

## Loretto Heritage Center Archives and Museum

### **Finding Aid: Sister Communities**

LHC07.E

Date Range: 1994-2016

Creator: Sisters of Loretto (Nerinx, KY); Holy Family Sisters (Guatemala); Daughters of the Most Blessed Trinity (Ghana)

Extent: 0.66 linear ft.

Language: Eng.

Access Restrictions: Access to materials in the Loretto Heritage Center archives are granted at the discretion of Heritage Center staff and the Loretto Community. Other materials, when indicated, may be restricted for research.

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Citation: LHC07.G Post Vatican II Missions, Sister Communities, [Sub-Series], [Folder i.d.] [Folder Title], Sisters of Loretto Heritage Center and Archives (Nerinx, KY)

Description: Documents Loretto's involvement in its two sister communities: the Holy Family Sisters in Guatemala and the Daughters of the Most Blessed Trinity (FST) in Ghana.

Related Materials: Records of the Latin America/Caribbean Committee (LHC07.A); administrative papers of Maureen McCormack (LHC03.O, Box 35); administrative records of Mary Catherine Rabbit (LHC03.Q, Box 4). Marie Ego's personal papers (LHC17.E), which also contain records from the Loretto Africa Project.

### **Arrangement**

Material was grouped into sub-series and files by the archivist, Laurel Wilson.

#### **Sub-Series 1: Guatemala Sister Community**

Description: Materials regarding Loretto's relationship with the Holy Family Sisters of Guatemala including correspondence between the two orders, applications for aid from the Hilton Fund and the Special Needs Fund, meeting minutes from the Guatemala Sister Community Committee, pamphlets and other secondary sources materials collected in the course of the relationship, and photographs of the Holy Family Sisters taken during visits to Guatemala.

Creator of Material Biography: Loretto's sister community relationship with the Holy Family Sisters of Guatemala was instigated by Loretto's Latin America/Caribbean Committee (LACC), a group which began in 1985 to promote awareness of human rights abuses in Latin America and to show solidarity with people in those countries working toward justice and economic development. In 1993, Sr. Ann Manganaro, SL, who was working as a doctor in El Salvador, passed away and Loretto lost its only direct link to Latin America. Wishing to continue a connection to the region, the LACC decided to seek a sister relationship with a

religious order in a Latin American country. The Sister Parish Program recommended the Holy Family Sisters of Guatemala as a compatible sister community for Loretto. Several members of the LACC visited Guatemala from 1994 to 1995 to meet the Holy Family Sisters and observe their ministry programs for the rural indigenous poor, which include programs teaching them about justice, leadership, self-sufficiency, and their indigenous Mayan culture. Impressed by the work and hospitality of the Holy Family Sisters, the Loretto Community formally committed to developing a relationship with them at the 1995 General Assembly. Since Loretto's first contact with the Holy Family Sisters, the two communities have continued their connection, enriching one another spiritually and culturally, as well as supporting one another in their mission work. In addition to providing financial support via the Special Needs Fund, Loretto Community members have traveled to Guatemala to teach specific to the indigenous people in the area and help the Holy Family Sisters apply for grants. In 2002, the ad hoc Sister Community Committee decided to create separate committees for each of Loretto's sister relationships, and the Guatemala Sister Community Committee was formed.

**Box 1: LHC07.E.a.01**

- Folder 1: History of the Holy Family Sisters and the Sister Community Relationship
- Folder 2: Articles in Interchange and Loretto Magazine
- Folder 3: Undated Materials
- Folder 4: Materials from 1995-1999
- Folder 5: Mary Swain's Journal from Guatemala Trip, 1997
- Folder 6: Materials from 2000
- Folder 7: Materials from 2001
- Folder 8: Materials from 2002
- Folder 9: Correspondence and Other Materials from Mary Peter's Trip to Guatemala, 2002
- Folder 10: Meeting Materials and Reports from 2003
- Folder 11: Correspondence from 2003
- Folder 12: Other Materials from 2003

**Box 2: LHC07.E.a.02**

- Folder 1: Materials from 2004
- Folder 2: Materials from 2005
- Folder 3: Materials from 2006
- Folder 4: Materials from 2007
- Folder 5: Materials from 2008
- Folder 6: Materials from 2009
- Folder 7: Materials from 2010 to 2015

