barbara Martin

Mary Grace Boone SL

Mary Rogers

Bernadette Bowling SL

Brian and Rosemary Rosendale

Patricia Batton Brush CoL

Paula O'Connor

Alice Cavanaugh

Mary Vincent Breeck

Thomas Chew

Monica Chew

Doris Cuddihee

Donald Cuddihee, Sr.

Marilyn Cusick

Dorothy Cusick

Anthony Cuttone

Penny Cuttone

Lawrence and Eileen Dwyer

Mary Ellen Sinkiewicz

Mary Ely SL

Mary Ann Sullivan

Chris Fajardo

Anne Fajardo

Mary Jayne Fassel

Diane Fassel CoL

Marie Agnes Fobes SL

Bob and Toni Swanson

Barbara Gideon

James Arpe

Marie Noel Hebert SL

James Hebert

Joseph Highland
 Mary Highland
Margaret Ann Hummel SL
 Tracey Owens
Delores Kincaide SL
 Rose Marie Hayden
Barbara Jean Kinney
 Kristyn Gonnerman
Mary Lynn Meade Lally
 Kevin Lally
Ame Calistiana De Leon
 Ryan Ignatius Pratt
Mary Kenneth Lewis SL
 Gary Kress
Catherine Alice McCollom
 John and Cathryn Ulmer
Patricia Eve Singer McCracken
 Colleen Chappellet
Angela McManus
 Therese Stawowy CoL
Gordon Duncan Montgomery
 Rita Carlisle
 Bob and Audrey Davenport
 Catherine Isabelle Denton
 Andrew Leroy & Mary Katherine Horn
 Gregory Montgomery
 Pat and Lora Overstreet
 Gerry Sharpe
 Betty-Gayle Williams
 Rodney and Mary Wolford
Dianne Marie Myers
 Richard and Connie Allen
 Kim Anderson
 James and Rita Barry
 Thomas and Susan Beatty
 Gina Book
 Annie Bonn Clark
 Mary Anne Clark
 Jim and Dana Cox
 Ellen Hage
 Charolette Glenn Harris
 Rose Marie Hayden
 Judy Bowling Hoffman
 Dan and Leslie Lanham
 Jennifer Mattingly
 Chistina Monsour
 Mary Ann Neff

Virginia and Charles Nesmith
 Judith Sanderson
 Judy Yeager Schroeder
 Marguerite Dicello Shulhafer
 Barbara Sigler
 Ann Woosley Stamp
 Therese Stawowy CoL
 Gloria Stofan
 Kathleen Triplett
 Barbara Wander CoL
 Adrienne Zanini
Kimberly Page Myers
 Richard and Connie Allen
 Kim Anderson
 James and Rita Barry
 Thomas and Susan Beatty
 Virginia Branstrator
 Jim and Dana Cox
 Margaret Flynn
 Ellen Hage
 Rose Marie Hayden
 Helen Ryan Kindler
 Dan and Leslie Lanham
 Trina Mattingly
 Virginia and Charles Nesmith
 Therese Stawowy CoL
 Gloria Stofan
 Kathleen Triplett
 Barbara Wander CoL
 Elizabeth Wilson
 Adrienne Zanini
Margaret Nelson
 Margarita Covarrubias
Bud and Alva Nicholas
 Harold and Bea Combs
Rosalie Marie Phillips SL
 Thomas Stauder
 Raymond Stevison, Jr.
 Sean and Lisa Stevison
Carol Ann Ptacek SL
 David and Susan Bischof
 Frank and Patricia Ptacek
Cecille Reddin SL
 Rae Marie Taylor
Ellen Rehg
 Michael Rehg

Marie Joann Rekart SL
 John Rekart
Francis Louise Ritter SL
 Katharine Bick Merritt
Jack and Cecilia Sipes
 Ernestina and James Blandford
Dr. David J. Rock, Sterling, Ill., student
 Dr. Catherine Rock
Ida Romero, Loretto Heights College, 1961
 Madonna DuCharme
Margaret "Maggie" Ryan
 Mary Pat, Richard and Mary Hennicke
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schmidt
 Regina Schmidt
Rose Alma Schuler SL
 Donald Cuddihee, Sr.
Bernadette Romero Seick, Loretto Heights College, 1962
 Madonna DuCharme
Magdalen Mary Skees SL
 Sheila O'Donnell-Schuster
Ann Skeffington SL
 Deborah Bowers and Family
 Joan Marie Lesage
 Joann Malmberg
 John and Janet Payne
 Theresa Wolf
Helen Teter
 Lynne Newton
Ann Virginia Tighe SL
 Jim and Peggy Bischof, Jr.
Mary Luke Tobin SL
 Mary Sue Anderson
Concetta Torrillo SL
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Rita Triggs
 Bob and Patricia Triggs
Francis Edna Tucker SL
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Frances Weber SL
 Marie Gallant Nemec
Bernardine Wiseman SL
 Mary Roscoe
Theresa Louise Wiseman SL
 Mary Roscoe



Plantings in honor of loved ones bring new life to the Loretto Motherhouse



How might we honor those we love and also bring healing to Earth?

