Loretto MAGAZINE

Fall 2026 Volume 67, No. 3

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Building an accessible retreat cabin
St. Mary's teaches kids Loretto values
Opposing the death penalty
Loretto at the UN shapes young lives
... and more



Belonging to one another

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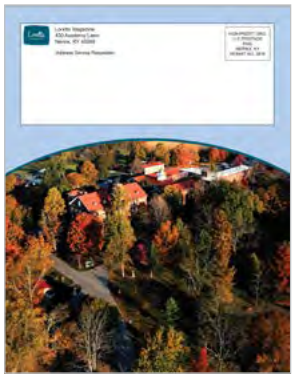
Front cover:

The Loretto Community gathers, sharing belonging and joy while gaining strength for the Community's continued journey.
Photo: Will Myers



Back cover:

Loretto Motherhouse basks in fall glory. The Motherhouse is a haven of belonging — welcoming, celebrating and stewarding life in its myriad forms since 1824.
Photo: Will Myers



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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.

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Dear Reader,

In July, the Loretto Community came together for our Gathering at the Motherhouse, renewing our commitment to one another and to the mission that has carried us for more than two centuries. Since then, I have been thinking about belonging through new lenses — about what it means to create a community where everyone has a place.

That sense of belonging is reflected in this issue of *Loretto Magazine*. You will meet two sisters and a co-member who are celebrating 25 years as part of our Community. You will also learn about the building of a fully-accessible cabin at Cedars of Peace, called "Belonging." This is a first step toward making Cedars a place where people of all abilities can feel welcomed and experience the beauty and quiet of this wonderful retreat center.

For me, belonging also means recognizing that we are part of a much larger human family. It calls us to see the sacredness of every human life, even when someone has committed a terrible wrong. This understanding is at the heart of our continued efforts to end capital punishment in our country. We pray, write letters and reach out to elected officials, seeking an end to executions and affirming the sacredness and dignity of every person.

Belonging is an essential part of who we are as the Loretto Community. When I think about belonging, I think of the many people who have become part of my life through Loretto — our vowed and co-members, families, friends, former students, colleagues and all who share in our mission. Each of you has helped shape who we are.

To belong means more than simply being connected. It means knowing that we are valued, that our presence matters, and that we have a place among one another. I have experienced this belonging through the friendships we have formed, the stories we share and the ways we support one another through change.

Our Loretto Community is changing. Our numbers, ages, energy and ministries are different from what they once were. Yet our need for connection remains. We continue to seek new ways to live our mission, build relationships and welcome others who share our commitment to justice and peace.

In this time of transition, belonging reminds me that we are not alone. We carry our history with us, but we also carry one another. Each person has a valued place in the continuing Loretto story.

Thank you for being part of our Community of faith, justice and peace. We are grateful for each of you and ask for your continued prayers as we walk together into the future.

Blessings,

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

So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5



Co-members who joined the Loretto Community in recent years share a presentation during the Loretto Gathering in July. On the screen at left is Christina Garcia CoL; at the microphone is Jackie Diego-Medina CoL, current Community Forum member. Seated are Terry Franco CoL, Jennifer Staed CoL and Pam Morgan CoL. *Photo: Jean M. Schildz*

Loretto Heights College continues evolving, serving community



Architectural renderings of the revisioned Loretto Heights theater show plans for a space that will support arts in the community. *Photo: Sam Aspnes*



Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, Denver City Council member, and Adrina Gibson, Denver's executive director of general services and deputy mayor, participate in the theater's celebratory groundbreaking. *Photo: Sam Aspnes*

By Mary Nelle Gage SL

The May Bonfils Center for the Performing Arts, opened in 1963 on the Loretto Heights College (LHC) campus, is receiving rejuvenation under the auspices of its current owner, Denver Arts and Venues. The ceremonial groundbreaking was celebrated this past summer with LHC alumni and city officials present. Community College of Denver has been selected as the partner to manage day-to-day operations: staffing, programming, ticketing, marketing and community engagement. During the past nine years Denver Arts and Venues has engaged more than 70 arts and cultural organizations to select an operating partner who would be rooted in education and workforce development, with goals of cultural equity and access. A key objective, along with preserving the venue, is bringing it back to its original use as a teaching theater.

"This is a big step toward delivering a theater that trains Denver's next generation of arts professionals while remaining a true gathering place for southwest Denver, serving as a first-of-its-kind model the rest of the country can look toward."

Denver Arts and Venues



An attendee of the groundbreaking ceremony expresses appreciation. *Photo: Sam Aspnes*

An obligation to abolish a moral wrong



Loretto Motherhouse Peace Committee members plant a sign by the Motherhouse entry each week when an execution is scheduled. From left are Alicia Ramirez SL, Mary Ann McGivern SL, Martha Alderson CoL, Carolyn Jaramillo CoL and Joyce Minkler CoL.

The Loretto Motherhouse Peace Committee is active in opposing the death penalty. As Mary Ann McGivern SL, member of the committee, explains in our Spotlight Video, "We pray together, and we act together to end the death penalty in the United States."

Pope Leo has expressed opposition to capital punishment and unequivocal support for those working to end it.

Watch the brief video at our Spotlight Video page: www.lorettocommunity.org/spotlight.

On the day of the execution we toll the Motherhouse bell at 3 p.m. We erect a sign at the Motherhouse entrance that reads, 'We oppose the execution this week,' and we wear buttons saying the same. In the months we've been doing this, we've had a lot of conversations with visitors.

Mary Ann McGivern SL; for more, see her article on page 26



Vector World Maps

Meet me at Loretto Motherhouse!

High school volunteers: All work and play

During the first week of June, students from Loretto high schools in El Paso, Englewood, Colo., and St. Louis volunteered at the Motherhouse.