**Box 3: LHC07.E.a.03**

- Folder 1: Guatemala Photo Album #1, 1997
- Folder 2: Photos from Guatemala Album #1 (part 1)
- Folder 3: Photos from Guatemala Album #1 (part 2)
- Folder 4: Journal and Photo Album #2, 1997
- Folder 5: Photos from Guatemala Album #2 (part 1)
- Folder 6: Photos from Guatemala Album #2 (part 2)

- Folder 7: Photos from Guatemala Album # 2 (part 3)
- Folder 8: Miscellaneous Guatemala Photos
- Folder 9: Photos from the Holy Family School in Guatemala City
- Folder 10: Photos and Account from Holy Family's 150th Anniversary Celebration
- Folder 11: Photos from Chiantla, Guatemala School, 1998

## **Sub-Series 2: Guatemala Sister Community; LHC07.E.b**

Description: Materials regarding Loretto's relationship with the FST Sisters in Ghana. Includes records of the Loretto Africa Committee, correspondence with the FSTs, meeting minutes, digital photographs, and more. Also includes materials related to the construction, opening, and operation of the Blessed Trinity Leadership Academy.

Creator of Material Biography: A handful of Loretto sisters performed missions in African countries during the 1970s and 1980s, and by the early 1990s, two Sisters of Loretto were working full time in Ghana. Marie Ego, SL, had established the Loretto Africa Project, which allowed Loretto Community members to offer workshops in Ghana about their area of expertise. Pauline Albin, SL, was also in Ghana for a long-term ministry, first teaching high school and later taking on catechetics and retreat work for a local diocese. Seeing the success of the Guatemala Sister Community, Ego and Albin hoped to start a similar relationship with a religious community in Ghana. The only indigenous community of women religious in the region of Ghana where Ego and Albin worked were the Daughters of the Most Blessed Trinity (FST), founded in 1984 by the bishop of the Kumasi Diocese. The connection between the two communities began in 1999, when two FST sisters spoke at the Loretto General Assembly. Committees were started in both communities to explore the sister community relationship. Loretto and the FST sisters wanted to work on a joint project, and since education was a priority for both communities, they decided to open a school together. After years of fundraising and a \$200,000 starter grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Blessed Trinity Leadership Academy opened in 2009 in Akokoamong, a small rural town in Ghana about 20 miles from Accra.

### **Box 1: LHC07.E.b.01**

Folder 1: Loretto Africa Committee

*Records of the Loretto Africa Committee, a precursor organization to the Ghana Sister Community Committee. It was established in 1994 to educate and engage the Loretto Community about issues in Africa. The committee was dissolved in 1997 after several committee members resigned and no additional people stepped forward to take their place. It was determined that Marie Ego's Loretto Africa Project was the best way for the Loretto Community to connect to Africa.*

Folder 2: History of Sister Community

Folder 3: Undated Materials

Folder 4: News Articles and Essays about Africa

Folder 5: Materials from 2002-2004

Folder 6: Materials from 2005-2006

Folder 7: Materials from 2007-2009

Folder 8: Materials from 2010-2020

Folder 9: Thesis by an FST Sister

*A 2003 dissertation by Sr. Mary Gladys Boakye, FST.*

Folder 10: Restricted: Confidential Correspondence

Folder 11: Digital Photographs of FST

**Box 2: LHC07.E.b.02**

Materials related to the development of the Blessed Trinity Leadership Academy in Akokoamong, Ghana. The school was a joint project of the Loretto Community and the FST Sisters.

Folder 1: General Correspondence Re: Akokoamong School project

Folder 2: Fundraising Materials

Folder 3: Hilton Foundation Application

Folder 4: Donation Records and Budget Worksheets

Folder 5: Hazel Miller Benefit Concert Materials

Folder 6: Akokoamong Project Committee Meeting Materials

Folder 7: Renderings/Floorplan

Folder 8: Bid Proposals and Evaluation

Folder 9: Bills from Refkas Contractors

Folder 10: Bills and Progress Reports from Jimmaco Contractors

Folder 11: Photos (and a Video) of School Progress

Folder 12: Interchange and Loretto Magazine Articles about Akokoamong School

Folder 13: Restricted Emails

Folder 14: Digital Photos of Blessed Trinity Leadership School Students

**Box 3: LHC07.E.b.03**

Folder 1: Akokoamong School Architect Drawings, 2007-2009