

Loretto

MAGAZINE

Fall 2025 Volume 66, No. 3

Inside ...

Loretto Living Center is a healing haven
Denver Catholic Worker's 46-year legacy
Artists find inspiration at Motherhouse
Santa Fe Opportunity School a Godsend
... and more



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Front cover:

The Loretto Motherhouse barn quilt was installed in 2009. The pattern is known as a log cabin, appropriate to Loretto, which was established as the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross in 1812, when log cabins were common in the region. Loretto's quilt panels come together to form a cross. The central red square in each panel represents warmth, love and the center of the home, according to Anndavid Naeger SL. During the American Civil War, when this pattern was all the rage, log cabins were associated with Abraham Lincoln, who was born in a one-room log cabin 29 miles southwest of Loretto Motherhouse.

Photo: Will Myers



Back cover:

Michelle Essex, Loretto Living Center administrator, interacted with the local community and shared information about the Living Center with the assistance of a young helper at the annual Ag Bash event at Loretto Motherhouse in August.

Photo: Will Myers



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:
www.lorettocommunity.org/join-us/co-members

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Dear Reader,

As you will see in this issue of *Loretto Magazine*, Loretto's work continues to be shaped by the goals we set in 2024: Care of the Sisters, Mission, Spirituality and Planning for the Future. We also celebrate the lives of

Loretto Co-Members marking significant jubilees with 25 years of dedicated service.

When I think about the care of our Sisters, I am so grateful for Michelle Essex, administrator of the Loretto Living Center. Michelle has spent her entire working life at Loretto, as did her grandfather Paul and uncle Joey. She is a guiding light who leads the way in providing extraordinary care to our Sisters and others from the wider community. Staff member Chris Mattingly is among those who help us nurture our spiritual life at the Center. I look forward to sharing more about the variety of prayer forms we use to deepen our spiritual growth and build community.

As you may know, there are many mission and outreach activities that we create, take part in and sponsor. In this issue, we focus on several initiatives at the Motherhouse: the artist-in-residence program, the Heritage Center Quilt Show, a 5K run through the property, summer camp in the educational barn and the generous service of 11 high school juniors

who gave their time and energy to help with painting, weeding, spreading mulch and more. In future issues we will share other wonderful ways we share our gifts and space with others.

While our goals are future oriented, we recognize the importance of reflecting on our history and the works of so many before us and the many who are still with us. Loretto Sister Anna Koop and her friend Jennifer Haines are among those who offered hospitality for more than 40 years to those experiencing homelessness in Denver. Both recently moved to the Motherhouse. The Santa Fe Opportunity School reminds us of our deeper past. These missions of the days gone by encourage us to continue working on our goals with renewed commitment.

Three Loretto Community members went to Oak Flat, Ariz., this summer to pray with the people of that area for a miracle to save their sacred mountain from destruction by a proposed copper mine on that very spot. They brought back a phrase from a prayer, "One of the longest journeys is from the brain to the heart." It rang true to me. May God help us all on that journey as we strive to "act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God" -Micah 6:8.

Blessings,

Sr. Mary E. (Buffy) Boesen SL
President of Loretto



Mary's Lake on the Loretto Motherhouse campus in Nerinx, Ky., glows with fall colors in this October 2024 photo.

Photo: Earna Volk CoL

Students volunteer time and talent



Alicia Ramirez SL, far left, helps students make scones at Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. In the background, far right is Joyce Minkler CoL. Photo courtesy of Rachel Brahm



Students pause for a photo while cleaning the porch on one of the Motherhouse homes. Photo courtesy of Rachel Brahm

By Rachel Brahm

Students and chaperones from Loretto Academy in El Paso, St. Mary's Academy in Denver and Nerinx Hall High School in St. Louis arrived at the Motherhouse campus in Nerinx, Ky., on May 31 to kick off another Loretto Schools Volunteer Week. The week is a whirlwind of learning, exploring, conversing and working.

The first day and a half is always a crash course on all things Loretto Motherhouse, its grounds and history. After a successful orientation on Saturday to go over the week ahead, the students and chaperones spent Sunday attending the prayer service in the church, enjoying a campus and museum tour with Reba Weatherford, director of the Heritage Center, and experiencing a meaningful discussion with Susan Classen CoL about Apache tribal members' efforts to protect a sacred site at Oak Flat, Ariz.



Kathleen Tighe SL, center, enjoys time with student volunteers. Photo courtesy of Rachel Brahm

Bright and early Monday the students began their full week of experiences. Groups would work throughout the week on projects that included — take a deep breath, this is quite a list! — cleaning headstones in Our Lady of Sorrows Cemetery, placing cages around newly planted trees with Loretto Motherhouse Farm Director Cody Rakes, laying brick chips at Cedars with Susan and volunteer Aaron Casada, mulching the path around Mary's Lake with Motherhouse staff member Joe Graves and Mary Swain SL, scraping and painting picnic tables, clearing the Nature Run 5K path with Motherhouse Education and Outreach Coordinator Angela Rakes and cleaning porches, the mobile home, outdoor furniture and the floor of the barn.

The students enjoyed tours of the Motherhouse Farm and Cedars of Peace, experienced Bioblitz with New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future, baked scones with Alicia Ramirez SL and Sue Charmley SL, created a display with Heritage Center staff and made peace booklets and crafts with Carolyn Jaramillo CoL. They enjoyed a hot dog roast and flying kites, as well as crafts with Loretto Living Center residents. To say it was a busy week for the volunteers and chaperones is an understatement.

Thank you to all 11 students and the teachers who participated. We are grateful!

An active summer at Loretto Motherhouse

Summer camp explores "Wild Things" at the Motherhouse

Loretto hosted "Where the Wild Things Are," a nature- and education-centered camp for kids 6 to 12 years of age. New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future, Loretto's partner in the adventure, shares, "Over this vibrant and energetic week, we welcomed 40 enthusiastic campers who dove headfirst into hands-on outdoor experiences, creative discovery and meaningful community-building. ... From exploring wooded trails to engaging in eco-friendly activities and reflective nature play, every day was packed with laughter, learning and a deepening appreciation for the natural world. From hayrides and nature scavenger hunts to hands-on crafts and meaningful service projects, campers experienced the joy of outdoor adventure while deepening their understanding of the environment."



A child enjoys a camp activity.
Photo: Will Myers



'Hurray! It's race day!' Misty Bivens is excited to run.

Catch me if you can! Motherhouse holds inaugural 5K

The Motherhouse hosted its first annual Nature Run 5K, with more than 130 participants in person and virtually, making the wholesome fundraiser a resounding success. The course wandered through woodlands, around lakes, along grassy trails and over gravelled paths. Education booths, activities and a food truck added to the day's appeal. The run, organized by Angela Rakes, Motherhouse education and outreach coordinator, showcased the campus, residents and staff. We hope you'll join us next year!

Photos: Will Myers



Pat McCormick SL, left, and Eleanor Craig SL encourage participants.



At the start of the race, runners are eager to set out on the run through meadows and woods and around lakes.

Loretto Justice Fellowship thrives

By Annie Rosenkranz, Loretto Justice Fellowship director



The 2025-2026 Justice Fellows gather for orientation. Photo: Larissa Meza

Facing the unique challenges of our times with determination and resolve, the Loretto Justice Fellowship program welcomes its largest cohort to date with 16 Fellows serving with eight partner organizations in El Paso. The fellows come from the communities they serve, driven by their own experiences toward mission-driven careers, and range in age from 19 to 48; they have experienced housing and food insecurity, substance abuse and disability. They are first-generation college students, come from immigrant families, are mothers and justice-seekers.

Our Fellowship’s model proves transformative. The Fellowship doesn’t just prepare future changemakers — it sustains them. Fellows have consistently reported profound growth in self-awareness, leadership and their ability to collaborate across lines of difference.

Placement partner organizations have affirmed that fellows significantly and meaningfully expand their organizations’ capacity to serve, while university collaborators note stronger leadership and commitment to justice.

With deeper partnerships, stronger networks and firm resolve, the Loretto Justice Fellowship is not just surviving these times — it’s thriving. The future is hopeful for those called to walk together in the work of justice.

