

HISTORY
SAMPLER

of the

Sisters Of Loretto
1812-1986

by

Florence Wolff, S.L.

Sisters of Loretto
Nerinx, Kentucky
1986

Dedication

To all those
who remember the past
into the future

INTRODUCTION

THE HISTORY SAMPLER of the Sisters of Loretto outlines a limited number of important happenings which have marked their history during a century and three-quarters. The data has been arranged in decades and set against contemporary historical events in the nation and the church during simultaneous periods.

These events provided the milieu and culture in which Loretto was founded and developed, in which the sisters and their students lived and learned. These events sometimes influenced and often enough shaped their group and individual histories. A textual history with graph and maps has been inserted in the center of this booklet to supplement the decadal account.

The title for this monograph was suggested by the finding of a cache of embroidery samplers made by the sisters and their students in the nineteenth century. Just as those pieces of handiwork merely indicated aspirations and activities, so too this work only samples the history of the Sisters of Loretto.

Fortunately, fuller accounts of the Loretto story have been enfolded in books, articles and archives, although much Loretto history has been lost through fires or the neglect to record. Consolation for this loss, however, can be found in the forty-fourth chapter of the book of Sirach, verses 9-11: "Of others there is no memory, yet these were also godly women whose virtues have not been forgotten...their heritage remains with their descendants... their glory will not be blotted out."

Florence Wolff, S.L.

*Graphics: Jeanne Dueber, S.L., Margaret Grace Elsey, S.L., Pat Kenoyer, S.L.,
Damian Mary Simmons, S.L.*

CONTEMPORARY EVENTS

18th Century

1775

Revolutionary War begins

1776

Declaration of Independence

1778

Louisville founded by George Rogers Clark

1783

Treaty of Paris extends boundaries of Commonwealth of Virginia to Mississippi River

1785

*Twenty-five Catholic families under leadership of Basil Hayden arrive in Kentucky from Maryland and settle in present Marion County**

1789

George Washington elected first president

Baltimore established as the first diocese in the United States and John Carroll named first bishop

1792

Kentucky becomes the fifteenth state in the Union

1800-1810

1803

Louisiana Territory ceded by France to the United States

1808

Four new dioceses are carved out of first see, namely, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Bardstown

1809

Mother Elizabeth Seton founds Sisters of Charity at Emmitsburg, Maryland

Father Nerinckx erects Holy Name Society at St. Charles' Church. His register includes names of both women and men

NOTE: Italics indicate Church history.

LORETTO SAMPLER

18th Century

1763

Charles Nerinckx, Loretto cofounder, born in Herffelingen, Belgium, the oldest of fourteen children of Dr. Sebastian Nerinckx and Petronilla Langendries

1783

Mary Rhodes, Loretto cofounder, born in Maryland of Abraham and Elizabeth (maiden name unknown) Rhodes. Two older and four younger brothers and one younger sister completed the family

1785

Charles Nerinckx ordained at Mechlin

1791

Ann Rhodes, sister of Mary, born in Maryland

1793

Stephen Theodore Badin ordained. Proto priest of the United States.

1797

Father Nerinckx refuses to sign Civil Constitution of the Clergy in Netherlands and is declared an "enemy of the country and fugitive from justice." Thus subject to death or exile, he goes into hiding at the Hospital of St. Blaise in Dendermonde

1800-1810

1803

Father Nerinckx desiring the freedom to practice his ministry writes Bishop John Carroll offering his services in America

1804

After a harrowing sea journey, Father Nerinckx arrives in America and begins study of the English language at Georgetown University

1805

Father Nerinckx comes to St. Stephen's Farm, Kentucky, (present Loretto Motherhouse) where Father Badin welcomes a much needed coworker

Contemporary Events

1810-1820

1806

Shakers make foundation in Kentucky

1812

Congress declares war on England

First diocesan synod in Kentucky is held at St. Stephen's Farm

1814

Treaty of Ghent signed to end War of 1812

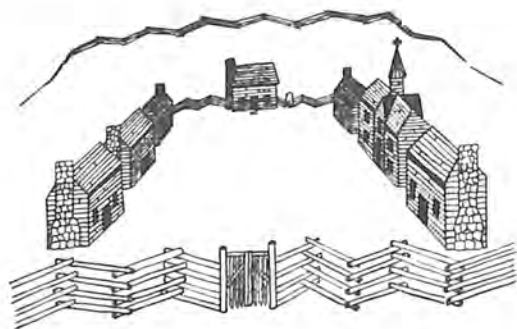
William Dubourg is consecrated bishop of Upper and Lower Louisiana

1818

Dubourg moves residential seat to St. Louis

1819

St. Joseph's Cathedral is built in Bardstown. Father Nerinckx takes up subscription and donates church furnishings, including Kentucky's first pipe organ



LITTLE LORETTO 1812

From left to right: Double cabin of Father Nerinckx, Infirmary, Servants' Quarters, Kitchen and Refectory, Chapel and Convent, School

Loretto Sampler

1810-1820

1811

Benedict Joseph Flaget, first bishop west of the Alleghenies, takes up residence at St. Stephen's Farm

Mary Rhodes visits her family on Hardin's Creek, Kentucky

1812

The Sisters of Loretto (initial title Friends of Mary at the Foot of the Cross) founded by Mary Rhodes, Christina Stuart and Ann Havern with the collaboration of Father Nerinckx, their pastor and spiritual director

Ann Rhodes, first Loretto superior, dies and is buried at Little Loretto, the log cabin convent and school complex

1813

First Sisters of Loretto pronounce vows of poverty, chastity and obedience

1815

Agnes Hart is first Loretto pupil to join the community

1816

Father Nerinckx journeys to Europe and receives the blessing of Pope Pius VII on the Loretto Society; secures valuable church goods and monetary assistance for American missions

First Loretto branch house established at Calvary, Kentucky, where an academy flourished until 1899. Christina Stuart, one of the Loretto founders, is the first superior

Father Badin builds first brick house in present Marion County at St. Stephen's Farm

1817

Father Nerinckx conducts Loretto's first retreat

1818

Loretto opens a school at Gethsemani, which is sold in 1848 to the Trappists

Contemporary Events

1820-1830

1821

Missouri Compromise admits Missouri as slave state and Maine as free state

Trusteeism giving control of Church property to laity causes disputes between clergy and laity

1823

Father Gabriel Richard, one of the founders of the University of Michigan, is elected to Congress

1825

President Monroe calls for voluntary removal of Eastern Indians to lands west of Mississippi

1826

Diocese of St. Louis established with Joseph Rosati, C.M., named bishop

1827

Catholic Tract Society formed in U.S. with purpose of combating anti-Catholic writings

1830-1840

1830

Indian Removal Act designates lands west of Mississippi as relocation sites for Indian tribes

1831

Chief Black Hawk rebels against the Treaty in Illinois Territory

1833

Abolitionists form American Anti-Slavery Society

1834

Guy Chabrat consecrated coadjutor of Bardstown

1835

Cholera epidemic rages in Kentucky

Marion County, Kentucky, carved out of Washington County

Cyrus McCormick invents the reaper and revolutionizes American farming

1836

Texas proclaims independence from Mexico

Sam Houston defeats Santa Ana at San Jacinto

Loretto Sampler

1820-1830

1820

Father Nerinckx makes second visit to Europe to seek aid for Kentucky missions. Has Loretto Constitutions printed in London

Secular instructors invited to take part in the teacher training of the early sisters

1823

First Loretto foundation outside of the state of Kentucky is made at the Barrens in Perry County, Missouri, in response to invitation of Bishop Dubourg

