

Loretto Heritage Center Archives and Museum

Finding Aid: Personal Mission Materials – Sr. Maureen McCormack, SL

LHC17.X

Date Range: 1954-2020

Creator: Sr. Maureen McCormack, SL

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: English, Spanish

Access Restrictions: Access to materials in the Loretto Heritage Center archives are granted at the discretion of Heritage Center staff and the Loretto Community.

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Citation: LHC17.X Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Maureen McCormack, SL, [Folder i.d.] [Folder Title], Sisters of Loretto Heritage Center and Archives (Nerinx, KY)

Creator of Material Biography: Maureen Frances McCormack was born on October 5, 1932 in St. Louis, MO to parents John and Ozzara McCormack. Maureen had three sisters, a set of twins, Janet and Jean, who were a year older, and a younger sister, Mary Beth.

She attended grade school at St. Peter's School, then Ursuline Academy. She graduated from Nerinx Hall High School in 1950. Afterwards, she went to Webster College and received her B.A. in Elementary Education and a minor in Philosophy in 1954. During the summer of 1954, she traveled abroad in Europe, then returned to enter the postulancy on October 10, 1954. She received the habit on May 24, 1955, and took her first vows on May 24, 1955. Her final vows were on August 15, 1962. Her original name was Sister Ann Maureen, but she changed it in September of 1966 to Sister Maureen.

Her first mission was teaching at St. Michael's school in Houston, TX, where she taught 4th - 8th grade for three years. After, she enrolled full-time at Denver University, where she earned a M.A. in Counseling and Guidance in 1961. She then went on to work on a Ph.D. of Psychology and Education, completing the degree with her research on Women's Religious, Moral, and Intellectual-aesthetic Values. This research was partly funded through a research grant (\$7500) from the US Office of Education. While earning her degree, she was a part-time Assistant Professor for the Education Department at Loretto Heights College, and was the Dean of Students there from 1964-1970.

She then resigned from her position to become the first Coordinator of Community Life Development for the Sisters of Loretto, and was in this position from 1970 - 1978. Her work with the Ira Progoff Journal Workshops began at this time, in 1972, and continued until 2004. She was self-employed as a Human Resources Consultant from 1978 - 1986, working with various schools, hospitals, parishes, and religious congregations by developing administrative effectiveness, conflict management, and life development programs. In 1986 she was elected as the President of the Sisters of Loretto, and served for two terms until 1994. She took a well-earned sabbatical in 1995.

Sr. Maureen was involved in many different organizations and attended numerous conferences and seminars to expand her knowledge. Her work on various religious boards spanned over 20 years. She helped pioneer Women's History Week and worked to get it celebrated and recognized in Colorado in 1980, and she continued to work for women's rights through her trips to several U.N. Conferences on Women; she attended in 1980 in Copenhagen, in 1985 in Nairobi, and in 1995 in Beijing. At the 1995 UN Conference on Women, she organized and presented an NGO roundtable on Women's Rights.

Sr. Maureen traveled extensively, and found herself in Japan in 1990 for Entrance Ceremonies for the first group of students enrolled at Teikyo Loretto Heights College; at the White House in 1993; and even in Ghana in 1996 to see the work being done by Sr. Marie Ego.

She also became involved with The Natural Step (TNS), an organization that aimed to demonstrate science-backed materials and methods that can assist corporations and organizations in switching to a more ecological-based method of operations. She was one of the first trained instructors in the United States, and worked with this group from 1996 - 2002. Sr. Maureen was heavily involved in the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado (TIA-CO) first as a board member beginning in 2001, and then as President from 2006 - 2008.

On October 13th, 2017, Sr. Maureen moved from Denver, CO to the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, KY. She then moved to the Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary, writing more homilies and prayers, from 2018 until her death on September 24, 2020. She was buried in the Loretto Nature Preserve Cemetery.

Description: Series consists of materials collected by, created by, or about Sr. Maureen McCormack from her years as a Sister of Loretto. While Sr. Maureen had a prolific life, there are some gaps in her collection. There is not much material from her years as a teacher and consultant, with most of the materials dating after 1970. This collection consists of correspondence, journals, published articles, speeches, promotional flyers and materials from events, and outlines and agendas from conferences and presentations Sr. Maureen gave/attended. The collection also contains VHS/audio cassettes that have been digitized; those include: The Natural Step presentations/training, Ghana 1996, Chiapas interviews, radio interviews, and a presentation on the Breakfast at the White House.