The 12 girls, four from each school, accompanied by four teachers, worked hard cleaning the Seven Dolor statues and various railings and porches; creating a new path in Loretto Woods Natural Cemetery; painting; weeding; and mulching. *Oh my!*

The students also had time for enjoying the beauty of the Motherhouse campus, making art, spending time with Community members and baking brownies. They spent their final evening sharing mutual gratitude and fellowship with the Community.



High school students tour the Motherhouse grounds with Eleanor Craig SL.
Photo: Giovana, Loretto Academy student



Students partake of fresh air and get their exercise while basking in the natural beauty of the woods at Cedars of Peace.
Photo: Tiffany Burton, St. Mary's Academy teacher

An active summer for all

Kids love day camp!

For the second year in a row, a successful "Where the Wild Things Are" summer camp was held at Loretto Motherhouse. The camp, led by New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future with the help of Loretto's own Angela Rakes, enabled 50 kids, ages 6 to 12 years, to spend four fulfilling days learning from nature. They explored pond, native grassland, forest and farm habitats, seeking out all manner of species that call Loretto Motherhouse home.



On the hunt! Children learn about local insect life. *Photo: Will Myers*



Look! A turtle! A day camper shows off a petting zoo visitor. *Photo: Will Myers*



Insect-gatherers pause for a photo during a busy day. *Photo: Will Myers*



Judy Popp SL; a Loretto Living Center resident; Michelle Essex, Living Center director; and Denise Ann Clifford SL delight in the animals. *Photo: Will Myers*

A mobile petting zoo visited the Loretto Living Center in June. Spending time with the animals was a real treat for residents. Kids attending the summer camp also got to meet the animals.

The Nature Run: A rousing hit with locals



Ready to start, race participants gear up for a challenging and fun time.
Photo: Rachel Brahm

What a healthy way to spend a summer morning! More than 150 participants showed up in June for Loretto's second annual Nature Run. The course wound through wooded areas, around a lake and along grassy trails and graveled paths. This year, runners and walkers were offered both 5K and 10K options. All funds raised support the missions of the Loretto Community at Loretto Motherhouse. We hope to see you next year!



You've got this! During the race, Motherhouse residents have a great time urging on the 5K/10K walkers and runners with homemade signs and good cheer.

Loretto Community members Mary Ann McGivern SL, Maria Visse SL, Johanna Brian SL and Martha Alderson CoL encourage participants as they go by.
Photo: Rachel Brahm



Ready to help participants collect their numbers and T-shirts are Susie Lyvers, Paighton Livers and Susan Classen CoL. *Photo: Rachel Brahm*





Congratulations kids! Two of the day's winners in their age categories are pleased at the accomplishment.
Photos: Angela Rakes

Family fun abounds at Ag Bash 2026

More than 500 enthusiastic attendees enjoyed Ag Bash in August. Activities for kids — including a petting zoo — as well as adult activities, such as a farmers market and craft vendors, kept everyone engaged. Educational stations were popular with all ages. Kids even received free books; nearly 250 were handed out.



A mom and son are enthralled with the animals. *Photo: Dr. Jimmy Henning*



Loretto Motherhouse's Ag Bash event brings joy to kids and adults alike. *Photo: Will Myers*



Ivoree Sullenbarger, New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future educator, and Joyce Minkler CoL take a break for a photo during a full day. *Photo: Will Myers*



A young girl and Buckwheat, a paint pony, hang out together, one of many opportunities for families to learn about animals and nature. *Photo: Will Myers*



Gather, Loretto, Gather!





By Donna Day SL



We spend all our lives learning how to belong. And that is a very healthy way to live. The recent Loretto Gathering encompassed our energy to belong in a very positive way. We are called to have a heart big enough to love each other; this gives shape to our Community of faith, and focuses our belonging, as the way we live out our Constitutions, *I Am the Way*. We come together to adapt to what is being asked of us today.

We all know we are on a journey, a journey searching for a common future that is always imbedded in our hearts. A story, "The Jeweled Heart" by Barbara Helen Berger, told us that we must share our heart, our truth, our wisdom with one another, for they are all gifts of God's grace for now and for the days to follow on the journey.

The parable of the jeweled heart is new every day; it is not a searching for what our Loretto elders searched for, but it is a searching for what they sought, what seeds they planted as instruments of God's love. As they opened their hearts to God's abundance, so must we.

The call? Come to clarity so we know how to continue. It is indeed time to trust in Providence. It is indeed time to come to clarity so we know how to manage the road ahead. We have, as our Gathering theme reminded us, "strength

Photos page 10: At top: Loretto President Buffy Boesen SL blesses members in the Motherhouse church on the Gathering's opening day. At bottom: The Rev. Marty Lally CoL welcomes Community members into the Church, where he will celebrate Mass.

Photos this page: At top: Kathleen Corbett SL and Mary Catherine Widger SL await the start of Mass. At Bottom: Maria Visse SL sings during the opening Mass. *Photos*: *Will Myers*



Lillian Moskeland CoL and Jeannine Gramick SL delight in one another's company. *Photo: Will Myers*

for the journey." Yes, indeed we are on that journey, for we belong to one another. Our "jeweled hearts" are beating together, even as we search for what reflects the values of 200-plus years — it is not always instantly visible.

*Grab your street veil and shawl; we are going to board the train.**

Mother Praxedes Carty SL, 1894, upon learning that the mortgage on Loretto Heights in Denver would not be extended

Because we are present to each other, to our ancestors on that train, to our common joy and hope, we have a new energy. The more our heart opens, the larger our vision becomes. The seeds we have planted thrive. And our belonging is profound.

---

*Mother Praxedes Carty SL first traveled to Mexico City in an attempt to arrange loans, but found the exchange rate prohibitive. She went on to Milwaukee and asked the mortgage-holding institution's trustees for time. They said no. Mother Praxedes responded, "Gentleman, if you take the building you will have to take the sisters with it." She came away with a two-year extension. Mother Praxedes placed firm reliance on Divine Providence, a practice Loretto has followed from the start. *Deus providebit*: God will provide.