1824

Father Nerinckx dies at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

Early sisters move from Little Loretto to St. Stephen's Farm, which becomes and remains the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Loretto

1825

Loretto Sisters make a short-lived foundation at La Fourche, Louisiana

1826

New convent and chapel built at St. Stephen's Farm under Mother Sabina O'Brien and Father Guy Chabrat, ecclesiastical superior

1829

Loretto Literary and Benevolent Institute, the legal entity of the Sisters of Loretto, is incorporated by the State of Kentucky

1830-1840

1833

Father Nerinckx' remains are brought from Missouri to Loretto Motherhouse cemetery

1834

Loretto Academy building erected at Motherhouse. In succeeding generations it was to serve as novitiate, archives and art studio

Purchase of Governor Helm's place in St. John, Kentucky, for Bethlehem Academy, where hundreds of girls were educated for more than a century

1838

Loretto establishes the first Catholic school in Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Contemporary Events

1840-1850

1841

Seat of Bardstown Diocese transferred to Louisville

1845

United States annexes Texas

1846

Carrie Nation is born in Kentucky

Potato crop failure in Ireland sends many Irish immigrants to United States

Bishops of U.S. declare Mary Immaculate patroness of the United States

1848

Treaty of Hidalgo-Guadalupe ends Mexican War and adds Southwest to U.S.

First Women's Rights convention held at Seneca Falls, N.Y., under the leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott

1849 and 1851

Cholera epidemics again ravage Kentucky

1849

Gold is discovered in California

1850-1860

1850

Compromise of 1850 hopes for sectional peace regarding slavery
Vicariate of New Mexico established under Bishop Jean B. Lamy

Bishop Flaget dies and Martin John Spalding, a native Kentuckian, named bishop. Spalding had been baptized and was reared in Father Nerinckx' parish

First Plenary Council of Baltimore regulates Catholic ritual and the teaching of Christian doctrine

1852

Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

1853

Gadsden Purchase completes U.S. expansion to Pacific

Loretto Sampler

1840-1850

1840

Loretto School for the Deaf and Dumb established at Loretto Motherhouse under Sister Eulalia Flaget

1842

Cedar Grove, first Loretto school in Louisville, opens with five pupils

Good Shepherd Sisters make foundation in Louisville and stay with Sisters of Loretto while their house is made ready

Two Poor Clares, Laura and Frances Fulnam, transfer to the Sisters of Loretto

1847

Lorettoines open school for Indian girls at Osage Mission, Kansas. Mother Bridget Hayden and other founders are reputed to be the first white women in Kansas Territory

Loretto Sisters take over school at Florissant, Missouri, after Mother Philippine Duchesne and her sisters move to St. Charles, Missouri

Vital statistics of Sisters of Loretto list many Irish born postulants during this time and cholera as the cause of several deaths

1848

Trappists purchase Loretto property at Gethsemani

1850-1860

1852

Six courageous Lorettoines set out to open a school in the New Mexico territory and establish Our Lady of Light Academy in Santa Fe. The superior of band, Mother Matilda Mills, contracts cholera, dies enroute, and is buried in Independence, Missouri. Mother Magdalen Hayden named the superior

1853

Mother Mary Rhodes dies in Loretto Infirmary

1855

Loretto Academy in Louisville comes under scrutiny of Bloody Monday insurgents but escapes unharmed

Second journey of Sisters of Loretto to Santa Fe

Contemporary Events

1854

Kansas Nebraska Act allows states to determine status of slaves and repeals Missouri Compromise

1855

Bloody Monday in Louisville grows out of Know Nothing Movement

1858

Colorado established as a vicariate with Joseph P. Machebeuf in charge

1859

Mary York is first white woman to live in Colorado

1860-1870

1860

Abraham Lincoln elected president

1861

Civil War begins. Kentucky, a slave state, does not secede and hence is torn by both North and South factions

1862

Confederates under John Morgan raid Kentucky towns surrounding Loretto Motherhouse

1863

Emancipation Proclamation is declared

1865

Robert E. Lee surrenders to Ulysses Grant at Appomatox. Civil War ends

Lincoln is assassinated

1867

Congress passes Reconstruction Act

1868

Transcontinental Railroad completed

1869

George McCloskey becomes bishop of Louisville

First Vatican Council condemns liberalism and rationalism and defines infallibility

Loretto Sampler

1857

Third group of Loretines goes to augment the personnel in Santa Fe.

1858

Fire destroys Loretto Motherhouse convent and church. Students in academy are dismissed to provide living quarters for the community. Plans are made immediately to build temporary and permanent structures

1859

Sisters change from blue to black habits

1860-1870

1862

Ann Havern, one of the first founders, dies at Bethlehem in Kentucky

1863

Mother Berlindes Downs builds new convent and Church of the Seven Dolors at Loretto Motherhouse

First Loretto house established in Illinois at Cairo

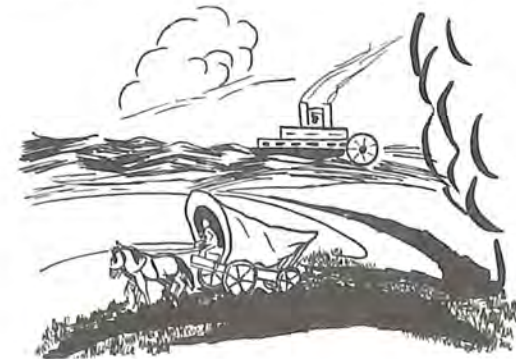
First branch house from Santa Fe established at Taos, New Mexico

1864

Sisters of Loretto go by stagecoach from Santa Fe to Denver to establish St. Mary's Academy

1867

On fourth journey to Santa Fe, Sister Alphonsa Thompson dies of fright after Indian attack and is buried on the plains near Cimarron Landing, Kansas



Contemporary Events

1870-1880

1870

Fifteenth amendment guarantees voting rights to all males

Pius IX proclaims St. Joseph patron of the universal church

1873

Great financial panic. Long depression

1874

Women's Christian Temperance Union founded

1876

Alexander Graham Bell invents telephone

1877

James Cardinal Gibbons writes "Faith of Our Fathers"

1879

Thomas Edison invents electric lights

"The Record," diocesan paper of Louisville, begins publication

1880-1890

1880

Bishops John Lancaster Spalding and John Ireland endorse organized labor

1881

President Garfield is assassinated

1884

Benjamin Webb, brother of Sister Felicitas Webb, publishes "History of Catholics in Kentucky"

Third Plenary Council of Baltimore requires all Catholic children in parochial schools, establishes Catholic University, and approves Baltimore catechism

1886

Bishops set six holy days of obligation for this country

1889

Catholic University opens

Loretto Sampler

1870-1880

1872

Mother Elizabeth Hayden, superior general, makes the first visitation of entire Society

1873

Loretto Motherhouse builds guest and priest houses

Mother Elizabeth consecrates Loretto to the Sacred Heart

Gothic chapel built at Loretto in Santa Fe. It contains the unique circular stairway of mysterious origin

1874

First foundation in Alabama made in Montgomery

1879

Sisters depart from Santa Fe to make foundation in Texas at San Elizario and open St. Joseph's Academy

1880-1890

1880

Adobe academy building erected in Santa Fe

1884

Santa Fe Sisters of Loretto receive teacher certificates from the Territory of New Mexico

1885

Loretto Industrial School at Bernalillo, New Mexico, established for Indian girls

Loretto opens a school at Colorado Springs, Colorado

1886

First foundation made in California at Salinas

New academy structure erected at Motherhouse and 1834 school becomes novitiate building

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Contemporary Events

1890-1900

1890

United States census declares frontier is closed

1892-1896

Great financial panic, which seriously affects finances in western mining states.