Related Materials: Personnel file (LHC04.A.a Box McC), dissertation (LHC04.D.a.01.48), published book, Journal Reflections, no publication date (LHC.13.A.a.01.48).

Related Publications: A Century of Change: 1912 – 2012, Cardon Press, 2012.

Arrangement

Materials were donated to LHC in 2018, and stored until processed in 2025. Materials were grouped into sub-series by the summer archives intern, Ashley Doughty. In grouping the materials into sub-series, it was determined that after 1990, Maureen had kept large amounts of paper records. Most of this material was not related to her personal missions, and was weeded. Materials that were not directly related to Sr. Maureen but relating to the Loretto Community were separated out and discarded if a duplicate. Wire spiral bindings and staples were removed from journals and other writings. VHS tapes and audio cassettes that were either duplicates or not related to the work of Sr. Maureen were weeded. Photographs and slides that were of the family or vacation were discarded or given to her family. Materials relating to John F-X Burton were donated to the Jesuit Society Archive. Materials relating to The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado were donated to that organization. A memoir of Otto Willner was sent to the Leo Baeck Institute at the Center for Jewish History.

Subseries 1: Correspondence, LHC17.X.a

Description: LHC17.X.a consists of her correspondence with family during her early years as a novice and sister, as well as correspondence organized chronologically from various contacts. There is also correspondence relating to personal notes and thank you cards she received throughout her lifetime.

Box 1: LHC17.X.a.01

Folder 1: Family Letters 1954 – 1962
Folder 2: Other Personal Letters
Folder 3: Miscellaneous Letters 1960 – 2006

Subseries 2: Spoken Engagements, LHC17.X.b

Description: LHC17.X.b contains all of the talks and speeches Sr. Maureen gave in her lifetime.

Box 1: LHC17.X.a.01

Folder 4: Talks and Speeches 1970 – 2016
Folder 5: Homilies 1979 – 2020
Folder 6: Prayers and Rituals 1976 – 2005
Folder 7: Interviews 1973 – 2017
Folder 8: Council for the Advancement of Small Colleges 1980
Folder 9: Immaculate Heart Community Retreat 1999
Folder 10: Teikyo/Loretto Heights University 1990 – 1997
Folder 11: Journal Conference 2008

Subseries 3: Reflections, LHC17.X.c

Description: LHC17.X.c consists of the reflections that Sr. Maureen wrote, which were stylized journal entries. These reflections were used in many different parts of Maureen's life - as newsletter openers, speech openers, and were compiled later into a book titled, Journal Reflections.

Box 1: LHC17.X.a.01

Folder 12: Number Reflections
Folder 13: Unnumbered Reflections
Folder 14: Journal Reflections Book Draft

Subseries 4: Written Works, LHC17.X.d

Description: LHC17.X.d contains the written works of Maureen, including supplemental information on her dissertation, published articles, workshop outlines, and her journals. The

journals are organized chronologically, with the binding and front and back covers removed for space reasons.

Box 1: LHC17.X.a.01

Folder 15: Supplemental Dissertation Materials 1966 – 1968
Folder 16: Dissertation Correspondence 1963 - 1969

Box 2: LHC17.X.d.02

Folder 1: Articles 1976 – 1992
Folder 2: Workshop Outlines
Folder 3: Community Focus 1973 – 1978
Folder 4: Miscellaneous Printed Documents 1961 – 2016
Folder 5: Journals 1971 – 1982
Folder 6: Journals 1986 – 1994
Folder 7: Journals 1996 – 2018
Folder 8: Undated Journal Entries

Subseries 5: Ira Progoff Journal Workshops, LHC17.X.e

Description: LHC17.X.e contains materials related to Sr. Maureen's work with the Ira Progoff Journal Workshops. She conducted these workshops across the country for more than 25 years.