A living tribute is a wonderful way to let our love for friends and family members shine. We might give in honor of a loved one's birthday, or to recognize a life milestone or to reflect our love for one who has died. Loretto's Native Tree and Plant Fund offers an avenue to add healing beauty to Earth while recognizing our loved ones (or even ourselves! — are you celebrating a milestone? a gratitude?). Holidays like Mother's Day and Father's Day are fitting opportunities to show love while honoring Earth.

Recently, plantings have been added at Loretto's Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky., in memory of Loretto members. Carol Ann Ptacek SL's family gave so that trees could be planted in her honor. Carol Ann died in April 2023, and trees were planted in April 2024. Mary Anne Reese CoL, who died in December 2022, asked friends and family to donate to the fund if they chose to give in her memory. Seven donors contributed to the fund. Trees and other plants purchased in Mary Ann's name were planted outside the Loretto Living Center at Loretto Motherhouse, bringing the healing beauty of nature to those whose windows overlook that area.

The fund was established many years ago when Anthony Mary Sartorius SL prioritized planting trees at the Motherhouse. Its scope has since broadened. Susan Classen CoL, Loretto's ecosystem manager, explains, "We've learned more about the role, not only of trees, but also of other native plants in mitigating the effects of climate change, and we expanded the fund to include other plant species." In addition to the plantings mentioned above, fund projects include the renovation of the Motherhouse dining room courtyard and the tree grove.

If you would like to honor Earth and contribute to its healing in a tangible way, you may [donate online](#) or send a check to the Sisters of Loretto, 515 Nerinx Road, Nerinx, KY 40049. To donate online to the tree and native plant fund, select "Other ministries," and in the comments box on the following page, type in "Tree and Native Plant Fund." You may also support Loretto's environmental healing work by donating to the Carbon Reduction Fund. To donate to this fund, select its name from the drop-down menu or add a note to your mailed-in donation. Thank you, as always, for supporting Loretto's healing work!

[Donate](#)



Planting in the name of love! Susan Classen CoL and volunteer Esther Hurlburt plant two redbud trees purchased through donations given in honor of Carol Ann Ptacek SL by her family, in addition to a dogwood tree. Susan says, "The Motherhouse has a number of redbud and dogwood trees that are in decline so we are planting clusters of new trees close to the old ones so that they will be well established before the older trees die." Joe Graves, Motherhouse groundskeeper who cares for the campus trees and has planted many, is not pictured here.

Photo: Rachel Brahm



Karen Bess, retired landscape architect specializing in native plants, volunteers her time to help design and plant a new garden at Loretto Motherhouse. The trees and plants were purchased in honor of Mary Anne Reese CoL, who died in December 2022.

Photo: Susan Classen CoL



Postscript

Dear Loretto Friends,

Loretto's good work is illustrated in each *Loretto Magazine*. This issue also includes the Annual Report showing all the areas of our work in 2023 to which donations were made. More than 1,100 people from coast to coast in the U.S., and beyond, made more than 1,800 donations! We are very grateful.

You may have heard of blessing baskets made by weavers in poor communities who are paid well for their work. The baskets are beautiful and come in different sizes. As I thought of all of our donors I envisioned a very large basket. We could drop in donors' names one by one, filling our hearts at Loretto with gratitude as the basket overflowed.

I am a donor to Loretto. St. Francis's words, "It is in giving that we receive," ring true to me. Support to feed hungry people feeds our souls. Support for sheltering people who lack housing warms our hearts. Support to ensure the rights of immigrants reminds us that we are all worthy. Support for planting young trees gives us hope for the future. Support for the upkeep of the Motherhouse makes

us all a part of good stewardship. Support for sisters who teach now, and for the retired sisters who taught so many, reminds us of the invaluable gift of education we received.

If we could all get together, we might have a second very large basket. Each donor could drop in a note about what we have received through our gift.

We are all in this together, sharing in the giving and receiving that enables change to occur and love to grow. With overflowing baskets and overflowing hearts, Loretto thanks you!