1893

Cardinal Satolli appointed first apostolic delegate to the U.S. and delegation opens in Washington, D.C.

1894

Coxey's Army of unemployed stage protest march in Washington and are arrested

1898

Spanish American War ends, ceding Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam to U.S.

1899

American Protective Association, with two and a half million members, publishes seventy weekly anti-Catholic newspapers

1900-1910

1901

President McKinley is assassinated and Theodore Roosevelt becomes president

1903

Wright Brothers make first successful air flight

Canal Zone Revolution succumbs to Big Stick policy

Leo XIII dies and Pius X becomes pope

1905

Pius X issues decree on frequent Holy Communion

1908

U.S. no longer considered a missionary country and Church is removed from jurisdiction of the Propagation of the Faith

1909

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People founded (NAACP)

Bishop McCloskey dies and Bishop Lavielle becomes bishop of Louisville

Loretto Sampler

1890-1900

1891

Loretto Heights opens in South Denver as a boarding school for girls

1893

LORETTO MAGAZINE begins publication

Loretto schools awarded gold medals and blue ribbons at the Columbian Exposition educational exhibits in Chicago

1895

Sisters of Loretto purchase Father Nerinckx' cabin from Austin Smith, the black owner at Little Loretto, and transport it to Loretto Motherhouse

1896

Mother Praxedes Carty becomes superior general and holds post for twenty-six years

1897

Loretto establishes a normal school for the training of her teachers

First Nebraska foundation made at St. Mary's, David City; and first Ohio foundation at St. Francis, Toronto

1899

First Arizona foundation established in Flagstaff

1900-1910

1901

Loretto Academy, Kansas City, Missouri, established

1904

Loretto Constitutions receive temporary papal approbation under Mother Praxedes Carty's leadership.

1905

Loretto Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri, burns to the ground
Ground is broken for St. Joseph's Academy, El Paso

1907

Constitutions of Sisters of Loretto receive final papal approbation

1909

Red hearts are removed from the habit; and white lining inserted in veil

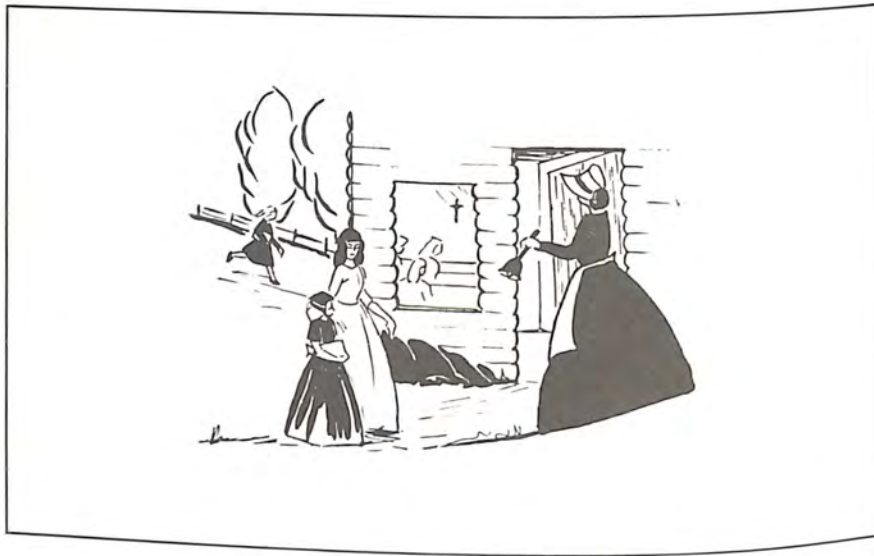
The Loretto Story

BEGINNINGS

The Sisters of Loretto, one of the first religious communities of women founded in the United States, began on the Kentucky frontier in 1812. The founding sisters were of staunch English stock: descendants for the most part of the women and men who left their native land during the 17th and 18th centuries where they knew religious persecution, only to find it resurfacing in their adopted Maryland. After the American Revolution, religious liberty again returned, but the fear of a revival of earlier intolerance continued among the Maryland Catholic pioneers. Toward the end of the 18th century, financial reverses aggravated their lot and stimulated many to move on again, hoping for greater freedom and prosperity. In 1785 twenty-five Maryland Catholic families banded together to find a new beginning in the wilderness of Kentucky. In a spirit of risk and hope, courage and self-sacrifice, they crossed the Alleghenies and settled on Hardin's Creek in central Kentucky, near present Bardstown.

The priest who served St. Charles Station on Hardin's Creek, Charles Nerinckx, was of similar background. Ordained in Mechlin in the latter part of the 18th century, he too experienced religious persecution in his native Flanders. Following the French invasion of the Netherlands, the revolutionary forces took control, with the subsequent curtailment of religion. When the government demanded oaths of allegiance based on its revolutionary principles, the Flemish priest refused to submit and was proscribed. After having spent some six years in hiding in St. Blaise Hospital in Dendermonde, he decided to volunteer his services for the American missions. He accepted Bishop John Carroll's invitation to work in Kentucky where Father Stephen Badin was alone attempting to care for the Catholics in this vast territory. In 1805 Father Charles Nerinckx arrived in Kentucky and began his arduous missionary labors: visiting the scattered Catholic families, ministering to their spiritual needs, instructing them in the faith, and erecting primitive church buildings. He also hoped for a sisterhood to teach the children, but early efforts to establish such a community failed. Providence was soon to fulfill his dream, however, through another channel, the initiative of three young women parishioners.

In 1811 Mary Rhodes came from Maryland to visit her relatives, early migrants to Hardin's Creek. As she experienced life on the frontier, she became aware of the lack of educational opportunities for the children and decided to take up the task of teaching her relatives rudimentary educational skills and catechism. News of her



*God's Providence is our
Sole reliance.*

C. Nerinckx

successful endeavors spread quickly and soon neighboring parents were asking her to instruct their children. When the number of pupils increased, Mary welcomed the assistance of Christina Stuart and Ann Havern in her burgeoning log cabin school.

The three pioneer women found their teaching challenging but they felt a desire to do something more. They discussed with one another the possibility of becoming women religious and decided to talk over their desires with their pastor and friend, Father Nerinckx. He was pleased with their aspirations and resolve, and readily agreed to become their guide and spiritual director.

At the women's request and with their consultation, Father Nerinckx composed a simple rule, which defined the intentions of the Institute: "The glory of God, the honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary; a perpetual contemplation and a thoughtful remembrance of the most bitter Passion . . . of our dear Redeemer, with the sorrows of his beloved Mother; the propagation of our holy religion . . . by instructing youth, and by paying any spiritual or corporal service compatible with the spirit of the Institute." On April 25, 1812, Loretto was born.

The original rule named the group *The Little Society of the Friends of Mary Under the Cross of Jesus*. At Father Nerinckx' suggestion, their log cabin complex was designated *Little Loretto* after the shrine in Italy which honors the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph at Nazareth.

The native American religious community of the Sisters of Loretto grew and expanded despite poverty, sickness, death and misunderstandings. Their greatest early loss was the departure of their revered Father Nerinckx, who decided to leave Loretto temporarily in June 1824 with the hope of bringing peace in the disagreements over religious practices and discipline which had arisen between himself and other Kentucky clergy. Father Nerinckx went on to visit the community of Loretto Sisters established the previous year at the Barrens, Missouri, and then journeyed to Florissant near St. Louis, where he enjoyed the hospitality of a kindred spirit, the famous Jesuit missionary, Father Peter de Smet. After arranging for some Indian girls to be taken care of by the sisters at the Barrens, he began his return trip to their foundation. On the way, unfortunately, he became fatally ill and died at Ste. Genevieve, August 12, 1824.