Above: Cathy Smith SL listens during the Community's morning conversation.

Left: Regina Drey SL is caught by the photographer during a quiet moment.
Photos: Will Myers



Maria Daniel SL appreciates a table partner's witticism.
Photo: Will Myers



Ruth Routten CoL ponders during the discussion.
Photo: Will Myers

Love one another, have only one heart, one soul and one mind.

The Rev. Charles Nerinckx, Loretto cofounder with Ann Havern, Mary Rhodes and Christina Stuart



Sharon Kassing SL, Donna Day SL and Helen Santamaria SL smile for the camera during an active day.
Photo: Will Myers

we belong to one another



At top: Anna Koop SL, Johanna Brian SL and Barbara Roche SL engage in lively discussion.

Left: Neil Tucker CoL and Karel Disponett CoL take part in a table activity.

Photos: Will Myers



Above: Participating in discussion during Loretto's Gathering are Terry Franco CoL and Eileen Custy SL; below are Roberta Hudlow SL and Mary Swain SL.
Photos: Will Myers





An architecture of belonging

Loretto's dream: to build an accessible cabin at Cedars of Peace where all will know they belong. *Image: Susan Classen CoL*

By Susan Classen CoL

It's a delightfully cool summer morning at Cedars of Peace where a cluster of eight retreat cabins nestle in the woods on the Loretto Motherhouse grounds. Ignoring the "Silence please" sign, an eastern towhee's distinct "drink-your-tea" song soars above the background chorus of a wood thrush, field sparrow and indigo bunting. So many species belong here.



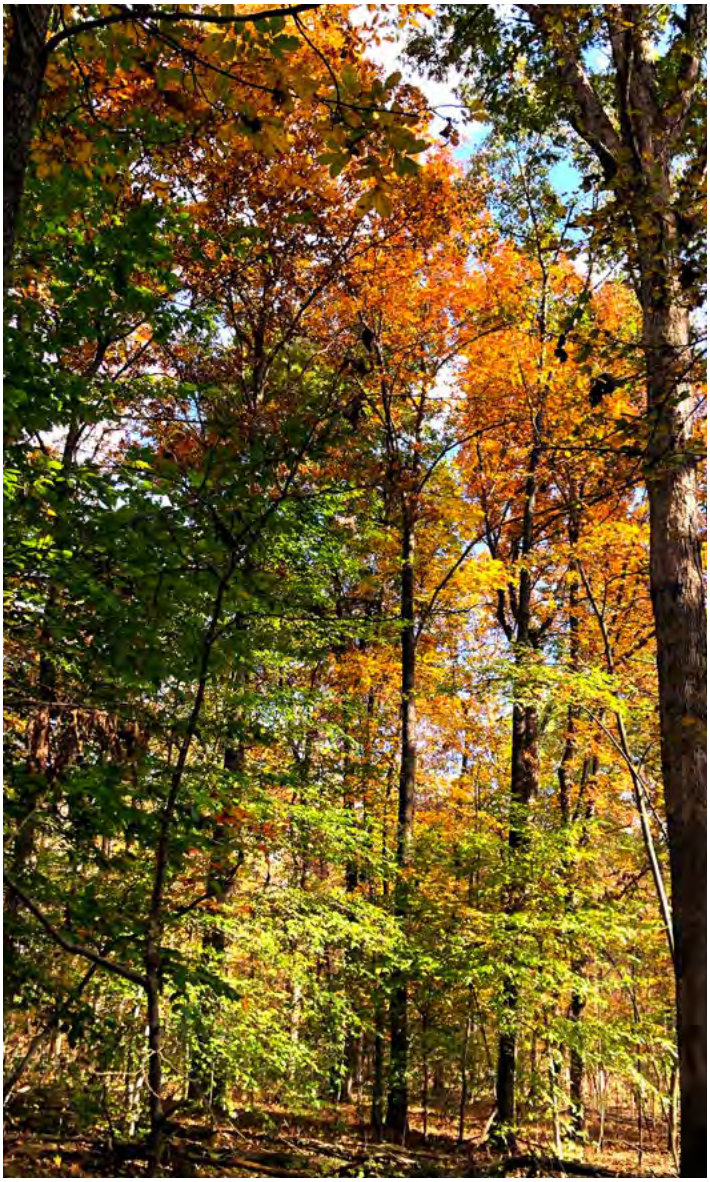
A spiderweb reminds us that all is connected.
Photo: Susan Classen CoL

As I walk down the road past the cabins, a spiderweb catches my eye. "Everything is connected," it seems to whisper, calling me to come closer and notice what the trees look like through its web. "Thank you for the reminder," I whisper back.

I'm grateful this morning for a glimpse of the life and beauty that draws people to Cedars of Peace and keeps them coming back. In 2025, the cabins were occupied 91% of the time, reflecting the value so many of us place on time spent in a safe, beautiful and restful environment.

But not everyone can benefit from this immersion into nature's beauty and wisdom. Steps up into the cabins, tiny bathrooms and tight spaces make our retreat cabins inaccessible to many. We aim to change that through the construction of a new accessible cabin.

We are raising money to build the cabin we have named Belonging, a space where those who frequently experience barriers to access will feel they belong. As with our other Cedars of Peace cabins, materials from the Motherhouse grounds will be used in its construction. Cherry trees uprooted in a storm will be milled into posts and beams. Old siding from the tobacco barn will become trim. Pine floor-



Trees in the woods at Cedars of Peace lend their unique sensibility to all who visit.
Photo: Susan Classen CoL

ing from the convent porch will be transformed into wainscoting for the walls. And stones holding sea life fossils from 350 million years ago will become a backsplash.

The plans include barrier-free access, a universal design kitchen and bathroom, two bedrooms to ensure adequate space for a companion, sufficiently wide sweeps for power chair users and accommodations for service dogs, among other provisions. I'm grateful for the planning input of several key people, who themselves will benefit from an accessible space, and excited by an initiative to invite graduate occupational therapy students to contribute through capstone projects.

