

Celebrating Loretto's

Sharon Palma CoL

Mary Jean Friel CoL



When I joined Loretto, part of our group went to Denver, to the newly established novitiate. This is where I was first introduced to migrants. With the encouragement of many sisters, I was able to become an organizer with the United Farm Workers, Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Worker Ministry. These experiences and work on Loretto Community committees are with me today.

In 1975, my life changed from vowed to co-membership, and my life continued in Loretto. My life in the Community has been a joyous journey. Community is so important for our mission.

Loretto has supported me and my family my whole life. Our Community, our Spirit-filled life, our friends far and near are so precious and empower us to keep on trekking through each day.

Since joining Loretto, the unfolding of my life has been full of surprise and expansion. Loretto offered and supported service work as it was impossible to dream of as a 21-year-old: attending the U.N. with Betty Obal SL, going to Chiapas, Mexico, with Mary Peter Bruce SL, attending another year at the U.N. where we witnessed Japanese victims of the bombing of Hiroshima forgiving us, their perpetrators; later, welcoming and bandaging immigrants finding their way through the scorching desert at Nogales, Ariz. The experience of Susan Carol McDonald SL and Mary Nelle Gage SL in Vietnam impacted me so much that I found myself with my first child, a baby boy from a Saigon orphanage, and two teenage girls, Hua and Thuan, who joined us and became family!

There is more ... including 30 years in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico working with and learning from the Jemez Native American Pueblo peoples — but the lasting truth is that I have been exposed to love, prayer in many forms and to service throughout my life in Loretto. The God I thought I knew as a young 21-year-old has exploded into a God of all nationalities, all faiths, all colors, all faces, all possibilities, all parts of the world. For my life, and all of the lives lived in Loretto, I am eternally grateful.

golden jubilarians!

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Marcella Shields CoL



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I am deeply grateful to the Loretto Community for the many opportunities and encouragement I was given in my work in a maximum security prison hospital, in the founding of the Toronto Children's Peace Theatre — still a beacon of hope in our violent world — and the opportunity to work with our Loretto office at the U.N. on a disarmament, peace and security committee.

My life has truly been enriched beyond words for being invited and encouraged “to work for justice and act for peace because the Gospel urges us.”



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We also extend hearty congratulations to Linda Gonzalez CoL.