In the photo above, our 2025-2026 Justice Fellows pose during our recent orientation at Loretto Academy in El Paso; front row, from left, are Leslie Sanchez, Carolina Cardoza-Herrera, Stephanie Menchey, Astrid Ochoa; second row: Deb Ledesma, Layla Rivera, Genesis Rodriguez, Daniela Felix, Ashley Vallecillo; third row: Giulianna Alcantarapalai, Maxine Perez, Elizabeth O’Hara, Candice Licon, Luna Palacios; top row: Edward Smith, Saul Gutierrez.



Annie Rosenkranz is director of the Loretto Justice Fellowship program. Photo: Larissa Meza



At orientation, the Fellows begin to cultivate the relationships that are the hallmark of the Fellowship experience. In front, left, Loretto Justice Fellow Luna Palacios connects with Layla Rivera. In the background, from left, are Deb Ledesma, Edward Smith, Genesis Rodriguez and Elizabeth O’Hara. Photo: Larissa Meza



Loretto Justice Fellows Saul Gutierrez, left, and Astrid Ochoa talk about their El Paso placement sites and what drew them to serve. Photo: Larissa Meza

A prayerful vocation



Chris Mattingly has served the Loretto Living Center for many years.
Photo by Earla Volk CoL

Chris Mattingly is director of pastoral care at the Loretto Living Center at Loretto Motherhouse. Residents of the Living Center appreciate his thoughtful, compassionate and welcoming approach. One-on-one spiritual accompaniment, discussion groups and prayer gatherings, including contemplative and rosary, are regular offerings.

Watch a short video of Chris talking about his work at Loretto Motherhouse. Check out our Spotlight Video page here: www.lorettocommunity.org/spotlight.

You may also learn more about Chris and his work on [page 11](#) of this issue.

Spirituality has always been very essential to Loretto life, both personally and communally.

Christopher Mattingly
Loretto Living Center director of pastoral care



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

Vector World Maps

Loretto Living Center a healing haven



Posing for a photo on Valentine's Day last year — a fitting time to celebrate the love that flows through the Living Center — are 14 of 19 employees who have worked at the Center for 25 years and longer. The names of all 19 are Steve Gootee, 44; PJ. Mattingly, 44; Cheryl Mattingly, 43; Alice Mattingly, 42; Beverly Sims, 41; Darlene Reid, 38; Debbie Corbett, 36; Jeanette Johnson, 35; Krista Nalley, 35; Linda Drury, 34; Michelle Essex, 32; Thelma Miles, 31; Donna Fogle, 31; Renee Hagan, 30; Missy Bickett, 29; Stacy Ballard, 27; Lee Ann Roberts, 26; Patti Byrd, 25; Woody Woford, 25. *Photo courtesy of Michelle Essex*

The Loretto Living Center has consistently earned a 5-star rating with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Newsweek magazine recently listed the Center as one of America's Best Nursing Homes, followed by US News and World Report awarding it highest ratings for long-term care and short-term rehabilitation. The Center has twice been honored with the Best of Kentucky award by the Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities.

Together we care for each other with compassion and love.

Michelle Essex, administrator, Loretto Living Center

Michelle Essex's quote above expresses the reality at the heart of the Loretto Living Center (LLC). Formerly the Loretto Infirmary, the LLC is a nonprofit organization responsible for the operations of the Loretto Motherhouse nursing facility, which includes departments for nursing, food service, environmental services, pastoral care, social services, activities and administration, along with affiliations for therapy, diagnostic and physician services. Michelle, LLC administrator since 2009, has shared:

"We are a licensed long-term care facility currently caring for up to 63 residents. Our mission is to provide the highest standard of holistic care that promotes comfort, security and dignity for all residents in a homelike atmosphere. We strive to value each person, staff and resident and welcome them as a positive

addition to our community. We respect the dignity of our residents, encouraging, fostering and supporting them along their life journey. We recognize the rights and individual freedoms of all people and encourage that freedom toward the health, personal fulfillment and happiness of each of our residents. We value the dedication and reliability of our staff, residents and extended community. Together we care for each other with compassion and love."

Facts and awards cannot reveal the depth of commitment, compassion and care flowing through this healing center. Residents express deep gratitude for LLC staff, who give so much of themselves on a daily basis. LLC resident Agnes Ann Schum SL shares, "The staff and administration are professional, personable and caring, responding to each need as they are able. I am grateful to live here."

Living Center staff: Our greatest asset

The Living Center is blessed with dedicated, compassionate staff members. Read about a few of our longtime employees.

By Anndavid Naeger SL
Photos by Earna Volk CoL



Missy Bickett came in 1993 out of high school to work in the dietary department under the supervision of Eileen Kersgieter SL. In her early career, Missy also worked in the hospital in Lebanon, Ky., which led

her to get her nursing degree and finally a registered nurse license. Missy does the complicated paperwork required for Medicare and Medicaid payments. She said, "I have always liked working here. The Sisters have been supportive and caring through my years here. We work in a family atmosphere. We care about our residents and each other. We have always had a full house with a long waiting list. When employees leave, they often come back because it's just a good place to work."



Donna Fogle came up the Motherhouse hill when she was 12 years old proudly wearing her candy-striper pinafore. She gained much experience inter-

acting with the residents by running errands, pushing wheelchairs, etc. She was hired at 14 by Marie Lourde Steckler SL as a nurse aide. Kay Carlew SL saw potential in Donna and offered to tutor her in geometry, which helped her become a licensed practical nurse. Donna left the facility at one point and returned after 10 years to finally advance to her present position as quality care coordinator. In this position, Donna assists the director of nursing with ensuring high standards of resident care by coordinating and optimizing healthcare services and implementing quality improvement initiatives to enhance positive outcomes. She has been with us through many easy and challenging times for 31 years.



It's impossible to mention something about all the days these three women spend with us, but no matter what else is going on in their lives, when they arrive here, we are blessed by their faithful, cheerful, caring presence.

*Read an interesting in-depth history of the Infirmary/Living Center by Anndavid Naeger SL:
<https://bit.ly/LLChistory>.*



PJ Mattingly came to the Center 45 years ago, the same year as her brother, Motherhouse Maintenance Director Steve Gootee. She was hired by then-administrator Rose Alma Schuler SL. PJ started in the kitchen

and eventually became assistant manager and for many years, manager. She gradually ended up on the clinical side of the facility and edged toward her present position on the dietary staff. In this role, she is responsible for assessing the nutritional needs of residents and providing a plan of care to meet those needs while respecting resident preferences. Coming to work here, PJ says, has been an important and enjoyable part of her life. She likes the short distance to work and her schedule of three days one week and four days the next.

The staff here are very kind and always willing to help out with whatever I need.

Maureen Fiedler SL



Loretto is deeply grateful to all who have served at the Infirmary/Loretto Living Center, past and present. The care they give and the smiling faces they bring are cherished gifts.

Staff members include, clockwise from top left:

Angie Ballard, left, and Debbie Corbett serve in the nursing department.

Gracie Mattingly, left, and Annistyn Spalding are in food service.

Beverly Simms, left, and Jaisa Bridgewater work in environmental services.

Photos courtesy of Michelle Essex



Michelle Essex: Administrator extraordinaire



Photo: Larry Smith/Bisig Impact Group

Those Sisters who have mentored me, along with those I have cared for over the years, still influence my work today.

Michelle Essex, administrator, Loretto Living Center

Michelle Essex is one of Loretto's cherished longtime employees, having served as administrator of the Infirmary/Loretto Living Center for the past 16 years. Michelle was initially hired as a nurse's aide in 1991 at the age of 16 by Marie Lourde Steckler SL, the Infirmary's director of nursing. After Marie Lourde, several Sisters guided Michelle along her path, including Bea Klebba SL, who helped her study for the state registered nurse aide class; Carol Ann Ptacek SL, RN, who was the nurse supervisor at the time; and Cathy Smith SL, who encouraged her to apply for a social

service assistant position. In 2001, Michelle was appointed controller when Antoinette Doyle SL retired, and worked closely with Anthony Mary Sartorius SL, Motherhouse service coordinator. Michelle was encouraged by Kay Carlew SL, Infirmary administrator during these years, to

obtain a nursing home administrator's license, which she acquired in 2008. In 2009, she was appointed administrator by Loretto President Cathy Mueller SL. Michelle's Loretto journey has been a blessing to Michelle and the Community she serves.