Box 2: LHC17.X.d.02

Folder 9: Background Information
Folder 10: Dialogue House Correspondence 1972 – 2001
Folder 11: Training Booklets 1991 – 1999
Folder 12: Notes on Training Process
Folder 13: Scheduling and Correspondence 1975 – 1990

Box 3: LHC17.X.e.03

Folder 1: Workshop Flyers and Promotional Materials 1981 – 2004
Folder 2: Institute of Women Today Correspondence 1978 – 1988
Folder 3: Workshop Articles
Folder 4: Journal Sample and Instructions
Folder 5: Workshop Evaluations 1976 – 2001
Folder 6: Thank You Notes/Correspondence 1979 – 2004

Subseries 6: Women's Rights/Feminist Work, LHC17.X.f

Description: LHC17.X.f consists of materials related to Sr. Maureen's work on Women's History Week and other feminist endeavors. She was instrumental in getting Women's History Week recognized and celebrated in Colorado, and lead the week of celebrations in 1980.

Box 3: LHC17.X.e.03

- Folder 7: Women's History Week Work 1979 – 1980
- Folder 8: Colorado Women's History Week Report 1980
- Folder 9: Articles and Correspondence 1979 – 1998
- Folder 10: Women's Forum of Colorado 1988 – 1990
- Folder 11: The 1979 Summer Institute Reunion Weekend 2004

Subseries 7: Trips, LHC17.g

Description: LHC17.X.g holds information about some of the trips Sr. Maureen took during her time as Sister of Loretto. There are no materials related to trips taken before 1980.

Box 3: LHC17.X.e.03

- Folder 12: U.N. Decade for Women Conference – Copenhagen 1980
- Folder 13: Causeway to Kenya 1985
- Folder 14: U.N. Conference on Women – Nairobi 1985
- Folder 15: Central America 1987
- Folder 16: Colorado State Leadership Initiative Trip to USSR 1989
- Folder 17: Colorado State Leadership Initiative Trip Reports
- Folder 18: Japan 1990
- Folder 19: Breakfast at the White House 1993
- Folder 20: Chiapas Correspondence 1994
- Folder 21: Chiapas Reports and Articles

Box 4: LHC17.X.g.04

- Folder 1: U.N. Conference on Women – Beijing 1995 Background Information
- Folder 2: U.N Conference on Women – Beijing 1995 NGO Forum
- Folder 3: Ghana 1996

Subseries 8: Organizational Involvement, LHC17.X.h

Description: LHC17.X.h consists of materials relating to Sr. Maureen's work in other organizations outside of the Sisters of Loretto.

Box 4: LHC17.X.g.04

- Folder 4: The Theresians 1987 – 1989
- Folder 5: The Natural Step Background Information
- Folder 6: The Natural Step Training 1995 – 1996
- Folder 7: The Natural Step Flyers and Promotional Materials
- Folder 8: The Natural Step Presentation Notes, Agendas, Outlines
- Folder 9: The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado Background Information

Folder 10: The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado Correspondence 2000 – 2008
Folder 11: The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado Talks and Writings 2002 – 2006
Folder 12: The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado Reports to the Board 2003 – 2011
Folder 13: The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado School Voucher Lawsuit 2003
Folder 14: Multicultural Mosaic Foundation 2007 – 2011

Subseries 9: Other Engagements, LHC17.X.i

Description: LHC17.X.i holds other activities of Sr. Maureen.

Box 4: LHC17.X.g

Folder 15: St. Thomas Seminary Class PS 210 1982
Folder 16: Bighorn Leadership Development Program 2005

Subseries 10: Photographs and Slides, LHC17.X.j

Description: LHC17.X.j contains all photographs and slides from the personal missions of Sr. Maureen.

Box 5: LHC17.X.j

Folder 1: Colorado Women's History Week 1980
Folder 2: Journal Workshop at Gatesville, TX 1982
Folder 3: U.N. Conference on Women – Nairobi 1985
Folder 4: Colorado State Leadership Initiative Trip to USSR 1989
Folder 5: Japan 1990
Folder 6: U.N. Conference on Women – Beijing 1995
Folder 7: Ghana Trip 1996
Folder 8: The Natural Step 1997 – 1998
Folder 9: The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
Folder 10: Multicultural Mosaic Foundation
Folder 11: Webster University Humanitarian Award 2010