LORETTO EXPANDS

The Loretto Sisters moved west from Kentucky in almost parallel years with the pioneer settlers. In 1823, three years after Missouri became a state, Bishop Dubourg invited the Sisters of Loretto to open a school in Perry County, Missouri. When the band of twelve sisters set out for what was then a far distant mission, the westward expansion of the Sisters of Loretto began. As the frontier pushed westward, so did Loretto convents and schools.

In 1847 Loretto opened a school for Osage Indians in Southeastern Kansas, where they continued in their task until the tribe was moved into Oklahoma. Prevented by the government from following their pupils, the sisters remained to teach the children of the white settlers, while their apostolate among the Indians continued in New Mexico, and in the early twentieth century again took root in Oklahoma.

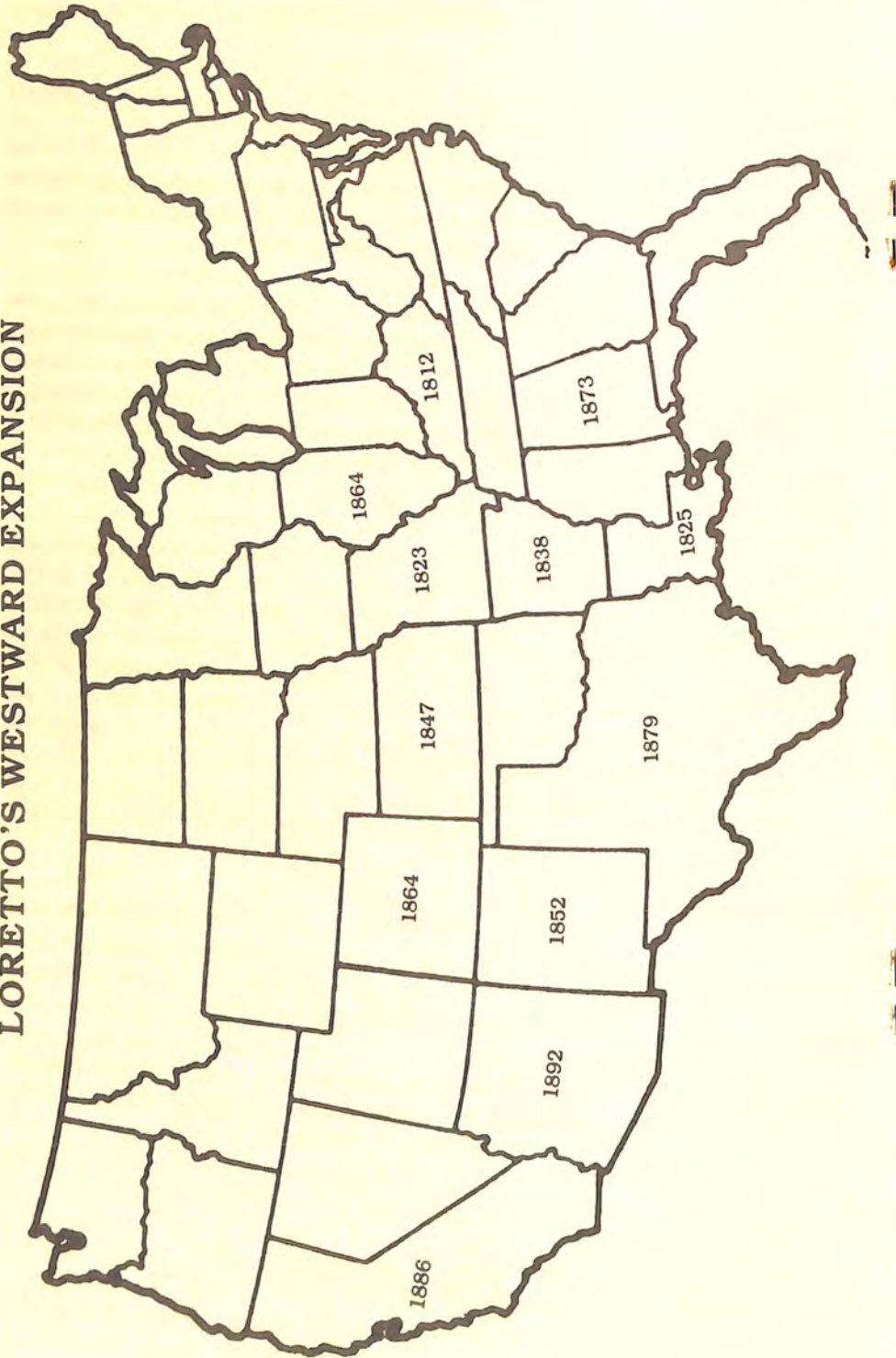
In 1852, four years after the Treaty of Hidalgo-Guadalupe which ceded the Southwest to the United States, Loretto responded to the appeal of Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy to work with the Spanish-speaking children of Santa Fe. On the river trip from St. Louis to Independence, Missouri, where the Santa Fe Trail began, two of the six sisters contracted cholera: one died and the second was too ill to continue the journey. The other four, nevertheless, set out with Bishop Lamy's caravan and arrived at their destination two months later. There a school flourished for over a century and served as a nucleus from which Loretto spread to other New Mexico towns and also to Colorado in 1864 and to Texas in 1879.

In the meantime the South was emerging from the Civil War and was gradually regaining her prestige in the nation. Loretto saw the need and opportunity for service in the new South and accordingly opened a school in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1873.

Before the end of the century, the Sisters of Loretto continued their expansion by establishing schools in California and Arizona, thus completing their westward movement.



LORETTO'S WESTWARD EXPANSION



THE GROWTH OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND THE SISTERS OF LORETTO

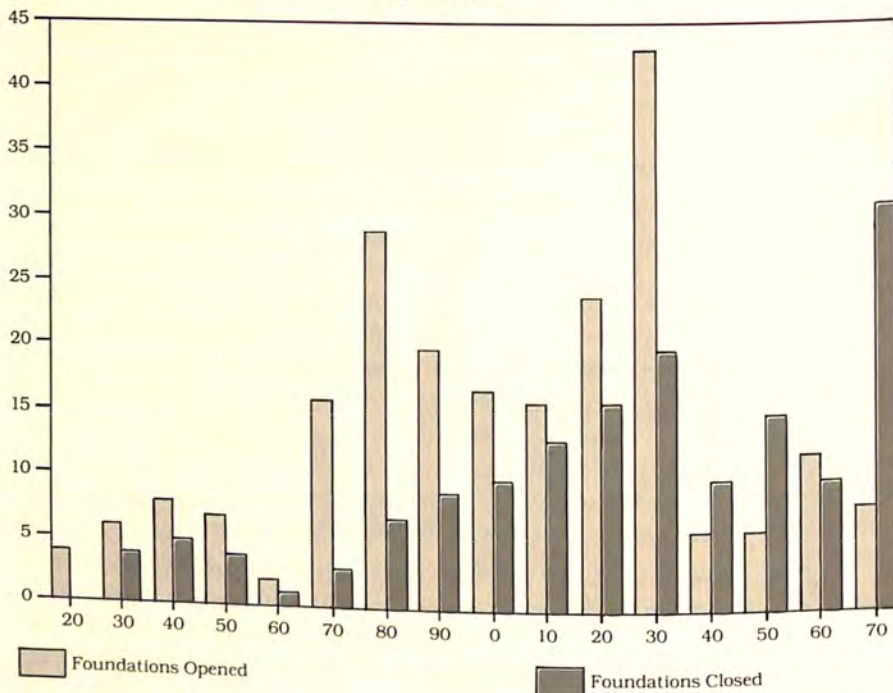
From the beginning, the Sisters of Loretto engaged in teaching as the primary focus of their apostolate. In 1834 they began establishing not only elementary schools, but also academies, which were the popular mode of higher education for women during the entire 19th and early 20th centuries. These academies offered a broad liberal arts curriculum which included history, science, languages, philosophy, religion, art, music, and plain and fancy sewing. In the second decade of the 20th century, several years before women had won their right to vote, two of these academies, Loretto (later Webster) in St. Louis, and Loretto Heights in Denver, easily evolved and developed into standard senior colleges for women. Some of the other Loretto academies became coed parochial high schools in communities where the need for Catholic secondary education for boys became the demand, for example, in Lebanon, Kentucky and in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Still others have continued as private secondary and elementary schools to the present day.