Meet Chris Mattingly

By Anndavid Naeger SL
Photo by Earna Volk CoL



Chris Mattingly is director of pastoral care at the Loretto Living Center. There is a piece of belonging for everyone in his program, which he has been continuing to develop since 2018. When engaging with individuals and/or groups, ambiance in the gathering

space is important: windows with a nature view, lighting, lots of sunshine, appropriate music balanced with quiet space.

When visiting with individuals, Chris believes that listening is the most important element in bonding and building trust with each person. Listening is the essential element in

making space for people to feel their own importance and identify their purpose in life.

There is time for prayer services, contemplation, adoration, rosary and silence. Popular with many residents are the roundtable group gatherings. One such time is "Current Events." With this group gathering comes a discussion agreement: all are welcome, keep contributions civil, everyone is wrong sometimes, the moderator is neutral and each meeting concludes with prayer of healing of all issues discussed. Another group session is centered on mythology. These stories or beliefs are about a particular person, institution or situation and are exaggerated or fictitious in nature. Similar to a parable from Scripture, the participants are invited to place themselves into the story. The group focuses on myths so participants are freer to disagree with or even disapprove of the material and/or question the meanings.

Chris is a board-certified chaplain and third-year diaconal candidate in the five-year archdiocesan diaconate program. Along with his studies, his work here and his responsibilities to his wife and two young sons, life becomes rather hectic at times. But when he comes to the Loretto Living Center for the day, he brings his calm, prayerful presence, and we are grateful.

I love it here! I am very happy with the staff. They are very caring.

Joy Jensen SL, Loretto Living Center resident



Dedicated and skilled Loretto Living Center staff members take a moment from their busy day for a photo. Front row, from left, are Lisa Bowling, Wayne Wheatley, Michelle Essex. Back row from left, are Alyssa Millay, Alice Mattingly, Janet Osborne, Chris Mattingly, LeAnn Detherage, Brittany Edelen, Kristin Sims with Max, Stacy Ballard, Tiera Heady.

Photo courtesy of Michelle Essex

The Denver Catholic Worker: 46 years of love in action



This painting by Kristen Brunelli, who lived and served at the Denver Catholic Worker from 2012 to 2015, was hanging in the Catholic Worker house when fire destroyed the home in 2015. Though tarnished, the painting went on to grace the next two Catholic Worker homes. Kristen is now restoring her work. *Image used with artist's permission*

As the Denver Catholic Worker House merges with Angelica Village, the deep commitment to compassion and hospitality flows forward; decades of love are carried on into the future, just as a river flows into the ocean, bringing fresh nutrients to the ecosystem.

By Christina Manweller

Through more than four decades, tears, laughter, ups and downs, Anna Koop SL and Jennifer Haines, along with volunteers and residents, shared life with, and offered hospitality to, those in need in Denver. Anna was one of those who opened the Catholic Worker House in 1978. Jennifer came four years later. All these years, they held the home together, until the decision was recently made to merge with Angelica Village, a community that is complementary to the Worker's. Angelica, as Anna and Jennifer share, "has grown up in Denver over the past eight years with a vision, values, lifestyle and mission remarkably similar to ours. It is strong, caring and vibrant, with young leadership and a heart for the same populations of disenfranchised people we've always invited to live with us. We'll share our resources with them, and our residents are moving into their housing. Our kind of personal and egalitarian hospitality will continue, but no longer under our name."

The Denver Worker House rose from the ashes of a fire that destroyed the original home in 2015. Anna, Jennifer, volunteers and residents recouped and moved to a home owned by Emmaus Housing, a neighborhood of low-income rentals founded by Denver's Catholic Worker with the help of the Loretto Community. As time passed and fresh volunteers were not arriving to keep the home going, it made sense to merge with a community with like-minded values and commitments. And so it has come to be, and Anna and Jennifer have retired to Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky.

Our initial Spotlight Video featured Anna at the Denver Catholic Worker House. Watch here: <https://bit.ly/AnnaCW>

Even as the world becomes more dangerous and violent, here are people choosing to live differently, to live out what St. John of the Cross said, 'Where there is no love, put love, and you will draw out love.'

Marcus Hyde, live-in Denver Catholic Worker from 2012 to 2015; he currently serves as a defense attorney in New York City



With full hearts, residents and volunteers gather at the Worker House. From left, Anna Koop SL, Benjamin Dunning, Jennifer Haines, Kaylanne Chandler (carrying tiny baby Seeger) and Fally Nongo. *Photo courtesy of Jennifer Haines*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3

Renata Heberton, community leader and cofounder of Angelica Village says, "It has been a true and deep honor for our community to merge with the Catholic Worker, and it is humbling and inspiring to rise to the task of carrying the incredible torch that Anna, Jennifer and all who have been a part of the Catholic Worker have carried for so many years. The transition on our end has felt seamless while we aspire and strive for the values cultivated in the Catholic Worker movement. We feel grateful to have new members in our community who bring the wisdom, spirit and insights of the Catholic Worker in addition to bringing themselves. This helps us grow in our work."

The Angelica community was founded in West Denver in 2015 by a team that includes Jean East CoL, a mentor for Renata in the Social Work Department at the University of Denver. Jean continues to provide inspiration and guidance to Renata and the community.

Currently, Angelica Village is home to 21 households made up of 125 individuals. Renata shares, "We welcome all those who have been displaced by war, poverty and violence, which includes refugees, immigrants and folks from the U.S., in addition to those who are seeking and wanting to be a part of community life."

Thank you to Anna and Jennifer, and to all who have kept the Denver Catholic Worker spirit alive, and deep gratitude to Renata, Jean and everyone at Angelica Village for welcoming the Catholic Worker spirit to unite with their own.

Our work is to sow. Another generation will reap.

Dorothy Day

Anna Koop SL and Asenate, a refugee from Congo, delight in one another at the Denver Catholic Worker House. *Photo: Benjamin Dunning*



The Denver Catholic Worker: 1978 - 2024

For the past 46-plus years I have had the opportunity to make the Catholic Worker my life. What a gift that has been! ... I have loved living in this community, loved the richness of a huge range of people in my life: people who have suffered and brought their incredibly strong spirits to share with the community, people who have come to bring their love and dedication to support our efforts at the CW. All have been amazing gifts.

Anna Koop SL





Jennifer Haines, right, and Anna Koop SL relax at the Denver Catholic Worker House with a child living at the home shortly before the Worker merged with Angelica Village. *Photo: Benjamin Dunning*



Martha Crawley CoL lived at the Denver Catholic Worker House when this photo was taken at the home in 1980. A Sister of Loretto at the time, she is now a Co-Member. *Photo: Loretto Magazine, spring 1981*

What we would like to do is change the world — make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe and shelter themselves as God intended for them to do.

Dorothy Day,
Catholic Worker cofounder



The Denver Worker House ran a thrift store to raise funds for the mission and provide goods at reasonable prices. *Photo: Loretto Archives.*

Photos page 14:

At top, Anna Koop SL cares for two young children at the Worker House in 2008. *Photo: Loretto Archives*

At bottom, Anna is on kitchen duty at the Worker House. *Photo: Loretto Magazine, spring 1981*



Anna crafts pine coffins at the Worker House in the 1970s. *Photo: Loretto Archives.*

Celebrating Loretto's

Kathy Baldwin-Heitman CoL



My life in Loretto has been built in layers over many decades, each layer adding to the richness of my understanding of the significance of committing to be in this Community. I was first introduced to Loretto at the age of 12 when I entered Loretto education in Kansas City (Mo.) in the 7th grade. That earliest layer created an understanding of the essential practices of creative problem solving, collaboration and conflict resolution, along with loads of encouragement to find and express myself — to find my voice. Later, in my mid-20s, the next layer was added. I began to see clearly how the early lessons applied to my professional work and adult relationships, kicking off my personal walk with Spirit. At almost 40, I joined Loretto as a Co-Member — another layer that both bolstered and challenged my life journey. Now in my 60s, I am clear that the layers have together formed the very core of my life. I'm certain the layers continue to be formed as I now participate in new ways and find new perspectives for who I am and how I am called to participate in our world. I am forever grateful for growing up, growing outward and growing inward with Loretto at center.

