

## Loretto Heritage Center Archives and Museum

### **Finding Aid: Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Virginia Williams, SL**

LHC17.C

Date Range: 1974-1998

Creator: Sr. Virginia Williams, SL

Extent: 0.6 linear ft

Language: English

Access Restrictions: Access to materials in the Loretto Heritage Center archives are granted at the discretion of Heritage Center staff and the Loretto Community.

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Citation: LHC17.C Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Virginia Williams, [Folder i.d.] [Folder Title], Sisters of Loretto Heritage Center and Archives (Nerinx, KY)

Creator of Material Biography: Virginia "Ginny" Williams was born on November 8, 1926 in Kirkwood, MO to Gordon Alfred Williams and Margaret Elsie Brogan Williams. Williams earned an A.B. in Sociology from Webster College in 1948 and a M.S.T. from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Sociology. After working with the Girl Scouts of America, Ginny joined the Sisters of Loretto in 1960. In 1964, she served as the Director of Postulants at the Motherhouse and then in St. Louis. Ginny took her final vows as a Sister of Loretto on May 31, 1966. From 1982 until 1995 Ginny served as a staff person in the St. Louis Office. In 1987, Ginny founded a group that developed the first shelter for abused women in St. Louis, known as the Safe House. In 1992, she started the Intercommunity Housing Association (IHA), a group of 19 religious communities dedicated to establishing housing for poor families in the St. Louis area. Ginny was an advocate for women's health and reproductive rights. She served on the Executive Committee from 1996 until her death in 1999. Ginny Williams died on February 16, 1999 at the Loretto Center in St. Louis following a brief illness.

Description: Materials documenting Ginny Williams's work as an advocate for women and women's rights, and housing for the poor and elderly in the St. Louis area. Included is a journal which documents Ginny's thoughts on women's issues, essays on women's rights, correspondence to Ginny regarding her signing of the 1985 letter to the New York Times regarding the Catholic Church's stance on abortion, and documentation and photographs pertaining to the Intercommunity Housing Authority.

Related Materials: Personnel files for Virginia Williams, and Mary Louise Denny (LHC04); Post Vatican II Missions (LHC07); New York Times article collection (unprocessed).

### **Arrangement**

This small series is arranged into a single subseries consisting of one box with 5 folders. Materials are arranged thematically.

### **Sub-series 1: LHC17.C.a Ginny Williams Materials**

Description: See series description

**Box 1: LHC17.C.a.01**

Folder 1: Journal, Women's Issues

Folder 2: Writings, Women's Rights

Folder 3: New York Times Letter Correspondence

Folder 4: Resident Housing Program Photographs

Folder 5: Intercommunity Housing Materials