A great impetus to the growth of parochial education under the auspices of the local parishes came in 1884 when the Council of Baltimore directed that every Catholic child should be in a Catholic school. This decree had a significant influence on the apostolate of the Sisters of Loretto and other religious communities of women for many decades to come. During those years the parochial school system in the United States grew and blossomed. As the number of vocations increased, Loretto responded to the church's needs of the time by staffing many schools (Confer Table, page 22, indicating the number of foundations which often included schools on both elementary and high school levels).

As a corollary to the schools, there was a need for the training of the teachers, for good schools require good teachers — ideals the Sisters of Loretto held from the earliest days. Their first rule read: "All exertions shall be made to make and have as many able for this important business [teaching] as possible." Almost from the beginning, clergy and secular instructors were invited to augment the sister staff in teaching the young religious. In 1896 when the normal school concept was the order of the day, a full-fledged teacher training program was begun for Loretto's new members under the direction of Mother Francisca Lamy, niece of the first bishop of Santa Fe. A decade and a half later, when the universities opened their courses to women, four Loretto sisters were released for a year of study in 1912 at Catholic University in order to obtain higher degrees. It was the desire of Loretto also for the education of its members as well as for that of young adult women that led to the opening

FOUNDATIONS 1812-1970

By Decades



FOUNDATIONS BY DECADES 1812-1970

DECADES	OPENED	CLOSED	EXISTING
1812-1820	4	0	4
1820-1830	6	4	6
1830-1840	8	5	9
1840-1850	7	4	12
1850-1860	2	1	13
1860-1870	16	3	26
1870-1880	29	7	48
1880-1890	20	9	59
1890-1900	17	10	66
1900-1910	16	13	69
1910-1920	24	16	77
1920-1930	43	20	100
1930-1940	6	10	96
1940-1950	6	15	87
1950-1960	12	10	89
1960-1970	8	31	66
TOTALS	224	158	

of two senior colleges for women in the second decade of the nineteenth century — Webster College in St. Louis and Loretto Heights College in Denver, as already indicated. Continuing to move into the future, Loretto in the 1950's entered early into the nascent Sister Formation Movement, providing opportunities for all young sisters to earn bachelor's degrees as well as to continue their spiritual formation before entering upon the active ministry.

New calls for service came to the Sisters of Loretto in 1923 with the opening of their first foreign mission in Han Yang, China. There and in Shanghai the Chinese missions flourished until interrupted by war and the sisters' final expulsion by the Communists in 1952. Eight years later, Loretto Sisters answered the Church's urgent call for workers in South America, where they opened a school in La Paz, Bolivia, and subsequently another school in Tacna, Peru, and a catechetical center in Santiago, Chile.

The schools of the Sisters of Loretto continued a steady growth during the first half of the 20th century, reaching their climax in the 1960's. Statistics for the scholastic year 1963-64 indicate the pinnacle of the service Loretto offered the Catholic school system.

In that year the Sisters of Loretto were established in seventy-two houses in the United States and three in South America.

Their schools were described as:

- 2 senior colleges for women
- 1 junior college
- 18 secondary schools
- 73 elementary schools
- 1 school for exceptional children
- 1 prekindergarten
- 2 mission schools

The number of pupils enrolled in those schools that year were as follows:

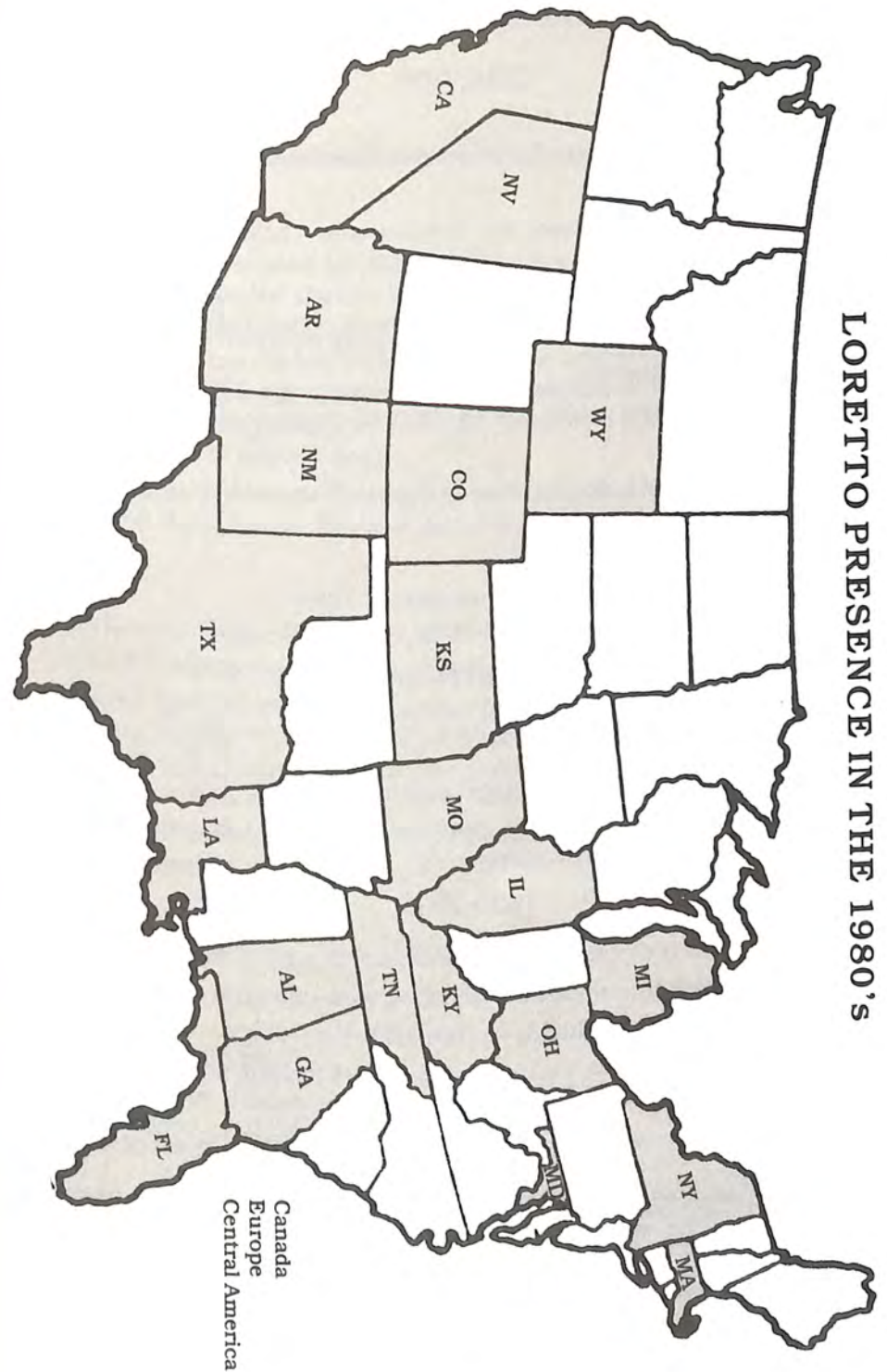
Elementary	31,069
Secondary	7,883
College	2,583
TOTAL	41,535

The changes in the ministry of the Sisters of Loretto were to come soon after this time. Vatican II was already in its third session; it was to have a profound effect on Loretto life and labors.

