

Loretto celebrates

82 years!

Kathleen Tighe SL

Kathleen Tighe SL was received into Loretto on April 25, 1944. Five of the Tighe sisters, daughters of Eugene and Alice (Weir) Tighe, became Sisters of Loretto. Lucina entered in 1932, Alice Eugene in 1933, Ann Virginia in 1934, Carolyn in 1935 and Kathleen in 1944. Another sister, Helen, would join the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Kathleen served in California, Colorado, Illinois and Missouri, teaching in various schools and serving as principal at Loretto Academy High School in Kansas City, Mo., and at Nerinx Hall High School in St. Louis. She earned a bachelor's degree in music with a minor in piano from Webster University in St. Louis, and a master's in education from DePaul University in Chicago.

In 1976, Kathleen took part in the Loretto Third World Experience, serving in Majuro in the Marshall Islands. She has served in senior citizen housing and as a creator of the Loretto Spirituality Network. She served on the Loretto staff, retiring in 2000 in Danville, Calif., where she and her housemate, Kay Lane SL, developed an extended Loretto community that prayed and celebrated together. Kathleen and Kay moved to Kentucky in 2013.

Kathleen resides at Loretto Living Center at the Motherhouse where she loves to listen to classical music and read stories, particularly the classics. She says she loves "to hear a good story, and I love telling my stories about Loretto."



'I loved all of my experiences. Everything I did was a great experience and I never looked back and said I'm not going to do that again. I taught school mostly and loved it.'

Kathleen Tighe SL

our jubilarians

80 years!

Benedicta (Bernie) Feeney SL

Bernie Feeney SL, who turned 99 last November, credits her mothers for her long life: her own mother and the Blessed Mother. “My mom passed along her longevity,” she said, noting that her mother lived into her 90s, as did her two sisters. Her brothers lived into their late 70s and early 80s.

Her affection for the Blessed Mother is especially strong, in part, “because she showed the children at Fatima how to pray the rosary,” Bernie shares. “The rosary became very important in my life, so I try to say it every day.” She recommends the practice to all.

Born in 1926, the year of the U.S. sesquicentennial, Bernie grew up on a farm in the village of Ivesdale, Ill., 19 miles outside of Champaign, and was taught by Benedictines. It wasn’t until she attended Webster College in St. Louis that she met the Sisters of Loretto. She was received into the congregation in 1946.

As a Sister of Loretto, Bernie taught for many years, later serving the Denver Archdiocese as a leasing coordinator for low-income housing and volunteering with Catholic Charities. Whatever she did, she enjoyed. “I had wonderful experiences and have much to be grateful for,” she says.

A resident of Loretto Living Center, Bernie, who enjoys regular exercise and good conversations, says, “It is very pleasant, a very nice place, and the people are very professional and very kind. You could not ask for any place nicer.”

Asked what advice she might give others on how to go about living a long life, Bernie first joked, “I don’t understand it myself, how I came to be 99.” Then she added, “Take every day to be fully alive. Enjoy and be appreciative and involved.”



'Thank you, Loretto, for your giving and loving presence in my life!'

Bernie Feeney SL on the occasion of her 75th jubilee, August 2021

Congratulations!

75 years!

Beatrice (Bea) Klebba SL



Bea Klebba SL was received into Loretto on Dec. 8, 1951. She re-sides at Loretto Living Center at the Motherhouse. Through her work in schools, hospital ministry and in retirement, she has found joy and meaning in her service. Bea has lived out Loretto's Constitutions as she has "sought compassionate ways to serve the suffering body of Christ."



God takes our days and makes them holy

Seventy-five, 80, 82 years in Loretto! If walls could talk! They would tell stories of the essence of the Loretto Jubilarians we celebrate — stories of love and service. The stories are still being written as their lives of service continue.

Claudette LoPorto SL



Claudette LoPorto SL was received into Loretto on April 25, 1951. Working at Apple for 16 years, she says, "It was just a happy place, and I loved it." Sister Claudette retired in 2001. She then served as a volunteer for several years. Her home in Danville, Calif., was recognized by many for its spirit of hospitality. In 2011, she moved to Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky., where she continues her service to the Loretto Community. Among her many gifts, she designs and arranges creative displays in celebration of holidays at the Motherhouse. She also enjoys gardening. Through her varied ministries across the years, Claudette has lived out Loretto's Constitutions and "helped many others live according to its spirit and teachings."



Nancy Wittwer SL

Nancy Wittwer SL was received into Loretto on Dec. 8, 1951. She grew up in St. Stephen Parish in St. Louis and is a Nerinx Hall alum, class of 1951. Nancy fostered several collaborative projects in the St. Louis Archdiocese, including as cofounder of Marian Middle School in South St. Louis. She also worked with the Women's Build for Habitat for Humanity. She is a founding member of the Intercommunity Ecological Council of Women Religious. Nancy's love and care for the natural world and all life led to dedicated, tireless work on behalf of Earth over many decades. She resides at Loretto Living Center at Loretto Motherhouse.