We see accessibility as a first step, an open door inviting all who come here to know the truth that they are valued for who they are and belong exactly as they are. Are you, too, excited about our new project? See page 34 of this issue for details on how to be part of making Belonging a reality. You may also visit www.bit.ly/BelongingCabin.

Learn more about Cedars of Peace in the winter 2022-2023 issue of *Loretto Magazine*.



A sign at the entrance to Cedars of Peace asks for silence so that all may enjoy the contemplative peace of nature. The prophet Elijah was told to go to the mountain, "for the Lord is about to pass by"; he found that the Lord was not in the wind or in an earthquake or in the fire, but in the "sound of sheer silence." (1 Kings 19:11-12, NRSV.) *Photo: Susan Classen CoL*

St. Mary's Academy: Learning and living Loretto values

By Regina Drey SL

The 45 fourth- and fifth-grade students who have served as the 2025-2026 Loretto Leaders at St. Mary's Academy in Englewood, Colo., will be the first to tell you that the program gave them far more than a title — it gave them a deeper understanding of what it truly means to lead with kindness and concern for others.

And they learned about this from the very best. Loretto Community members were paired with the students throughout the school year, exchanging letters and sharing wisdom drawn from their experiences. Local Colorado "Buddy" pairs gathered for a special lunch in the spring, while long-distance partners connected over Zoom — proving that meaningful mentorship can flourish across any distance. These conversations culminated a year of learning and service activities, among them school admissions tours and events, lunchtime composting, assemblies and Earth Day activities.

Quotes throughout are from St. Mary's Loretto Buddy students. Check out a Loretto Buddies video on Facebook.

Photos courtesy of Regina Drey SL



"I learned that acts of kindness don't have to be something big. Often the smallest things can make a big difference."



"I've learned to be inclusive."



Photo page 18: Students make placemats and paper flower centerpieces for lunch with their local Loretto Buddies.
Photos this page: at top, Advent action chains give daily suggestions to prepare for Christmas; at bottom, Loretto Leaders have lots to share with Cathy Mueller SL and their fellow Loretto Leaders.



"I have learned to take care of the earth, love all people and treat everyone with respect."



"I learned to put others before me."

St. Mary's Academy is grateful to Loretto Community members who served as Buddies — many for several years: co-members Martha Alderson, Martha Crawley, Cathy Darnell, Jean East, Mary Jean Friel, Pat Geier, Jane German, Sue Kenney, Kitty Madden, Magdalena McCloskey, Jeanne Orrben, Paulette Peterson and Mary Helen Sandoval and sisters Claudia Calzetta, Donna Day, Sharon Kassing, Pat McCormick, Mary Ellen McElroy, Mary Ann McGivern, Cathy Mueller, Mary Margaret Murphy, Barbara Nicholas, Janet Rabideau, Barbara Roche, Joan Spero, Mary Catherine Widger and Kathy Wright. Gratitude also goes to Mary Shay, lower school assistant principal; Carrie Assell, religion teacher; and Regina Drey SL, director of Loretto Projects, who led the program.





Photos page 20: At top, St. Mary's kids share lunch online with their out-of-town Buddies; at bottom, a student initiates a park cleanup. This page: At top, Mary Catherine Widger SL and friends have a fun and fulfilling lunch together; at bottom, handmade posters will remind lower school students to contribute to the annual Loretto Hunger Fund.

35 years!

Loretto at the UN

Advocacy and education

For the Loretto Community, creating the framework to host high school students at annual Commission on the Status of Women gatherings is investing in the future of leadership. These young women represent the next generation of decision-makers, change agents and trailblazers. By empowering them with knowledge, skills and exposure to global issues, the Loretto Community nurtures potential leaders who will drive positive transformation in society.

Leslie Baron, Loretto at the UN intern, 2023-2024



Nerinx Hall High School (St. Louis) students, teachers and staff join Beth Blissman CoL, at far left, and Loretto friend Michaela Walsh, in red, for a morning reflection. *Photo: Beth Blissman CoL*

Loretto shapes young lives through participation in the UN Commission on the Status of Women



St. Mary's Academy (Englewood, Colo.) students participate in the CSW70 teen orientation. *Photo: Felix Munyika*

By Beth Blissman CoL

Loretto continues shaping young lives through annual participation in the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This year marked the 70th CSW gathering — an event that consistently inspires girls to find their voices and see themselves in the shoes of diplomats. In partnership with the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dubuque, Iowa, we were present with a 44-member delegation.

During this transformative experience, students reported learning about issues regarding widows' rights, the gender pay gap, period poverty, women's rights in different cultures, specific obstacles facing immigrant women, artificial intelligence, online sexual harassment and gender-based violence, including men in the conversation and more.

They were surprised to hear that nearly all countries experience backlash on establishing women's rights and gender equality, and that many European nations are struggling with movements intent on removing women's rights and forcing binary gender roles. This new knowledge inspired and motivated our students.

Editor's note: This is part two of a special Loretto at the UN 35th anniversary feature focusing on Loretto's influence on young women. Please see the summer 2026 issue of Loretto Magazine *for part one.*

We are past the point of awareness. We know that gender discrimination is a huge issue with palpable consequences in our modern world. Now is the time for action and progress, not just awareness and theoretical steps.