LORETTO AFTER VATICAN II

In the 1960's Catholics in the United States moved from their minority position into the mainstream of American society. Moreover, global as well as national cultural and societal changes were rapidly developing. Added to these phenomena came Pope John XXIII's convocation of Vatican II and with it another era of Loretto's history began. In response to the directives of that historic council, Loretto undertook its work of adaptation and renewal. Lengthy studies and discussions were held with all the members participating. Hopes and plans were generated. The result was a new form of government and a new rule, emphasizing response to the contemporary needs of the people and designing government structures on the principles of subsidiarity, collegiality and personal responsibility. To facilitate this development, the Central Government moved to urban Denver in 1970, while providing additional programs and uses for the rural historic Motherhouse.

Many effects of Vatican II were experienced not only in the church in general but also in the Sisters of Loretto. Their ministry enlarged, although the number of vocations decreased in quantity. Before Vatican II almost all Sisters of Loretto were engaged in teaching or auxiliary works. After Vatican II, many continued to teach on the elementary, secondary and college levels, but opportunities of ministry expanded to include: adult education, geriatrics, pastoral ministry, religious education, health and social services, peace and justice projects and programs, retreat and contemplative prayer centers, Catholic Worker Houses, ecumenical activities and rehabilitation and occupational therapy — to name those most frequently undertaken. Whereas in 1964 the apostolate of the Sisters of Loretto was confined to eleven states; twenty years later they were working in twenty-one states, and in numerous new ministries seeking to provide "any spiritual or corporal services compatible with the spirit of the Institute" as their first rule had challenged.



LORETTO PRESENCE IN THE 1980'S

Contemporary Events

1910-1920

1911

Catholic University opens Teachers Institute for Sisters

1912

First minimum wage laws for women and children passed in Massachusetts

1914

World War I begins. President Wilson declares neutrality

See of El Paso is erected

Panama Canal opens under United States Government

1915

Sinking of *Lusitania* by Germans. Over one thousand Americans lose lives

1917

United States enters World War I on side of Allies

1918

Woodrow Wilson outlines fourteen points for peace

1919

Paris Peace Conference

National Catholic Welfare Council established

Father John Ryan advocates social reconstruction with eight-hour day and unemployment insurance

1920

1920-1930

Decade when automobiles and movies become part of American life

Nineteenth amendment passed, granting women's suffrage

First commercial radio station begins operation

America refuses to ratify Versailles Treaty and League of Nations

1922

Open Door policy respects China's independence and territorial integrity

Benedict XV dies and Pius XI becomes pope

John A. Floersch named bishop of Louisville, Kentucky

1923

Warren Harding dies and Calvin Coolidge becomes president

Annual meetings of hierarchy begin

Loretto Sampler

1910-1920

1911

St. Mary's, Denver, moves to new site on Pennsylvania and Fourteenth

1912

Four sisters released for full-time study and receive Master's degrees at Catholic University in 1913: Sisters Aloysia Marie Blincoe, Borgia Clarke, Genoveva Anson, and Vitalis Forshee

Loretto College (later Webster College and University) ground breaking in Webster Groves. During erection of building, classes are opened temporarily at Loretto Academy, Kansas City. Sister Louise Wise is named dean

School opened for Indian girls at Pawhuska, Oklahoma, when Blessed Sacrament Sisters are recalled by Mother Katherine Drexel

1918

Loretto Academy, Kentucky, closed. Building becomes novitiate

Loretto Heights becomes a Catholic college for women

Loretto Sisters volunteer to nurse influenza victims at Camp Zachary Taylor and in mining districts of Appalachian Kentucky. Sister Jean Connor, one of the volunteers, dies and is given a military funeral at Camp Zachary Taylor

Red Cross Emergency Hospital opened in Loretto property, Taos, for influenza victims

1920-1930

1922

First Kentucky Catholic Students' Mission Crusade rally held at Loretto Motherhouse

Purchase of fifteen acres from Richard Lockwood in Webster Groves for Nerinx Hall buildings

1923

Six Loretto Sisters open Loretto Embroidery School in Han Yang, China: Sisters Mary Jane McDonald, Nicholas Egging, Patricia Hughes, Maureen O'Connell, Justa Justyn and Stella Tompkins

Old St. Joseph's Academy, El Paso, becomes education center for refugee sisters from Mexico

New Loretto Academy in El Paso opens

Contemporary Events

1924

National Origins Quota Act restricts eastern and southern European immigration and bars Asians

Teapot Dome scandal reveals fraudulent leasing of oil reserves for private gain by high government officials

1927

Lindbergh makes first trans-Atlantic flight

1929

Stock market crashes

Lateran Treaty settles Roman Question and Church is given Vatican City as an independent state

1930-1940

1931

Japan invades Manchuria

World-wide depression. Hoover proposes a one-year suspension of payments on World War I debts

1932

Franklin Roosevelt elected president

Adolf Hitler rises to power in Germany

1933

Volstead Act repeals federal prohibition

First issue of "Catholic Worker" under editorship of Dorothy Day appears

1934

Catholic Interracial Congress established by John La Farge, S.J.

National Legion of Decency is organized

1935

Nuremberg Laws passed in Germany against the Jews

Social Security Act becomes law

1937

Japan invades China

1939

Germany invades Poland and World War II begins. Roosevelt declares neutrality

NBC begins first commercial television broadcasts

Loretto Sampler

1924

Nerinx Hall, successor of Loretto Academy at Loretto College, opens in historic building on Lockwood property

1925

Webster College receives North Central accreditation

Cedar Grove closes in Louisville and Loretto High School opens in Basil Doerhoefer house on Broadway

1926

Loretto Heights College receives North Central accreditation

1927

Mother Clarasine Walsh plans infirmary addition to convent, and new dining room for the novitiate

1930-1940

1932

Webster College begins Saturday classes

1933

First national educational conference for Sisters of Loretto held at Webster College

1934

Two-year novitiate established

Loretto Junior College organized at Motherhouse for the education of young members

Mother Olivette Norton accepts invitation of Columban Fathers to open Loretto School in Shanghai

1937

Ohio River Flood. Sisters are evacuated from Loretto property in Louisville

Sisters Justa Justyn and Clementia Rogner invited by Bishop Galvin to train native Chinese sisters

1938

Formal catechetical center established in Colorado Springs by Sisters Eugenia Koenig and Hortensia Kruij

1939

School for children with severe learning disabilities, The Opportunity School, opened in Santa Fe under Sisters Harold Savage and Miriam George Simon

Contemporary Events

1940-1950

1940

United States bishops issue a joint letter on the Church and the Social Order

1941

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and U.S. enters World War II

1942

Allied Forces bomb Germany

1943

Casablanca Conference of Allied Powers discusses unconditional surrender and post war reconstruction