Carol Colligan CoL



I fell in love with Loretto when I went to Webster College [now University] in fall of 1966 as a 24-year-old freshman non-traditional student. The nuns were older than I but not by so much; they embraced me as a peer. Being at Webster provided such a rich life, and I got very involved with school and just loved it.

I never felt I joined a congregation but rather a community. I fell in love with worship life. Each decade, things changed so much. The people change, faces change, and there's a spirit there, the Loretto spirit throughout all of it. ... It means a lot to me, just connecting with the Loretto Community.

It's the whole feeling of belonging to people and to a community, just knowing you can pick up the phone to call any member and say, "I need help." I never hesitate to reach out. We all approach belonging in our own way, and I feel like I'm a happy camper!

25-year jubilarians!!!

Patty Kane CoL



I am forever grateful for growing up, growing outward and growing inward with Loretto at center.

Kathy Baldwin-Heitman CoL

Being a Co-Member of Loretto has been a blessing to me these past 25 years and has exceeded my expectations. As a Nerinx Hall alum of 1966, the Loretto seeds were planted. I drifted away from the Catholic Church, but the seeds were still growing and beginning to bud. Nursing led me to Volunteers in Service to America; I volunteered with the Utah Migrant Council. As a nurse with Denver Public Health I worked in a community health center in an impoverished area. Later, I reconnected with the Catholic Church and Loretto. My last 11 years in public health nursing was in the tuberculosis clinic, where I had the opportunity to work in a county jail, homeless shelters and with immigrants and refugees. Loretto roots were now deep, and I could flower with the support of Loretto to spread the love of God.

Belonging to Loretto has enriched my life by engaging me in actions for peace and justice and involvement with learning and educational experiences. I participate in Community Group 4 and have served on committees and in study groups. So much of Loretto is about friendships and relationships and our connection and caring for each other.

It's the whole feeling of belonging to people and to a community ...

Carol Colligan CoL

So much of Loretto is about friendships and relationships and our connection and caring for each other.

Patty Kane CoL

Cathy O'Grady-Melvin CoL



Membership in the Loretto Community has increased my faith and brought a source of new life.

Cathy O'Grady Melvin CoL

Joining the Loretto Community was everything and more I envisioned it to be. Life is made rich by the people you walk with. In Loretto I've walked with some of the best! The women I have met enhanced my faith and spirituality. They were role models and mentors. I so admire the work many of our women have done. Membership in the Loretto Community has increased my faith and brought a source of new life. Aspects of belonging to Loretto that have helped most are the Community Groups and a monthly book club where ideas and actions are shared in a warm and nurturing environment. I find I am challenged personally, intellectually and spiritually.

My life would not be nearly as rich as it is without my time with the Loretto Community.

James Raab CoL

James Raab CoL



I joined Loretto to support the Sisters in their mission and vision. I truly believed in what they did and what they were doing. I wanted to make sure it continued for as long as possible. The Sisters of Loretto have been part of my marriage, birth of my children, mentors of my teaching career and spiritual journey.

I most realize the wisdom that has been shared when I find myself sticking up for Loretto values in daily ministry or work.

The Community of Loretto is a wonderful group of people. There is a rich history, wisdom, laughter and joy that just cannot be found anywhere else. My life would not be nearly as rich as it is without my time with the Loretto Community.



We also extend hearty congratulations to Gretta Collins CoL and Jill Webb-Hill CoL.

Artists bloom at Loretto Motherhouse

Since 2022, the Loretto Motherhouse has partnered with Kentucky Foundation for Women to offer residencies to artists living in Kentucky through the Loretto Artist Residency Program. Residencies are for literary, media, performing and visual artists who have demonstrated achievement in creating work high in artistic merit and based on social justice issues/concerns. They span one-to-three weeks at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. A residency gifts artists with space, time to devote to their work and the opportunity for rest and rejuvenation. They enjoy interacting with Motherhouse residents, and are invited to give an artist's talk.

We offer reflections and art from four recent participants in the residency program.

Lucy Azubuike

"Spending time with Jeanne Dueber SL's works at Loretto Motherhouse solidified my idea to work with natural forms I collect in nature. Ultimately the stay at Loretto widened my perspective to expand my medium.

"I began to not only take pictures of natural forms but also collect them to create works. 'Agwo no n'akilika' was the first of this kind after my Loretto residency.

"I aim to provoke a shift in perception, value, connection and appreciation. I strive to awaken a deeper connection to the world around us. I discover and reveal images that lie hidden in the structure of natural forms, things that are recognizable to us, like figures and faces, recognizable patterns and artistic abstract forms. I emotionally react to each artistic form or impression I find. Most forms I discover bring me unparalleled happiness and joy; they unravel memories and art that I couldn't possibly create without encountering trees. They stimulate thought-provoking subjects about life."



Photo courtesy of Lucy Azubuike



Lucy Azubuike, a multimedia artist, completed her Loretto Motherhouse residency in 2023. Her diverse practices encompass photography, sculpture, painting, performance and video art. She shares, 'My work weaves themes of nature, femininity and societal issues, offering insights into the human experience and the environment.'

Inspired by artist Jeanne Dueber SL, who often used objects found in nature, Lucy Azubuike created 'A Agwo no n'akilika' following her Loretto residency.

Photo courtesy of Lucy Azubuike



A still photograph from Lucy Azubuike's video 'My Portrait' reflects her affinity with trees.

"I live every day like it's the last
So that when I leave
I know that I lived."

Lucy Azubuike
"My Portrait"

Jabani Bennett

I arrived at the Loretto Motherhouse after a blizzard — and after a season of giving: parenting, delivering a keynote and completing research for a show catalog honoring 30 Black women cultural leaders in Louisville. It was my first residency as an artist-mother. The quiet welcomed me. I painted 'Oyo, 1850,' now hanging in Louisville's NuLu (New Louisville) district, and a self-portrait probing identity and meritocracy. I worked beside Jeanne Dueber SL's sculptures, sharing slow conversations with the Sisters about the beauty of women's company, the privilege of aging in community and the power of play. The week held me gently. I made. I thawed. I rested."

Jabani Bennett completed her residency in January. She is a Louisville-based interdisciplinary artist, mindfulness facilitator and writer. She shares that her mixed media practice explores memory, rest and spiritual resilience rooted in ancestral lineage and embodiment practices.



Photo courtesy of Jabani Bennett



Jabani Bennett presents an artist talk at Loretto Motherhouse. She stands in front of a mixed media piece created during the Loretto residency, 'Oyo, 1850.' Photo: courtesy of Jabani Bennett

Tori Christgen

Tori Christgen, artist and professor, completed her residency at the Loretto Motherhouse in spring 2024. She explains that she has a dynamic and ever-changing relationship with the arts. You might find her capturing the beauty of the Rocky Mountains or strolling through the canals of Amsterdam with drawing students. She could be exploring ancient Cambodian temples or immersed in a Costa Rican jungle, studying the intricate patterns of a giant boa. Or, she might be exploring her new home state of Kentucky, engaging with students and peers.

Tori Christgen shares that her multidisciplinary approach to art-making, coupled with her infectious zest for life, results in passionate and vibrant works of art that straddle the line between fine art and street art. These creations serve as not only documents of her adventures but also as a means of connecting her with friends, old and new.



Photo courtesy of Tori Christgen



Tori Christgen's exhibition was "stitched together" in the Pence Chowning Gallery in Campbellsville, Ky. Tori is the gallery director.

Nancy K. Jentsch

I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to spend time writing and reflecting during my residency at the Loretto Motherhouse. I had been on group retreats there in the past, but this time I felt a deeper connection to the place, the residents and the amazing history of the Sisters of Loretto. Sharing meals with Sisters and Co-Members was one of the high points of my week. I learned so much about the active lives and passions of the people I met, but I also was moved by the power of the silence I shared with others during a prayer meeting. My creative time was richly blessed by these experiences, and I completed work on a poetry manuscript, which I have submitted for publication. I also wrote and revised other poetry on my porch at the Valley House. The poem I share here is in the form of a golden shovel, which means that I have used the words from a line of poetry for the final word of each line of my poem. The line is 'All day the stars watch from long ago' taken from W.S. Merwin's 'Rain Light.'