Grey, St. Mary's Academy, CSW 70 (2026)



Students from Loretto Academy in El Paso, St. Mary's Academy in Englewood, Colo., and Wahlert Catholic High School in Dubuque, Iowa, join teachers and adult participants on the eve of CSW70. *Photo courtesy of Beth Blissman CoL*

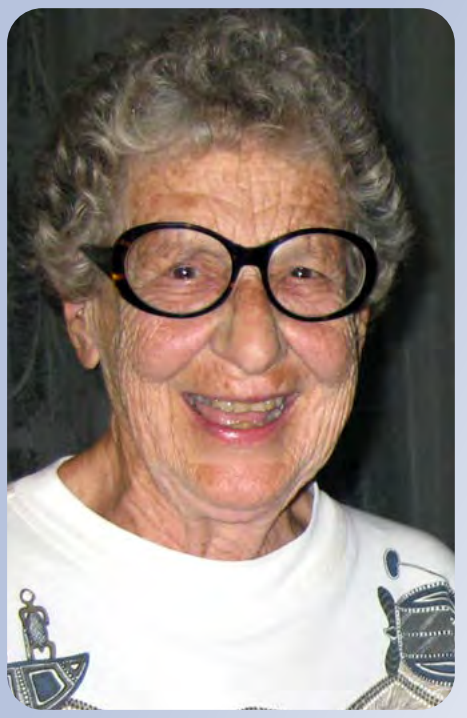
My peers and I volunteer at a hospital, and we always have this one goal, which is to help others, especially in a border region like El Paso. After attending CSW70, I feel even more passionate about this work, as now I know that immigrants deserve more support and research about their health.

Alejandra, Loretto Academy
CSW 70 (2026)

The sense of community is the main thing that truly stuck with me. It can be so easy to feel hopeless about issues such as equality and climate change, but being surrounded by so many powerful women made me feel uplifted and like anything is possible. I loved being able to meet people from all around the world and hear so many perspectives. ... I believe that learning is one of the best parts of life, and this opportunity gave me access to learn so much more than I could have ever imagined. CSW changed my life for the better.

Loretto Academy participant
CSW 68 (2023)

A brief history of Loretto at the UN



Pat Kenoyer SL served as Loretto's first representative to the UN. *Staff photo*

By Christina Manweller

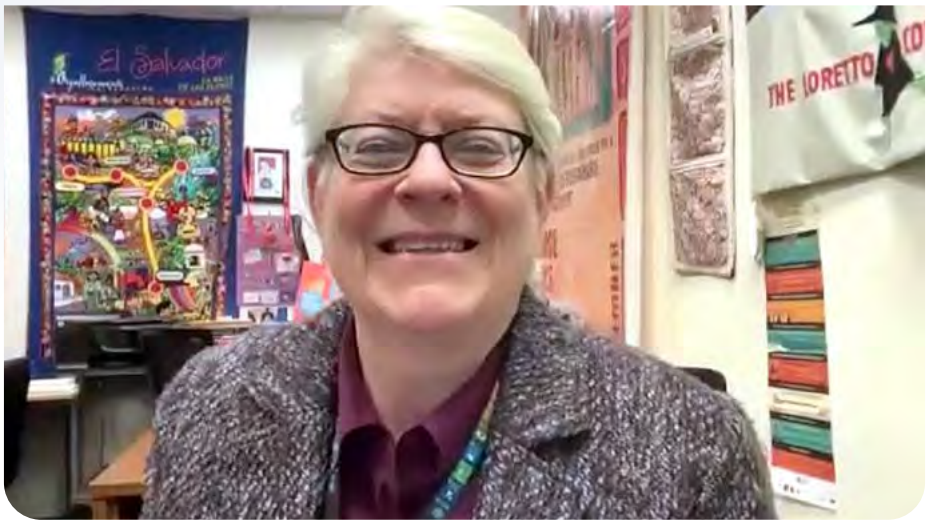
In 1991, Mary Luke Tobin SL proposed that Loretto apply for UN accreditation and appoint a representative. Pat Kenoyer SL, Loretto's first UN representative, served from 1991 to 1995 and initiated Loretto's process of gaining recognition as a non-governmental organization (NGO).

The process solidified Loretto's standing at the UN, though by this time, Loretto's UN presence had been in place for many years, with Community members attending the World Conference for Women in 1980 and providing UN briefings to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, a nationwide organization for vowed Catholic women.

Today, Loretto at the UN serves on NGO working groups and committees and works on key UN commissions and conferences. Sally Dunne CoL, UN representative from 2008 to 2016, began a program to bring high school students from Loretto schools to UN headquarters in New York City to observe and participate in the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). At CSW, students learn about issues affecting girls and women around the globe. See pages 22-24 of this magazine for more on CSW — an important opportunity for high school students to experience the UN, global diplomacy and real-life advocacy. In 2011, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dubuque, Iowa, joined with Loretto in the UN work, a valued partnership that continues.



Sally Dunne CoL presents to a working group at the UN in 2016. *Staff photo*



Beth Blissman CoL, seen here in Loretto's office at the Church Center for the United Nations, has served as Loretto's representative to the UN since 2016, a responsibility she feels deeply blessed to fulfill. *Staff photo*



On the day of a scheduled execution, the Motherhouse bell is tolled. Alicia Ramirez SL demonstrates. *Photo: Jean M. Schildz*

Belonging to the human family

Challenging the death penalty in Kentucky & beyond

By Mary Ann McGivern SL

Two years ago I saw a notice in our local weekly that a Black 20-year-old man had been arrested for the killing of a white woman a year and a half earlier. The prosecutor was planning to ask the jury to apply the death penalty. The crime had occurred in Marion County, Ky., and that's where the trial would be.

I brought the item to our Motherhouse Peace Committee; we agreed to write letters to the pastors of Marion County faith congregations, asking them to preach against the death penalty — because it's important, but also because a congregant might be in the jury pool.

Meanwhile, Carolyn Jaramillo CoL invited the attorney for the accused, Rebecca DiLoreto, to lunch. Rebecca takes on young people's death penalty cases, and she told us the Kentucky situation — 23 men and one woman condemned and waiting, but no executions since 2008 because of a judge's stay. Rebecca urged us to demand that Gov. Andy Beshear commute those sentences, and to call on Archbishop Shelton Fabre to instruct Beshear to commute the sentences.





Loretto Motherhouse Peace Committee members place a sign beside the entrance road on the Motherhouse property in Marion County, Ky., opposing a scheduled execution. Members pictured are Alicia Ramirez SL, Mary Ann McGivern SL, Martha Alderson CoL, Carolyn Jaramillo CoL and Joyce Minkler CoL.
Photo: Jean M. Schildz

The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person.