Two important encyclicals issued on the Mystical Body and Scripture

1945

Roosevelt dies and Harry Truman becomes president

U.S. drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima. World War II ends

United Nations Charter adopted and U.S. becomes a member

1947

Truman Doctrine pledges U.S. aid to nations threatened by communism

1948

Organization of American States established

1949

Dixon Case in New Mexico bars religious from teaching in public schools

1950-1960

1950

United States participates in Korean War

Senator Joseph McCarthy begins a probe to discover communists in national government

Dogma of the Assumption is proclaimed

Encyclical SPONSA CHRISTI addresses congregations of women religious urging "adjournamento" or updating

Loretto Sampler

1940-1950

1940

Convent at Mora, New Mexico, destroyed by fire. Second fire occurs in 1949

1941

Pancratia Hall, high school division of Loretto Heights, discontinued, and building becomes college dormitory

1943

Sister Nicholas Egging ordered to concentration camp in China

1944

Academy property in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and first St. Mary's Academy property in Denver at 14th and California sold

1946

Loretto International Alumnae Association formed

1948

St. Joseph's Infirmary for retired and ill sisters opened at Loretto Motherhouse. Sister Sienna Jansing, first Lorette to earn an R.N. as a sister, is named administrator

1949

Loretto Public Schools in New Mexico become parochial, when Dixon Case is settled

Two Lorettes released for foreign study at the University of Fribourg: Sisters Felicia Corrigan and Jean Carmel Cavanaugh

Flash flood in Bernalillo, New Mexico, severely damages Loretto property

1950-1960

1950

Mother Edwarda Ashe and Mother Kathleen Marie Foley make Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome

1951

St. Mary's Academy, Denver, moves to new site on South University Boulevard

First foundation in Virginia made at St. Anne's, Arlington, and first in Wyoming at St. Joseph's, Rawlins

Contemporary Events

1952

U.S. ratifies peace treaty with Japan

Dwight Eisenhower becomes president and urges peace in Korea

1953

Stalin dies in Russia and power struggle begins

Truce is signed in Korea

Marian Year proclaimed

1954

Supreme Court declares school segregation unconstitutional

1955

Publication of "The Phenomenon of Man" by Teilhard de Chardin of France

1957

Civil Rights Act passed

USSR and European countries sign the Warsaw Pact pledging mutual defense aid

U.S.A. agrees to help train South Vietnam army

1956

Egypt takes control of Suez Canal and is attacked by Israel, France and Britain

Pope Pius XII asks religious congregations to help mitigate war and poverty

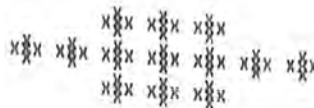
1958

First U.S. satellite goes into earth orbit

Pius XII dies and John XXIII becomes pope

1959

Fidel Castro overthrows Fulgencio Batista in Cuba



Loretto Sampler

1952

General Chapter approves new rule establishing provincial government. Mothers Edwarda Ashe, Marie Lourde Conboy and Januarius Lysaght named provincials

Mother Felicitas Quinliven and Sister Rose Maureen Sanders attend International Meeting of Superiors Generals in Rome

Inauguration of annual workshop in Christian Social Living for student leaders of Loretto high schools

1953

Entrance dates for postulants changed to September

Day nursery opened at Loretto on Lafayette in St. Louis

1954

Loretto joins Sister Formation Conference and establishes House of Studies in St. Louis for newly professed sisters under direction of Sister Helen Jean Seidel

Reception and profession dates changed to month of May

Spiritual Renovation Program begun for Sisters professed ten years

1955

Inauguration of experiment with Shortened Form of Divine Office for community prayer.

1958

Two Loretines released for study at Regina Mundi in Rome, new school of theology for sisters: Sisters Francis de Sales McGarry and Ann Patrick Ware

General Chapter adopts Shortened Form of Divine Office as community prayer

First wing of House of Studies built in St. Louis

1959

Loretto pursues a national fund drive to erect buildings for retirement and formation centers

Two Sisters study at Lumen Vitae Catechetical Center in Brussels: Sisters Simone Inkel and Anna Barbara Brady

LORETTO MAGAZINE resumes regular publication under editorship of Sister Jean Carmel Cavanaugh

Contemporary Events

1960-1970

1960

Great cultural revolution begins to stir U.S. life

John F. Kennedy becomes president

1961

Alliance for Progress seeks to help alleviate South American problems

John XXIII issues "Mater et Magistra" calling for all persons of good will to work for peace and unity

East Germany erects Berlin Wall

1962

John Glenn, Jr., is first American to orbit the earth

Vatican Council II convenes

1963

Betty Friedan publishes "The Feminine Mystique" and launches new women's rights movement

Pope John XXIII dies and Paul VI becomes pope

John Kennedy assassinated and Lyndon Johnson becomes president

200,000 civil rights demonstrators march on Washington

1964

Beginning of English usage in the liturgy

VATICAN II issues "Dogmatic Constitution on the Church" greatly affecting Catholicism

1965

Johnson sends troops to Vietnam

Paul VI visits the U.S. and calls for "no more war."

"Perfectae Caritatis" asks religious congregations to undertake renewal

"Pastoral Constitution on The Church in the Modern World" abolishes practice of isolation from secular world

Catholic schools in U.S. reach their zenith with more than 10,000 schools and 4,500,000 students

Medicare program goes into effect

Religious groups join in civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. Sixteen Sisters of Loretto take part

Loretto Sampler

1960-1970

1960

Conference of Major Superiors of Women appoints Sister Florence Wolff as first executive secretary. National Secretariat established temporarily in Lockwood House, in Webster Groves

Sister Mary Luke Tobin and Sister Peter Bruce go to Bolivia, South America, to investigate possibility for a Loretto mission

1961

Loretto Collegio, La Paz, Bolivia, opens with Sisters Peter Michael Dunphy, Peter Bruce and Eva Salas

1962

Nazareth Hall, home for retired and ill Sisters of Loretto, opens in El Paso

Two Sisters from India invited to participate in House of Studies program

Sister Mary Luke Tobin and Sister Florence Wolff attend beatification of Mother Elizabeth Seton, as representatives of Conference of Major Superiors of Women

Parroquia del Segrario, Tacna, Peru, opened with Sisters Robert Mary Concannon and Stephen Mary Murphy

Loretto Apostolic Center, Santiago, Chile, opened with Sisters Kristin McNamara and Marius Sandoval

1964

Sister Mary Luke, superior general of the Sisters of Loretto, elected president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Women, is invited to attend Vatican II as observer

Experimental apostolic center opened in Pueblo, Colorado, with Sisters Kathleen O'Malley and Yolanda Veytia

Novitiates opened at Loretto Educational Center in Denver, and at Loretto House of Studies in St. Louis

1965

Postulants retain baptismal names at time of reception

Havern School for Exceptional Children opened in Denver under Sister Celine Marie DeSmet

1966

Loretto Academy, Kansas City, moves from 39th and Roanoke to Wornall Road

Contemporary Events

1967

135,000 sisters in the United States participate in the Sisters' Survey sponsored by the Conference of Major Religious Superiors of Women under the direction of Sister Marie Augusta Neal. SND de N

Protests against U.S. involvement in Vietnam accelerate

1968

Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinated

Richard Nixon becomes president

1969

American astronauts land on the moon

1970-1980

1970

Strategic Arms Limitation Talks between USSR and U.S.A. open in Vienna

Voting franchise extended to eighteen-year-olds

National Association of Women Religious (NAWR) is established in the U.S.A.