Photo: Steven Kohus

Morning Blessing

Nancy K. Jentsch

May this day begin all
dressed in gold, a day
that looks up to the
sky, not seeing stars
but knowing they watch.
They are stars made from
mere dust with love, God's long-
bright love, dawning now as ever ago.

Nancy Jentsch completed her residency at the Motherhouse in April. She shares that her poetry reflects a sense of awe at the Creator's handiwork, its beauty and its intricacies. Nancy lives and writes in Northern Kentucky.

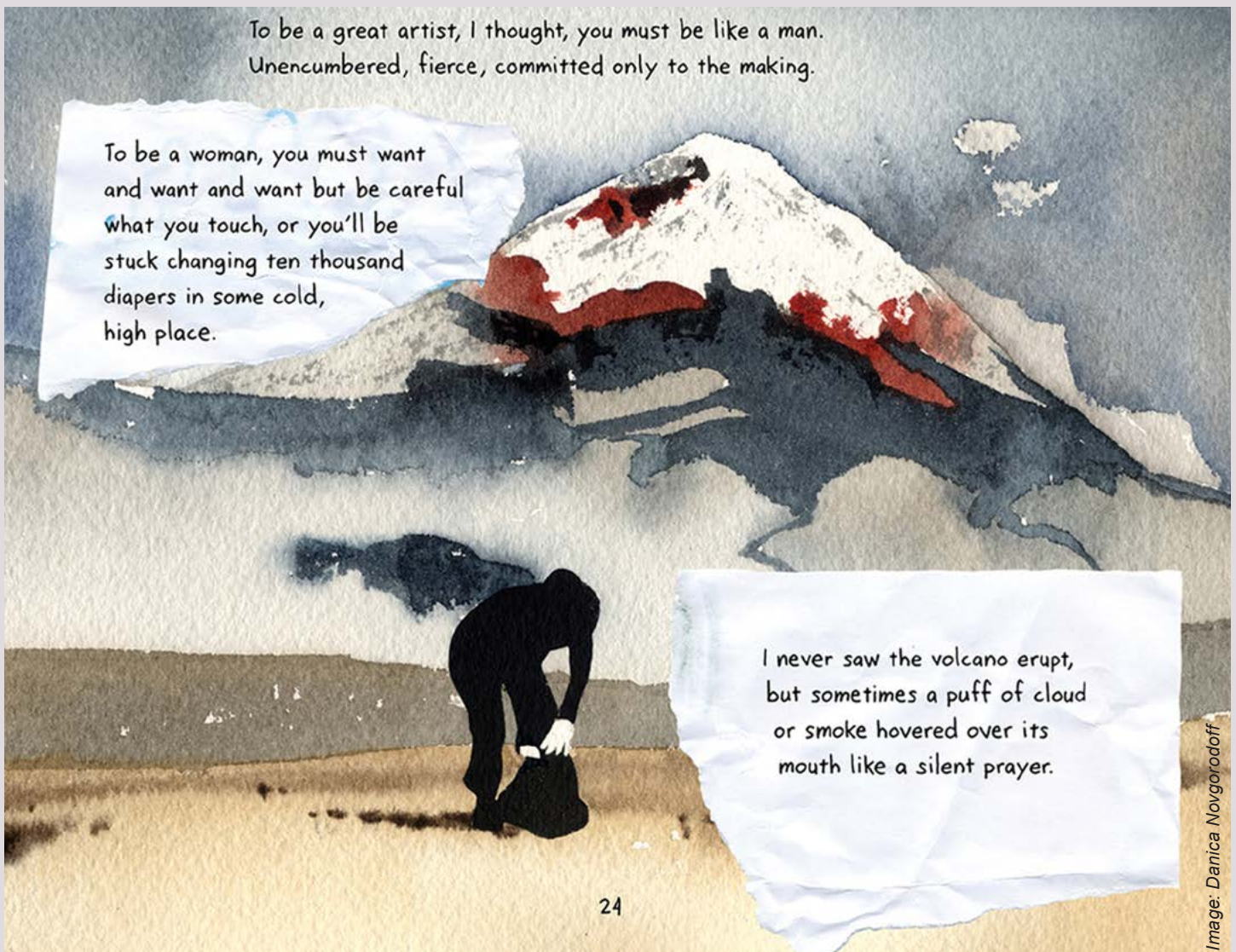
Danica Novgorodoff



Photo: courtesy of Danica Novgorodoff

“My week at Loretto was inspiring and productive. I was working on a graphic novel about motherhood and women artists, and made a great deal of progress on the artwork for that book. I was also able to work on two other projects: brainstorming new ideas for children’s books and a series of drawings and watercolors about water. In my everyday life at home, as the parent of young children and a working artist, I don’t have time to work on any side projects, so this time and space to create was a true gift.”

Danica Novgorodoff completed her residency in June. She is an artist, writer and New York Times best-selling illustrator. She has published four graphic novels, two children’s books and a cookbook.



During her residency at the Motherhouse, Danica Novgorodoff worked on a graphic novel on women artists and motherhood.

Loretto celebrates the art of quilting



Angela Selter organized the quilt show she describes as 'a testament to community collaboration.' Here she stands before a maple leaf quilt by BJ Bevins. *Photo: Will Myers*

In early August, the Loretto Heritage Center showcased the rich quilting tradition of the Central Kentucky region. Angela Selter, Heritage Center archival assistant, shares, "The final result was a stunning collection featuring 45 quilts from 21-plus regional quilt makers; several quilts were created by many hands. Additionally, nine quilts were added from Loretto's collection. The show was a truly rich and colorful experience." The photos of these beautiful quilts were taken by Angela, except as noted.

Nancy Miles, who was involved in creating Loretto's barn quilt back in 2009, and husband, Donnie, helped make the show a grand success, Angela says, providing quilts and quilt stands, creative ideas and hard work. They even helped install the exhibit. Angela writes, "Nancy introduced us to her quilting group, which then led us to another quilting group in the county, and from there the show entries started rolling in until we had enough to fill all available rooms." Thank you to Nancy and Donnie and to the Motherhouse maintenance staff, whose help was invaluable.



'Circle Dance,' by Carol Elliott



Detail, 'What the Cluck,' by Romanie Ritchie



'Hawaiian Double Wedding Ring,' by Nancy Miles and Kathleen Russell
 Right, detail, 'Way of the Cross,' by Janice Raley and Calvary Church Quilters



'Stained Glass,' by Betty Lou Mudd and Brenda Plaster
 Left, detail, 'Shadow Box,' by Jessica Miles and Bob Sennett

Loretto Motherhouse is on the Barn Quilt Trail



In 2009 Loretto Sisters and friends completed the panels for Loretto's barn quilt. From left are Anndavid Naeger SL, Maria Visse SL, Martha Potter, Tina Miles Craig and child and Nancy Miles. Nancy completed the majority of the work. *Photo: Peg Jacobs CoL*

Loretto's painted barn quilt was installed in 2009, one of 66 in Marion County, Ky., and part of the Kentucky Clothesline of Quilts Trail. (See the cover of this issue to see how it looks today.) In a 2009 article by quilter Susan Swain SL, she described the county's barn quilts, "The quilt squares are easily seen as one rounds the many curves on the rural Kentucky roads. The quilt square that is chosen has meaning for the family or community where it is displayed." A map showing the quilts on the trail is available on the Lebanon, Ky., [website](#). One day perhaps you'll find yourself following the Quilt Trail to Loretto Motherhouse!

Read about the historical research, creation and upkeep of Loretto's barn quilt in a fascinating article by Anndavid Naeger SL here: <https://bit.ly/LorettoBarnQuilt>.