Pope Leo

Rebecca went on, "You live 9 miles from Gethsemani. You know Dom Elias Dietz, the abbot. Write to him. Tell him to tell the governor to commute these sentences."

Carolyn also invited the prosecuting attorney, the one asking for the death penalty, to dinner. She explained the law, and that she was doing her job as she understood it.

The young man mentioned earlier pleaded guilty and received a sentence of life with the possibility of parole. Meanwhile, an 18-year-old woman here, also represented by Rebecca, is in jail under threat of a death sentence. The Motherhouse Peace Committee invited neighbors to join us and write to pastors and newspaper editors as well as to Gov. Beshear, Archbishop Shelton and Abbot Dietz. You can write too. Please write, wherever you are. At Loretto Motherhouse, we organize letter-writing campaigns.

Then we heard about For Whom the Bells Toll. Under this organization's direction, Loretto Communications publishes the names of those scheduled to be executed in the coming week in the weekly Loretto prayer list. We pray for them at the Sunday petitions. On the day of an execution we toll the Motherhouse bell at 3 p.m. We erect a sign at the Motherhouse entrance that reads, "We oppose the execution this week," and we wear buttons saying the same. In the months we've been doing this, we've had a lot of conversations with visitors. Check out the Death Penalty Action website to learn what you can do.

In April, Pope Leo expressed support for those working to abolish the death penalty, stating, "The common good can be safeguarded and the requirements of justice can be met without recourse to capital punishment." He prays that these "efforts will lead to a greater acknowledgment of the dignity of every person, and will inspire others to work for the same just cause."

Congratulations 25-

Claudia Calzetta SL



"Being a member of the Loretto Congregation has been a deeply meaningful journey of ministry, community and relationships. As a transfer from another community, I first encountered Loretto through Mary Ann Coyle SL, then Loretto president, at a dinner at Kathy Sullivan SL's home. When I asked her how to begin the transfer process, she simply replied, "Oh dear, just send me a letter," making me feel immediately welcomed. I eventually moved in with Kathy and came to know the sisters at the Loretto Center in St. Louis. Mary Mangan SL, Ann Patrick Ware SL, Corrina Vetter SL and Anthony Mary Sartorius SL took time to introduce me to the Loretto spirit, Community and mission. I spent many Sundays at the Center, playing piano for Mass, participating in a book club, sharing meals and attending Community events.

"The opportunity to pursue my dream of serving as a campus minister drew me to Loretto. For 12 years, I accompanied young adults in their faith, and personal and vocational development. In the fall of 2012, I began serving as Loretto Volunteer coordinator in St. Louis, carrying forward the original spirit of the program by inviting young adults to live in intentional community with people whose perspectives differed from their own, serve without financial compensation and carry Loretto values into their future careers and lives.

"Today, as formation director for Pakistan, I have the privilege of accompanying three Pakistani women through their formation and academic journeys, supporting them in earning college degrees that will prepare them to return to Pakistan as educated, professionally-qualified women able to serve as educators, finance professionals, parish coordinators and in other ministries related to their theological formation. To accompany them from their novitiate through their first profession as Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross has been one of the greatest privileges of my 25 years in Loretto."

Being a member of the Loretto Congregation has been a deeply meaningful journey of ministry, community and relationships.

Claudia Calzetta SL

-year jubilarians!

Jeannine Gramick SL



Jeannine transferred from another order 25 years ago to continue and further her longterm LGBTQ support ministry. She met Sisters of Loretto as she pursued her work for justice. She shares,"All these Loretto sisters inspired me with their sense of integrity, wisdom and courage to speak publicly in the face of prejudice toward the underdog. I also knew that the Loretto Community was a leader in the call of the Second Vatican Council to adapt to the modern world, and I wanted to be a part of this exciting group of women!"

"Loretto," she says, "has been an ideal Community to nourish my social needs and my desire to work toward a more just society." Her active life in Loretto has been "enriched with many friendships."

"I truly love all the Loretto Community members I know and feel loved in return. I feel proud that I cast my lot with Loretto's early founders who struggled on the frontier to bring the 'Good News' to the poor and disenfranchised. And I feel privileged that I cast my lot with the Lorettos of today who work to improve the fate of those who suffer from injustice, oppression and deprivation of dignity."

When she took final vows in Loretto, she says, "I made a public commitment to a religious and Christian life and ministry. I vowed to live simply, to share any material and spiritual resources I may have, to love rightly and reverently and to continue to discern and follow God's call for me. I have been so very blessed to live these vows and minister for 25 years as a Sister of Loretto."

Loretto has been an ideal Community to nourish my social needs and my desire to work toward a more just society.

Jeannine Gramick SL



Patricia Herron CoL

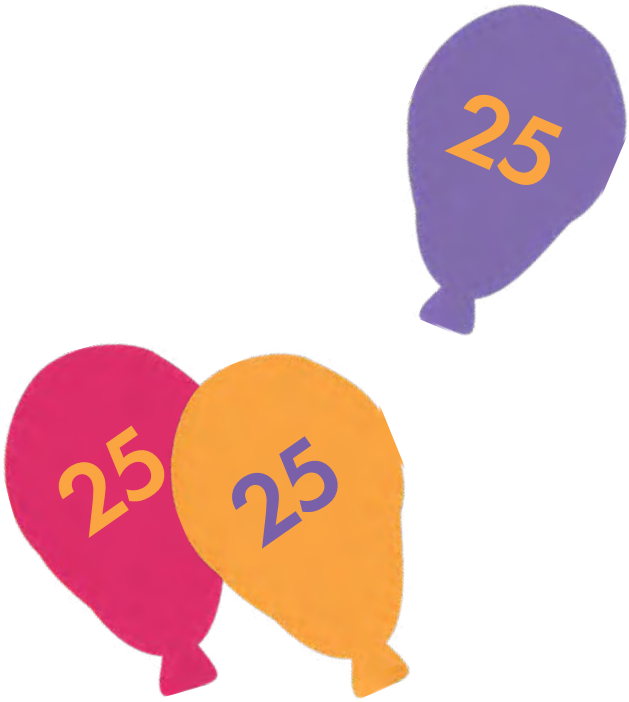
Patricia says, "I have my Loretto 'Work for justice, act for peace' pin that I carry with me at all times when I go out."

