



**Mary Charles Ward SL**  
**January 8, 1913 — June 12, 2009**

Elizabeth Ward, the only child of James and Aileen Parker Ward, was born in Springfield, MA, and baptized at St. Michael's Parish there. She received her First Communion in Washington, DC, and was confirmed on Palm Sunday at Loretto Heights Chapel.

The early years of her elementary education took place in her hometown and in Washington, DC. After her Father's death, Elizabeth and her mother moved to Denver where she attended St. Mary's Academy and Loretto Heights Academy and graduated from St. Mary's Academy High School. During her high school years, Elizabeth and Gloria Lewis became good friends and Elizabeth was a frequent guest at the Lewis home. Coincidentally both died on the same date – June 12.

In 1932 Elizabeth entered the Sisters of Loretto and took the name Sister Mary Charles at reception. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Loretto Heights College and during her 54-year teaching career, Mary Charles taught pre-school, kindergarten and primary grades in St. Louis; Rockford, IL; and Denver. She was part of the Head Start Program in Denver, collaborating with the public schools in Jefferson County.

"Charlie," as she was affectionately called, was an outstanding teacher, but those who worked and lived with her admit that she was not always organized. Sister Martha Ann Koch recalls that she was often getting her final grades on students' permanent records the night before leaving for summer school and Sister Rose

Alma remembers getting her to the train “in the nick of time.”

Mary Charles loved science and taught this subject to the girls who attended Camp Hi-Lo at Loretto Heights College in the summer. In preparation, she collected all kinds of specimens to use in her teaching. Students at the end of camp took both plants and animals still living home. She also incorporated children’s popular cartoon characters into her teaching.

Mary Charles was particularly happy that her Mother was able to be cared for at the Motherhouse Infirmary and is buried in the cemetery there. Mary Charles retired to Loretto Center in Denver and in 2006 moved to Loretto.

Thank you for your life in Loretto with us, Charlie and for the important work you did in teaching little children.