Opportunity knocks: A remarkable school built on faith and confidence

The Santa Fe Opportunity School 1937 - 1970

By Christina Manweller

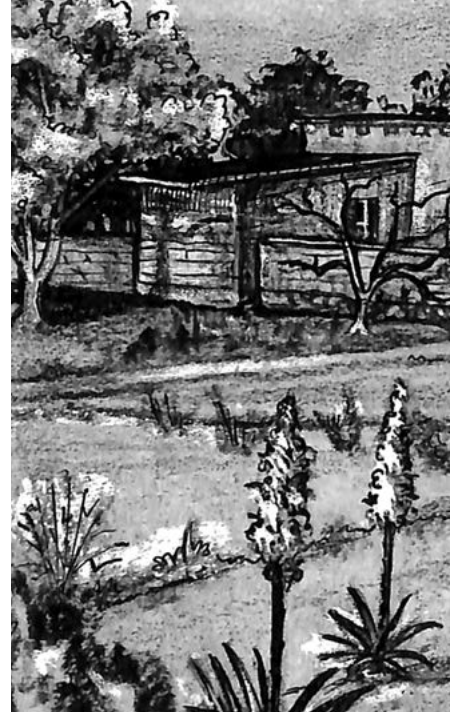
When the ceiling collapsed on their ecumenical school serving children with disabilities in Santa Fe, N.M., Mary Harold Savage SL and Miriam George Simon SL worried about the school's future. The Santa Fe Opportunity School was an endeavor of the heart that had just opened the year before and served, as Mary Harold put it, "every pupil the other schools didn't want." The Sisters lacked the funds to rebuild; the Great Depression held the country in its powerful grip, and money was tight everywhere.

The Loretto way is to find a way. Miriam George had spotted a chicken coop while walking at nearby Loretto Academy and wondered if it might be repurposed. When the two headed over to take a look, a hog tied up in front of the building charged, keeping them at a distance. Nevertheless, the seed was planted, and they began dreaming. Then they began to act.

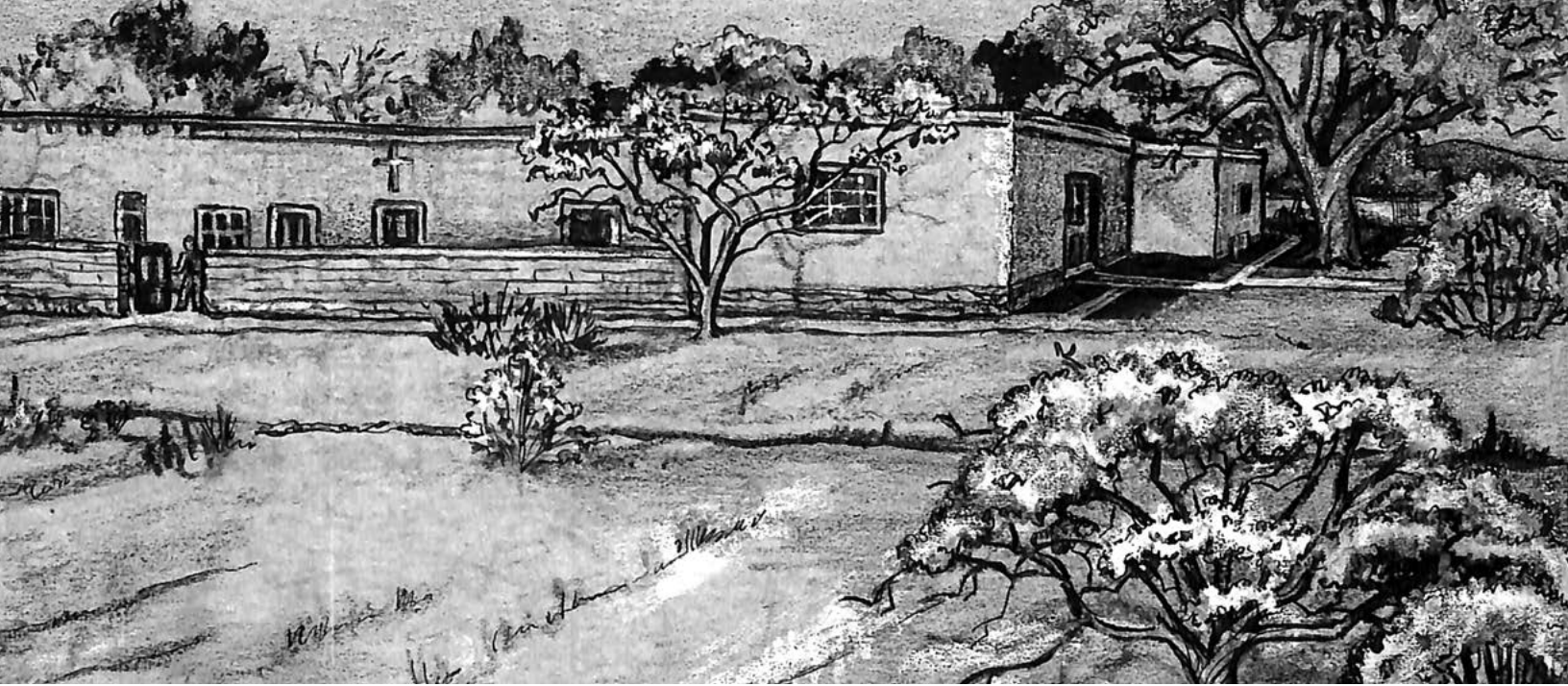
Locals, including parents, scoffed at their plan. Some said it would take years to complete the work, others that the walls would collapse on them; others predicted they'd catch diseases or lose their eyesight. Prayer by prayer and step by step, the Sisters persisted.

Santa Fe citizens chipped in vocational equipment, and many workers donated time. Inmates, their labor offered by a prison warden, were responsible for the initial work of clearing the space of dirt and debris. It took six weeks to haul out dirt that had accumulated up to the bottoms of the windows. When the Sisters turned their eyes on Loretto Academy's stables, envisioning a manual training room, Civilian Conservation Corps workers who were assigned to a nearby park spent the summer volunteering in their free time, bringing ceiling beams, windows and bags of cement. When the Sisters asked where they were getting the materials, the answers were vague. Later, they learned that their volunteers had been selling pints of their own blood to purchase supplies. In the end, through faith, ingenuity and persistence, the chicken coop, stables, a pigpen, milk shed and storage space would be renovated.

Just a year after work began, the quixotic project had become an inviting school ready to welcome its students. Charlotte Thweatt CoL, who befriended Mary Harold in El Paso after the Sister's retirement, shares that the school was for kids "who might not have found their needs met in schools of the times because they were different." Mary Harold, school director, loved the children, Charlotte says, "and maybe that helped them love themselves and others, which in turn helped them take their place



Right, students in the class of 1948 in the classroom with Mary Harold Savage SL. Beautiful flower gardens that the children tended are visible outside.
Photo: Loretto Archives



A charcoal drawing of the renovated school in its earliest days. Image: Loretto Archives

Have you ever seen a place where little children — poor, underprivileged, mentally and physically handicapped [sic] — can continuously knock at Opportunity's Door? A place where patience and kindness take the place of 'efficiency and regular routine'? Yes, there is such a place and it has been the means of guiding and directing many a forlorn and unwanted child along the Path of Life. It is the place at the side of a winding, narrow street along a crooked little stream in the heart of the state capitol city, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mary Harold Savage SL, cofounder and director, Santa Fe Opportunity School, October 1941





This building, photographed in 1937, once housed Loretto Academy's stables, and was destined to become the Opportunity School's manual training room. *Photo: Loretto Archives*

in the world." She adds, "She saw in them what they could not yet see in themselves."

Students lived with a myriad of challenges: partial blindness, hearing loss, Down syndrome and other disabilities, in addition to learning and/or behavioral issues. Mary Harold once wrote that "in a number of cases, poverty plays an important part." Each child was precious, with a unique role to play in the world, and the Sisters' commitment and kindness helped them flourish.

Two years after the school had launched, Mary Harold wrote about her students, "These children are handicapped [sic] mentally and physically because of home environment, undernourishment, paralysis and a partial loss of sight. Some cases are due wholly to delinquency."