1971

Busing of school children to achieve racial integration is endorsed

1972

Nixon visits China and Soviet Union

Watergate scandal exposes unlawful break-in of Republicans into Democratic Headquarters

1973

Supreme Court legalizes abortion. Pro-Life and Pro-Choice groups form

U.S. troops withdraw from Vietnam

Henry Kissinger becomes secretary of state

Vice-president Spiro Agnew resigns and Gerald Ford becomes vice-president

Richard Nixon resigns and Gerald Ford becomes president

1974

Worldwide inflation causes rise in prices

Loretto Sampler

1967-1969

Special General Chapter responds to Rome's directive for renewal and renovation in the light of Vatican II

1967

Webster College ownership transferred to lay board

1968

Loretto Heights College ownership transferred to lay board

Loretto Academy, Santa Fe, closed

Sisters begin making personal choice of apostolate and habit experiment approved

Loretto Learning Center established in St. Louis under Sister Helene McLeese

1969

I AM THE WAY, Revised Guidelines, adopted by Chapter as the experimental rule

1970-1980

1970

Inauguration of new government structures under the presidency of Sister Helen Sanders. Central Staff offices moved to Denver

Inauguration of policy of annual assemblies for all members

INTERCHANGE, Loretto house organ, begins publication. Sister Cecily Jones, editor

Program of co-membership is approved by General Assembly

1972

Sister Barbara Roche is appointed full-time Social Advocate for Sisters of Loretto

Loretto enters Social Security Program

1973

Rhodes Tutoring School established at Denver Center

Ownership of Loretto in La Paz transferred to Fey Alegria for education of the poor

Loretto High School, Louisville, closed

Loretto joins other groups in Coalition for Action on Corporate Responsibility in Investments

General Assembly establishes Special Needs Fund for poor and oppressed persons

Contemporary Events

1975

NAWR Convention stresses social justice and equal rights for women

1976

Call to Action Conference in Detroit

U.S. celebrates 200th birthday

Jimmy Carter becomes president of the United States

1977

U.S. Bishops approve Communion in hand

1978

Panama regains control of Canal Zone

Human rights abuses reported in El Salvador

Camp David Summit seeks peace between Egypt and Israel

Death of Pope Paul VI. His successor, John Paul I, dies and is succeeded by John Paul II

1979

Iran seizes U.S. embassy and holds employees hostage

Mother Teresa wins Nobel Peace Prize

Pope visits Latin America

Nicaragua revolution successful

Resumption of all diplomatic relations with mainland China

*Loretto exists to praise God
& minister to people*

I Am The Way

Loretto Sampler

Community is for mission

I Am the Way

1974

Loretto Stop Hunger Fund and Investment Committee on Responsible Stewardship are established

Knobs Haven Retreat Center at the Motherhouse opened under Sister Rose Annette Liddell

1975

Sister Virginia Williams attends the International Women's Year Tribune in Mexico City, the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Women

1976

Cedars of Peace, a contemplative center, established in Loretto Motherhouse woods under direction of Sister Jane Marie Richardson

Redmond Tutoring Center is established in El Paso under Sister Elsie Monsimer

1977

Third World Project provides educational program for Sisters of Loretto in nine countries

1978

Sister Marian McAvoy elected president of the Sisters of Loretto
Loretto takes firm stand against nuclear weapons proliferation

1979

Executive Committee initiates action against Blue Diamond Coal Company for unjust labor practices

Contemporary Events

1980-1986

1980

Hostages finally freed on day of inauguration of Ronald Reagan

Pope visits United States. Theresa Kane, R.S.M., president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, gives welcome speech and makes plea for ordination of women

Archbishop Romero and four U.S. women missionaries murdered in El Salvador

1981

President Reagan wounded in assassination attempt

Expanded U.S. military aid to El Salvador

1982

Archbishop Thomas McDonough resigns the see of Louisville and Thomas Kelly, O.P., becomes archbishop

Attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II

U.S. Bishops issue statement on Central America and nuclear disarmament

1983

Establishment of Papal Commission for the Study of Religious Life in the United States, headed by Archbishop John R. Quinn, assisted by Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., and Bishop Raymond W. Lessard

1984

Geraldine Ferraro, first woman vice-presidential candidate, selected on Democratic ticket with Walter Mondale

U.S. Bishops issue first draft of letter on "The Economy"

1985

Ronald Reagan inaugurated for second term as President of the United States.

1986

U.S. experiences tragedy of explosion of space shuttle, CHALLENGER

Loretto Sampler

1980-1986

1980

Major renovations of 1863 Church at Loretto Motherhouse

Entry of Motherhouse into National Register of Historic Places

Sister Marian McAvoy, president, attends Inter-American Conference of Religious in Santiago, Chile

1981

Addition added to St. Joseph's Infirmary at Loretto Motherhouse

New lake front built at Motherhouse

Sisters Mary Luke Tobin and Pam Solo attend International Public Hearing on Nuclear Weapons sponsored by World Council of Churches in Amsterdam

1982

Sister Marian McAvoy reelected president

1984

Loretto in Kansas City closes and property sold

Revision of I AM THE WAY and unanimous adoption by General Assembly as the Constitutions of the Sisters of Loretto

Eight Lorettoines journey to sites in Central America and Cuba as witnesses for peace

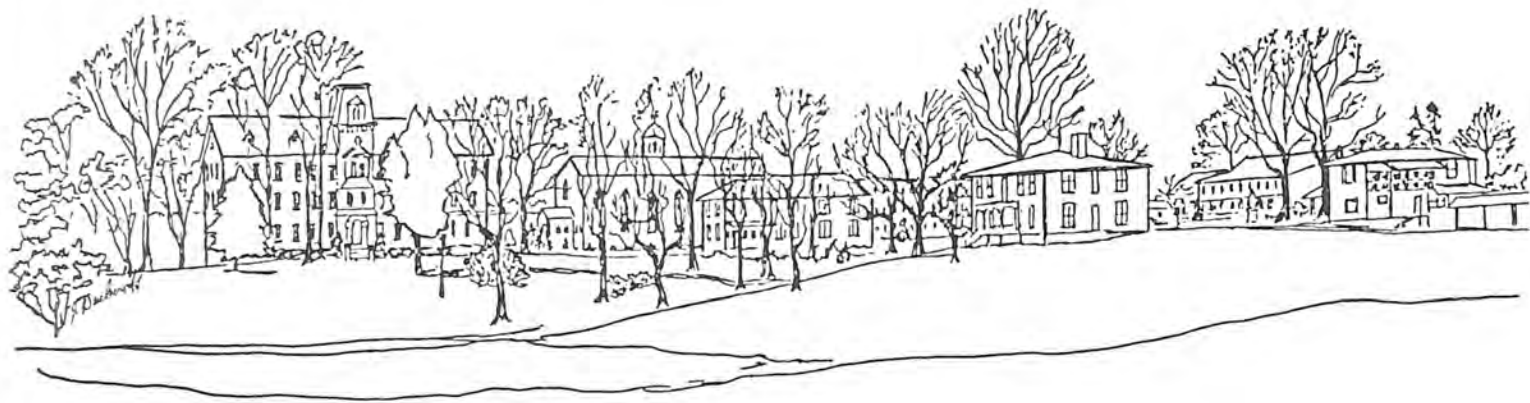
1985

Sisters Marian McAvoy and Mary Frances Lottes attend meeting of International Union of Superiors General in Rome

Annual Assembly held at Estes Park, Colorado. Former members invited to attend the gathering

1986

Sister Maureen McCormack elected twenty-third president of the Sisters of Loretto



Let Loretto be Loretto forever!



Sampler 1886
Heritage Room Collection
Loretto Motherhouse
Nerinx, Kentucky