Loretto energy, Loretto spirituality and Loretto service drew her to the Community 25 years ago.

The spiritual connection is the aspect of belonging that has meant the most to her. She stays in touch with the Community through local get-togethers and online retreats, adding, "It's just knowing that there are people that support you. Where else do you get this? … I have belonged to churches before, and it doesn't quite match up to what Loretto has done and is doing."

It's just knowing that there are people that support you. Where else do you get this?

Patricia Herron CoL



We also extend hearty congratulations to Nasreen Daniel SL.

Mary Louise Denny SL **March 8, 1946 – July 22, 2026**



Mary Louise died while being transported from University Hospital in Lexington, Ky., to her home at Loretto Motherhouse. She was 80 years old and in the 62nd year of her Loretto commitment. Fondly called "Squeezie" by her brothers, Mary Louise grew up in St. Louis. She graduated from Nerinx Hall High School in 1964 and joined the Sisters of Loretto with others from her class. She earned a bachelor's degree in theology in 1969 from Webster College and an R.N. license from DePaul Hospital's nursing program in 1975. Mary Louise described her work as "a spiral — working, learning, creating and learning again." She traced that spiral from teaching, to nursing, to community organizing, always integrating Loretto values into her work. She donated her body to the University of Louisville.

Peg Jacobs **May 23, 1933 – June 28, 2026**



Peg had been a friend of Loretto since meeting Mary Luke Tobin SL in the 1960s. In 1993, while reading Elaine Prevallet SL's writings, Peg discovered the retreat centers at Loretto Motherhouse. After that, she was a frequent visitor to Loretto Motherhouse. She made her Loretto commitment as a co-member in 1999, moving at that time to spend a year at Cedars of Peace. She lived all 28 years of her co-membership at Loretto Motherhouse, contributing from a wealth of skills developed as a member of and staff for the United Church of Christ. In the middle of Peg's 28 years at the Motherhouse, she wrote, "While coming for only one year in 1999, I am still here." Peg is buried in Loretto Woods, the natural burial cemetery at the Motherhouse.

Marianne Novak Houston **May 1, 1935 – Aug. 23, 2026**



Marianne Novak grew up in Sterling, Ill., where Sisters of Loretto were her teachers. She joined the Community after high school and earned advanced degrees in preparation for her 50 years in education. It became clear to her that she was called to a life as wife and mother. Marianne would say, "Loretto is not something 'out there,' it is here, within me. ... I left the vowed life, but Loretto has never left me." She married Jim Houston, and they had 58 happy years together. She became a Loretto co-member in 1997. Marianne joined Dr. Parker J. Palmer, in partnership with the John Fetzer Institute, in developing the nationally recognized program called Courage to Teach, (now Courage and Renewal) in 1995.

Robert Strobridge **June 25, 1929 – May 28, 2026**



Robert ('Bob,''Stro'), a Loretto co-member since 2001, died in his apartment in Cedar Falls, Iowa, with family at his side. He was 96. Bob was born in Gunnison, Colo., and was raised in Waterloo, Iowa, graduating from West High School in 1947. He earned a degree from the Kansas City Art Institute. He taught art for several years and later moved to the South of France with his life partner Joe Guerinot. After Joe died, Stro stayed in France, where he lived for nearly 40 years, before moving back to the states in 2023 to be near family. Everyone treasured his smile, sense of humor, curiosity and creativity. Stro's friends treasure fond memories of *dear old Stro*.

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

Memorials and Tributes of Honor
May 2026 — August 2026

In Honor of:
Requested by:

*An asterisk (*) following a name identifies a Loretto co-member.*

Buffy Boesen SL
Janet Place
Rose Oswald Bradley and Larry Bradley
Laurence Bradley
Frances Candlin
Candlin Charitable Fund
Denise Ann Clifford SL
Rosemary Filippone
Martha Creek
Tiffany Komasara
Elizabeth Croom SL
Kathleen & Michael Dicken
Dr. Vivian P. Doremus*
Joan K. Donnelly
Regina Drey SL
Kathryn McNamee
Cathy O'Grady-Melvin*
Jeannine Gramick SL
Virginia Day
Mary Jo Highland
Mary A. Highland

Beatrice (Bea) Klebba SL
Patrick Kleaver
Loretto
Loretto High School, Louisville, Ky., Class of 1969
Charlene Cook
Sisters of Loretto at St. Cronan School, St. Louis, Mo.
Paul Schiavo
Sisters of Loretto who taught at Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's Academy and Loretto Heights College in Denver
Carol Jean Hidalgo
Faculty of Loretto Heights College, Denver
Mary Jean & Rodney Brod
Cathy Mueller SL
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Barbara Nicholas SL
Mary Vincent Breeck
Rose Grenough Nett
Charles Richardson
Kathleen Stewart
Anthony Mary Sartorius SL
Wanda and Timothy Sartorius
Agnes Ann Schum SL
David and Deborah George
Marlene Spero SL
Margaret Veatch
Mary Swain SL
Charlene Cook
Elizabeth Mariner
Kay Noreen Thickstun
Kim Anderson
Kathleen Tighe SL
Doris J. Pittman



Photo: Jola Pieslak

In memory of:
Requested by:

*An asterisk (*) following a name identifies a Loretto co-member.*

Pauline Albin SL
Arthur Crawley
Randy and Mac Attkisson
Deborah Fife
Jane Barry-Davis
Maureen Slaton
Elise Boulding
Russell Boulding
Joan Bowers
Judith Foster
Kevin Bradt SJ
Margaret & Henry Ferraioli
Mary Rhodes (Rhodey) Buckler SL
Martha Creek
Jeannie Champlin
Clare Lovett
Thomas Chew
Monica Chew
Rosemary Chinnici SL
Mei Yuk Kung
Neysa Chouteau*
Stifel Financial Corp.
Lee Connolly SL
Michael Tevlin
Mary Conter SL
Sharlene Piper Hower
Mary Ann Cunningham SL
Virginia Day
Nona M. Dailey LHC 1975
Virginia Colwell
Mary Louise Denny SL
Laura Cohen
Mary Lou Gomez-Leon*
Susan Haisley
Gondina Greenwell SL
Elizabeth Mariner
Kathy Grone
Stephen Grone
Patty Sue Harper
Lisa Harper
Marie Noel Hebert SL
James C. Hebert
Joseph Highland
Mary A. Highland
Peg Jacobs*
Thomas & Sandra Dipko
Cecily Jones SL
Stifel Financial Corp.
Joan Kenny
Kathy Jones
Eileen Kersgieter SL – 60 years in religious life
Sr. Mary Schmittgens, OP
John Albert Kordes
Constance & Richard Allen
Mike Latta
JoAnn Latta
Loretto St. Cronan Grade School, St. Louis, Mo.
Paul Schiavo
Gabriel Mason SL
Stifel Financial Corp.
Patricia H. Wiedower
Mary Ann Milton
James T. Milton
Susan Murray
Michael Tevlin
Frances Mary Myers SL
Michael Tevlin
David Ray Natividad
Frances Natividad Coleman
Marianne Novak Houston*
Paula Branch
Rosalie Marie Phillips SL
Raymond Stevison, Jr.
Ann Monica Pierce SL
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony & Judith Piana
James Rauen
Janet Rauen
Mary Anne Reese*
Liz Keuffer
Jean Clare Schilling SL
Lynn Ellen Haner
Dolores Sharp
Loretta Sharp
Lola Shirley
Laurence Bradley
Anne Spillane*
Stifel Financial Corp.
Linda Linker Streutker, LHS 1969
Charlene Cook
Randell Thomas
Shirley Thomas
Eugenia Thompson SL
Judy Wright
Alice Eugene Tighe SL
Elizabeth Mariner
Emmanuel Tonne SL
Janice Murphy
Kathleen Vonderhaar SL
Elizabeth Mariner
Ann Patrick Ware SL
Stifel Financial Corp.
Dave White
Inez White
Jane Wilcox SL
William Wilcox
Rosemary Wilcox SL
William Wilcox
Dorothy and Jack Wilson
Larry Brunelli
Myra Wisniewski
Barbara & Arthur Ratkewicz
Nancy Wittwer SL
Sr. Judith Bell, FSM
Matthew Myers*
Diane & Ralph Pahls
Mary Schenkenberg
Sally Smart
Jennifer Staed*
Kate Stroble
Mary Tinsley
Sheila Dawson Zipse
Katie Dawson

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

Building Belonging at Cedars of Peace



This is the vision for a new accessible cabin at Cedars of Peace. *Image: Susan Classen CoL*

Cedars of Peace has offered a sacred place of rest, beauty and spiritual transformation on the Motherhouse grounds. Now, we are expanding our circle of hospitality. **Belonging** will be our first fully accessible cabin, ensuring that individuals with physical or sensory barriers can fully experience the peace of retreat.

The cabin will be built with reclaimed Motherhouse timber — cherry beams, barn trim and pine flooring from the convent — anchoring the space to this land.

Thoughtful Universal Design:

- Barrier-free entries, wide pathways and roll-in showers
- Two bedrooms to accommodate companions or service animals
- Flashing alerts and tactile accessibility features

Be part of bringing Belonging to life

Gifts of every size help turn this vision into a place of sanctuary. We invite you to partner with us in expanding access and deepening welcome.

How to Give:

Online

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/BelongingCabin

By mail

Use the enclosed envelope and note "Belonging Cabin" on the memo line.

For questions or campaign details, contact Lisa Smith, director of advancement: LSmith@LorettoCommunity.org or 270-431-0100, ext. 5013.

See page 16 for more on the Belonging cabin.

Postscript

Dear Loretto Friends,

When we gather across generations, geography and shared purpose, we are reminded of a fundamental truth: We belong to one another, and we belong to the broader human family.

In this issue, there are many glimpses of this connection in action, including our recent Gathering at the Motherhouse — a joyful reunion of sisters and co-members celebrating our shared path and the miles traveled together. You'll find it in our 25-year jubilarians, children at St. Mary's Academy cultivating leadership, students engaging globally at the UN and our ongoing advocacy for human dignity through our opposition to the death penalty.

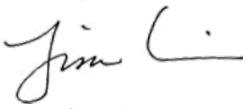
Belonging is not just a feeling; it is a space we consciously create for one another. That spirit lies at the heart of our newest initiative at Cedars of Peace: the Belonging Cabin.

Designed to welcome retreatants living with conditions that impact mobility, vision and hearing, this first fully-accessible cabin will feature universal design, adaptive spaces and reclaimed Motherhouse timber — ensuring that the beauty, peace and sacred rest of these grounds are open to everyone.

I invite you to reflect on where you find belonging in your own life — and how we might widen our circle together. You'll find a special opportunity to help us build the Belonging cabin on page 34.

Thank you for your continued partnership, generosity and presence in the Loretto story.

With deep gratitude,



Lisa Smith
Director of Advancement
LSmith@LorettoCommunity.org



Children learn about belonging to nature and the community of all life during the "Where the Wild Things Are" summer camp held at Loretto Motherhouse. *Photo: Will Myers.*

We announced in the previous issue that we would no longer publish tributes in the magazine. After revisiting the decision, we are continuing the practice.

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