She wrote about Elisa, a 16-year-old who brought joy and humor to each day. After a performance of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," Mary Harold wrote, "Elisa asked how I liked 'As White as Snow and the Seven Drops.'" Elisa struggled with severe disabilities, including near-blindness, and was mentally "about 8 or 9." She said her happiest moments were when she was in school, and she followed Mary Harold everywhere. Mary Harold concluded, "If Elisa is the only one in my room that I have succeeded in making happy, I will feel that my work has not been in vain, and I also know that in bringing happiness to even one of these, the least of God's children, I am richer than the richest millionaire."

continued ...



Mary Harold Savage SL, at far right, shared in her scrapbook, "We went bowling every Wednesday. The children are amused because the photographer posed me holding a ball, and the children knew that I knew nothing about bowling. I couldn't even keep score."

Photo: Mary Harold Savage SL's scrapbook, Loretto Archives



The patio area, in 1938, is finally free of debris. The chicken coop building is on the left. The workroom is straight on.
Mary Harold Savage SL's scrapbook, Loretto Archives



In this undated photo, students enjoy the patio with Mary Harold Savage SL and Miriam George Simon SL.
Mary Harold Savage SL's scrapbook, Loretto Archives

I know that in bringing happiness to even one of these, the least of God's children, I am richer than the richest millionaire.

Mary Harold Savage SL



Students learn using state-of-the-art equipment. Despite a continual shortage of funds, the Loretto Sisters were at the vanguard of special needs education, committed to innovating and adapting to the kids' unique needs.
Mary Harold Savage SL's scrapbook, Loretto Archives



Out of necessity, and with insight and innovation, the Sisters were groundbreakers in special needs education starting decades before the term was coined, long before training was available to those who worked with children with disabilities. A 1965 article in *Catholic Digest* — 28 years after the school had opened — reported that the school “pioneered in the use of many teaching methods that are now common in schools for handicapped [sic] children. Film strips, slides, tape recordings, games that teach, flash cards and headphones are invaluable aids.” (The year after the *Catholic Digest* article was published, Sisters of Loretto in Denver would found Havern School, another pioneering Loretto institution for special needs children; Havern thrives today. See the [winter 2020 issue](#) for a feature on Havern.)

Desk learning was one element of a well-rounded education. Handwork was beneficial and greatly enjoyed. In the beginning, students, whose past experiences of school had been discouraging at best, showed up only on Friday, craft day — a problem solved by incorporating handwork into each day’s schedule. The Sisters were creative in finding materials. Mary Harold wrote, “Old rags, cloth scraps, orange crates and boxes can be created into quite useful articles.” Curtain remnants were sent by a friend in St. Louis who ran a factory, and they dyed the fabric for sewing projects. Scrap wood was donated by local lumber yards. A loom, workbench and jigsaw were donated by Santa Fe citizens.

Students learned to cook, sew, embroider, weave, carve and make and repair furniture. They cared for gardens, went bowling, took dance classes. Miriam George learned dance steps with the assistance of Dennis Ortiz, a student who knew all the dances, so she could help with daily practice.

Celebrations were frequent. “We have a party every time we can drum up a reason for one,” Mary Harold wrote, “and they have been many.” They served dinner at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, “with the children choosing their menus.”

Students so grew to love school that they became sad in the weeks before summer vacation. They ended up convincing the Sisters to hold summer school once a week so they could come in for crafts.

Mary Harold once wrote that the school “was built on Faith and Confidence ... and has also been maintained on Faith and Confidence, and the voluntary donations of our many kind friends and benefactors.” The Sisters held regular fundraisers, and some supporters sponsored children with monthly donations. The number of students was limited out of necessity, but a child would not be turned away if the family lacked the ability to pay. Funds were always in short supply. The darkest period was during the years before the U.S. entered World War II. The school barely eked by. Again, the Sisters persevered, and would go on to love and serve special needs children for several more decades.



Photo pages 30 and 31: In 1941, the children presented their annual marionette show. ‘Pinocchio in the Southwest,’ a fundraiser for the school, was a great success; the children were so skilled that an audience member insisted no child was handling the puppets — so after the show, the Sisters invited the kids to parade across stage holding their marionettes.

In the fall of 1941, Mary Harold had penned a letter to Nick Kenny, reporter for the *New York Daily Mirror* who, she’d read, never refused anyone who asked for help. She described the school that was “made from abandoned chicken houses,” adding, “We have 25 underprivileged children ... not only mentally handicapped but also having a physical defect. You no doubt get hundreds of appeals for help; nevertheless, we are trusting that our request will find friendly hearts.” The letter was published; hundreds responded. A 10-cent contribution came from a 14-year-old whose family had many “worryments,” with an ill mother, and a father who had served in the first World War and was “a wreck.” (See sidebar, page 31.)

The Loretto spirit that has transformed improbabilities into successes since 1812 shines through the story of the Santa Fe Opportunity School. It finally closed in 1970 when the property was sold. Over their 32-plus years of service, an estimated 700-800 children graced Mary Harold and Miriam George’s classrooms — children who blossomed under the opportunity to love and be loved, to learn and grow and take their places in the world with dignity, a legacy bestowed not only in New Mexico, but wherever in the world Loretto has influenced hearts, minds and souls.



Photo: Mary Harold Savage SL's scrapbook, Loretto Archives

Oct. 10, 1941

Loretto Convent
 Dear Sister,

I read about your having care of 25 children build from a chicken house that's wonderful no matter what it may be as long as its clean and plenty fresh air and sun shine.

We are living in a nice place but gosh what worryments we have mother is ill Dad is a War World Veteran of 1918 and he work can't stay any worryments. I spending money is very little so I can't bend more then 10 cents for prays for us all to have luck to carry on. I go to school yet wish I was old enough to work but I am only 14 years old.

After Nick Kenny of the New York Daily Mirror published a letter from 'a little nun at Santa Fe, New Mexico, one of those selfless souls who man [sic] the frontline trenches in humanity's endless fight against poverty, privation and illness,' many sent donations. Mary Harold's scrapbook includes some of the responses. Above is the first page of a letter from a 14-year-old who sent 10 cents, praising the school and saying it didn't matter that it was built from a chicken house 'as long as its [sic] clean and plenty fresh air and sun shine.' The writer asked for the Sisters' prayers 'to have luck to carry on,' adding, 'What worryments we have.' From Mary Harold's scrapbook, Loretto Archives



Girls weave using a loom donated by a generous local citizen. Photo: Loretto Archives



Dennis Ortiz and Elizabeth Roybal practice for the annual dance recital. Dennis knew the steps to all the dances. Photo: Loretto Archives

Kathleen Vonderhaar SL

Aug. 25, 1933 – May 7, 2025

Kathleen Vonderhaar was an educator all her adult life. She began teaching in the primary grades and by 1964 was teaching non-readers at Southern Colorado State College. All that she had learned while teaching primary grades served her well with adult learners. She was part of a special master's program to create new materials and methods for marginalized adults. The Colorado Department of Education hired her to open a resource center for adult education teachers throughout the state. Kathleen retired in 1998 and volunteered in three centers in low-income areas run by the Denver University School of Social Work. She wrote in her autobiography, "For a total of 40 years I got to do what I loved in a variety of ways. It was not work; it was my calling."



Imelda Therese Marquez SL

Sept. 16, 1927 – May 16, 2025

Imelda Therese (I.T.) Marquez's parents were born in Anton Chico, N.M. They married in 1904, and I.T. was born 23 years later. She moved to Denver during high school and was welcomed at Loretto Heights College where she met the Sisters of Loretto. She entered Loretto after graduation. Her first assignment was teaching math and science in Lebanon, Ky. She taught for 26 years in various places, and then worked as a floral designer for seven years. Yearning to teach again, she taught at Beth Jacob High School, an Orthodox Jewish girl's school in Denver for 15 years. Finally she served as a GED teacher/tutor for adult learners at the Learning Source of Colorado for 11 years. She shared, "My life has been truly rich and exciting. I've had educational and travel opportunities and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many young people."



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

Memorials and Tributes of Honor

May 2025 — August 2025

In Honor of:
Requested by:

An asterisk (*) following a name identifies a Loretto Co-Member.