Gratefully,



Virginia Nesmith
Development Director

vnesmith@lorettocommunity.org

Imagine filling a giving basket with the names of our donors. It would overflow, just as our hearts overflow with gratitude.



Photo: Virginia Nesmith



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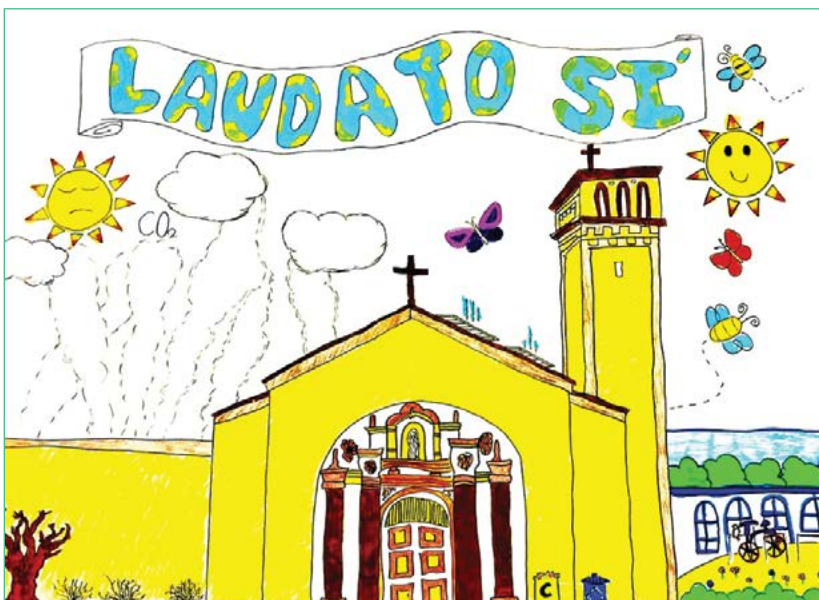
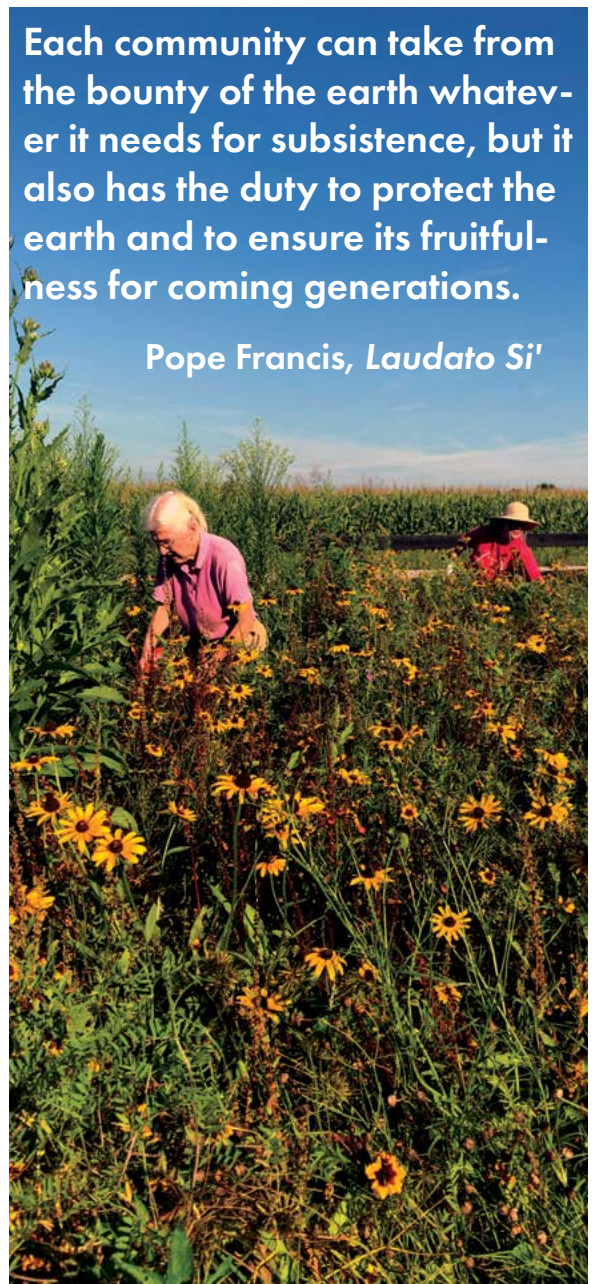
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Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*



Loretto teaches about Earth, cares for Earth. (More about these images on [page 2.](#))