



**Ruth Burgett CoL**  
**December 27, 1915 - July 31, 2009**

Born in Colorado Springs, Ruth's mother died when she was young and the Loretto sisters helped to take care of her. She was an alumna of 16 years of Loretto education including a degree in music from Webster College. She always said that Sister Agnes Marie got her a scholarship to Webster.

Ruth taught at Ursuline after she graduated from Webster, and Ginny Williams was one of her pupils.

She married Arthur Burgett. When they married, interracial marriage was illegal in Missouri, so they had to go out of state to be married. They had six children and lived in St. Rose parish, where the Sisters of Loretto taught.

Barbara Roche remembers Ruth — "She came to teach music at Nerinx in January, 1964 when I was a senior. She was so sweet — she always called us 'lambkins' -- and also instilled a love for music. I remember she proudly played a recording of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto that was made at a summer classical music camp on which her son, Peter, was playing the violin.

“Some time in the 1980s, she initiated the Aesthetic Education program at Nerinx, with Sister Joanna Marie's enthusiastic support. The program brings the arts into all the areas of the curriculum. Marcella Sweeney would have her come talk about Michaelangelo's painting and sculpture in the anatomy classes, she would talk about perspective in paintings in the geometry classes, and musical pitch and sound waves in physics classes. Of course, history, English and language teachers all invited her in to talk about the arts related to the periods, literary pieces and countries they were studying. This unique program continues at Nerinx today.”

Ruth also was very supportive of African American students at Nerinx. She was the moderator for the black student organization, and they sponsored dances to raise money for scholarships.

Ruth was honored as a Mary Rhodes Award recipient in 1990 and became a co-member on June 10, 1995.

On her Mutual Commitment Form in her reasons for interest in co-membership in the Loretto Community Ruth says: “The Sisters of Loretto have been my inspiration since I was five years old. Applying for co-membership has been on my mind for several years, and I wish I had moved faster. I have a desire to be more deeply involved with Loretto, to be present ... and to hear the ideas of those committed members who are out there daring to live as Jesus commanded. Being in closer touch with those who are truly inspired by the gospel message will enrich my life even more. I approach this step with humility.”

Ruth continued to be inspired by the gospel message throughout her life and, indeed, lived a life of humility while changing the lives of others. God bless you, Ruth.