Buffy Boesen SL

Carla Emch

Liz Deines SL

Linda Sandish

Antoinette Doyle SL

Terry Macaluso

Kaye Edwards*

Sarah Cheverton

Marianna Finch

Barbara Rancour

Mary Nelle Gage SL

Jim and Joan Kroll

JoAnn Gates*

Deborah Bowman

Jeannine Gramick SL

John M. Le Bedda II

Barbara Hagan*

Leslee Moore*

Mary Jo Highland

Mary A. Highland

Mary Pat Himmelberg

Mary Pat Himmelberg

Anna Koop SL

Pat and Jack Sliemers

Carolyn Jaramillo*

Adrienne Zanini

Jennifer Morgan

Jeffrie Morgan

Barbara Nicholas SL

Doris J. Pittman

Mary Vincent Breeck

Lydia Peña SL

Clare M. Villa

Elaine Marie Prevallet SL

Thomas and Peggy Derieg

Loretto

Sisters of Loretto

Vicki Walker

Mary Catherine Rabbitt SL

Cathy O'Grady*

Sandy Richardson

Kathleen Stewart

Elisa Rodriguez SL

Leonor Marquez

Annie Rosenkranz

Jennifer S. Morgan

Joan Spero SL

Joan Kidnay

Mary Swain SL

Michael R. Hartley

John Powell

Janet Warken

Barbara H. Warner

Mary Ann Walsh Van Etten

Mary Ann and David Van Etten

Donald Woodward

Donald Woodward

Shawna Woodward

Richard Woodward

In Memory of:
Requested by:

An asterisk (*) following a name identifies a Loretto Co-Member.

Barbara Ann Barbato SL

Thomas Cromwell

Martha Belke SL

Susan and David Bischof

Michael and Kathleen Dicken

Kevin Bradt SJ

Henry and Margaret Ferraioli

Barbara Brockman

Dusty Ferguson

Leon Mattingly

Beverly Sodan

Mike Thomas

Rita Bruegenhagen SL

Rose Marie Hayden

Mary Rhodes Buckler SL

Warren Buckler

Ann Carr SL (formerly Nerinckx Marie SL)

Barbara H. Warner

Rose Celeste SL

Sr. Lesley Block OP

Mary Jane Cella

Nancy Cella Sunkel

Thomas Chew

Monica Chew

Elizabeth Ann Compton SL

Jane Hakala

Ashley May O'Shaughnessy

Mary Conter SL

Sharlene Piper Hower

Mary Ann Cunningham SL

Eva Antone Ross

Maria Ann Dillon SL

Barbara Rancour

In Memory of:
Requested by:

An asterisk (***) following a name
identifies a Loretto Co-Member.

John and Mary Dulla

Yvonne D. Harding

Mary Ellen*

Barbara Hagan*

Ann Francis Gleason SL

Carol J. Mattingly

Agnes Marie Hagan SL

Marie Underwood

Mary Hargadon

Brigid Crush

Cathy and Thomas Dawson

Maura Fennell

Katherine Traxler Goldring

Beverly Hoeck

Mary Murr

Reta Satterly

David Thomas

Marian Whitworth

Fr. Jeffrey Harvey CM

Margaret Wright

Marie Noel Hebert SL

James C. Hebert

Joseph Highland

Mary A. Highland

Charles Himmelberg

Mary Pat Himmelberg

Evelyn Houlihan SL

Isabel Derr

Alban House SL

Cathy Yost

De Lellis Judge SL

Sue Sullivan Clement

Patricia Anne Kaiser

Valorie Becker

Eileen Kersgieter SL

Barbara Fagan

Mary Gladbach

John and Mary Ann Richmond

Marie Knowles SL

Megan Clifford Oftedal

Jane Kusters*

Isabel Derr

Loretto

***Loretto Sisters who positively
influenced my life starting in
1st grade in Kankakee, Ill.***

Gary Kress

Loretto Heights College faculty

Mary Jean and Rodney Brod

Loretto Sisters, Manton, Ky.

Dennis and Jeanne Simms

Imelda Therese Marquez SL

Virginia Sandoval

Marty Martelli

Therese M. Martelli

Quentin Seitz McCarthy

Lucretia Seitz McCarthy

John "Jack" McDonald

Kathianne Crane

Margaret Nelson

Margarita Covarrubias

Peter and Mary Nguyen

Van Nguyen

Aurelia Ottersbach SL

Carol J. Mattingly

Dorothy Parker

Norman Parker

Rosalie Marie Phillips SL

Raymond Stevison Jr.

Lucy Ruth Rawe SL

Mary V. Petersen

Pat Ruh*

Alice M. Quinlan

Ann Mary Schilling SL

Lynn Ellen Haner

Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Schmidt

Regina H. Schmidt

Patricia Schmitt

Dennis Cuddihee

Magdalen Mary Skees SL

Brigid Crush

Sheila O'Donnell-Schuster

Susan Skees Hermes

Dean Skinner

Amy and Michael J. Bell

Marlene Blair

Ralph and Genevieve Springer

Carol Jean Hidalgo

Andrew Stawowy

Therese Stawowy*

Bernice Strawn*

Nancy and Ed Konvalinka

Eugenia Thompson SL

Judy Wright

Mary Luke Tobin SL

Barbara H. Warner

Patricia Toner SL

John and Mary Geraghty

Concetta Torrillo SL

Larry Brunelli

Mary Belle Tucker SL

Ted Tonkinson

Jane Wilcox SL

William Wilcox

Rosemary Wilcox SL

William Wilcox

Alene Wisniewski

Barbara and Arthur Ratkewicz

Myra Wisniewski

Barbara and Arthur Ratkewicz

Donate in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one or a cherished Loretto member:
www.lorettocommunity.org/donate

Postscript

Dear Loretto Friends,

Summer at the Motherhouse and across the Loretto Community was, as always, a vibrant season of connection, growth and joyful activity!

As you perused this issue, you may have glimpsed familiar faces and new ones alike in our photos of summer events, including Student Volunteer Week and our lively "Where the Wild Things Are" summer camp in which we partnered with New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future. These programs truly embody the intergenerational spirit of Loretto, bringing together young people with our Sisters and Co-Members in meaningful ways. We also celebrated our first annual Nature Run 5K at Loretto Motherhouse, a wonderful day of community and healthy fun that brought so many to Nerinx, Ky.

We've proudly highlighted the Loretto Living Center and its kind and caring staff, a testament to our enduring commitment to care for our Sisters and Co-Members. The Loretto Justice Fellowship affords the opportunity for college students to experience Loretto in community and serve the most vulnerable in El Paso. Our continued dedication to social justice shines through in the feature on the Denver Catholic Worker, now united with Angelica Village, extending its vital work. The Santa Fe Opportunity School reminds us of Loretto's long legacy in education and empowerment. And you've been treated to art through a feature on quilts at the Motherhouse and works by a few of the artists who've participated in our residence program at the Motherhouse that fosters creativity and reflection.

We are thrilled to honor our 25-year jubilarians this year — all Co-Members whose dedicated service immensely enriches our Community. Their commitment is a beautiful reflection of the diverse ways Loretto's mission lives on.

Finally, in our previous issue, we announced that we had received Candid's Silver Seal of Transparency. I'm proud to let you know that the Loretto Community now has achieved the Gold Seal of Transparency! This recognition reflects our dedication to sound financial practices and open communication with our donors and supporters like you.

Your support makes all of this possible. Every program, every act of care, every step toward justice and sustainability is strengthened by your generosity. Thank you for being such an integral part of the Loretto story.

With deep gratitude,



Lisa Smith

Director of Advancement

L.Smith@LorettoCommunity.org



Stacy Ballard, left, Loretto Living Center activities director, Maureen Fiedler SL, center, and Stella DeWitt, Living Center resident, cheer on runners and walkers at Loretto's 5K fundraiser in June. *Photo: Will Myers*



Sharing a symbol of love, a 'Where the Wild Things Are' summer camp attendee smiles for the camera. *Photo: Will Myers*



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Michelle Essex, right, Loretto Motherhouse Living Center administrator, staffs a table with a young helper at the annual Motherhouse Ag Bash event in August. *Photo: Will Myers*