

Loretto Heritage Center Archives and Museum

Finding Aid: Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Jane Marie Richardson, SL

LHC17.D

Date Range: 1928-2014

Creator: Sr. Jane Marie Richardson, SL

Extent: 3.5 linear ft

Language: English

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Citation: LHC17.D Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Jane Marie Richardson, [Folder i.d.] [Folder Title], Sisters of Loretto Heritage Center and Archives (Nerinx, KY)

Creator of Material Biography: Sr. Jane Marie Richardson, SL, was born as Mary Jane on June 2, 1928 in Louisville, Kentucky to Roy Clinton Richardson and Elsie Margaret Kippes Richardson. She grew up attending Catholic schools in Louisville and entered the Novitiate immediately after high school, receiving the habit and the religious name Jane Marie on April 25, 1947. Having studied piano and voice during her youth, Jane Marie's first assignments were teaching music at grade schools in Denver and St. Louis. She received her bachelor's in music education from Webster College (now Webster University) in Webster Groves, Missouri in 1956. Subsequently, she returned to Louisville to teach at her alma mater, Loretto High School, before earning her master's in musicology from Eastman College in Rochester, New York. She served for a year as Assistant Mistress of Postulants at the Motherhouse before heading to Europe for three years of study, first at the Pontifical Institute Regina Mundi in Rome and later at the *Istitut Catholique* in Paris. Upon her return, she spent a year as Mistress of Postulants before being elected to the General Council in 1964. Jane Marie served as Mother Mary Luke Tobin's assistant and accompanied her to Rome during the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II). In response to Vatican II, the Sisters of Loretto adopted a new constitution called *I Am the Way* in 1969, which Jane Marie played a key role in developing. In 1970, Jane Marie began to live a contemplative life in a cabin on the grounds of the Motherhouse. Six years later, she founded and became director of Cedars of Peace, a retreat center made up of several simple cabins where people can stay to enjoy solitude and reflection. Her quiet lifestyle encompassed a great concern for the suffering of others. She participated in protests against the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Georgia, and in 1984, traveled to El Salvador to support the families of the disappeared and to reflect on the tragedy of the brutal rape and murder of four U.S. missionaries four years earlier. In 1990, she left Cedars to move to Louisville to care for a Loretto Co-Member with Alzheimer's disease. Jane Marie stayed in Louisville until 2014, serving on the Loretto staff as a resource person for spirituality, a role in which she offered spiritual direction, wrote articles, and did retreat work. Beginning in 1970 (prompted by the celebration of Tobin's 12 years as superior general), she began writing music, mostly for meditation and liturgical use. She continued to compose music throughout the rest of her life, eventually writing about 150 songs total. She recorded a CD of her music in 2003, entitled *Sing With Your Life*. Jane Marie died on March 10, 2014 at the Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary.

Description: Materials created by, collected by, or about Jane Marie Richardson. Materials in this series have been divided into five sub-series: writings, musical compositions, photographs, correspondence,

and Merton Materials. Jane Marie gave a number of talks and speeches throughout her time as a Sister and this is reflected in the writings sub-series which contains speech transcripts and notes. Her writing encompasses many topics including contemplative life, women religious, inclusive language, and mysticism. Her calendars and journals can be found in this sub-series as well. The musical compositions sub-series contains songbooks, sheet music, and audio for many of the nearly 150 musical pieces she wrote in her lifetime. Audio formats include cassettes, compact discs, and master reels. Many, but not all, of the audio materials have been digitized. The photograph sub-series scans the entirety of Jane Marie's life but predominately focuses around Jane Marie's life and work as a Sister of Loretto. Correspondence consists primarily of correspondence to and from Mary Schaldenbrand, a Loretto co-member and close confidant to Jane Marie. Letters both to Mary and to Jane Marie's family provide detailed accounts of Jane Marie's time in Europe. The final sub-series of the collection is comprised of Jane Marie's research into and work on Thomas Merton. Jane Marie was a Merton scholar and a member of the International Thomas Merton Society.

Related Materials: Personnel file (LHC04) for Jane Marie Richardson.

Arrangement

Material was grouped into sub-series and files by the archivist, Laurel Wilson. Merton materials were left in the original order.

Sub-series 1: LHC17.D.a Materials Written By and About Jane Marie

Description: A variety of content written by and about Jane Marie. Included are her journals; her written work such as essays, presentations, and talks; news clippings about Jane Marie; her autobiographical reflections; and other biographical content, such as interviews with her and certificates she earned. Note that the musical compositions written by Jane are not included in this sub-series, but in their own sub-series.

Box 1: LHC17.D.a.01

- Folder 1: Autobiographical Materials
- Folder 2: Biographical Materials
- Folder 3: News Clippings
- Folder 4: Written Work, 1970-1988 (and undated)
- Folder 5: Written Work, 1992-2000
- Folder 6: Journals, 1974-1981

Box 2: LHC17.D.a.02

- Folder 1: Journals, 1982-1985
- Folder 2: Journals, late 1980s-1994
- Folder 3: Journals, 1994-1995
- Folder 4: Journals, 1996-2010

Box 3: LHC17.D.a.03

- Folder 1: Calendars

Folder 2: Notes Taken by Jane Marie
Folder 3: Materials Possibly Written by Jane Marie
Folder 4: *I Am the Way* Materials

Sub-series 2: LHC17.D.b Musical Compositions

Description: Jane Marie's musical compositions, of which she wrote about 150 in her lifetime.

Box 1: LHC17.D.b.01

Folder 1: Music Drafts, Notes, and Unbound Sheet Music
Folder 2: Music Drafts and Related Materials
Folder 2a: Music Drafts and Related Materials, con't
Folder 3: *Musical Reflections* (1980), Book and Accompaniments
Folder 3a: *Musical Reflections* (1980), Book and Accompaniments, con't
Folder 4: Bound Music Books, 1981-1982, *Sing the Word* (1981), *Surprised Into Praise* (1982), and *Loretto Hymnal*

Box 1a: LHC17.D.b.06

Folder 1: Music Books from the 1990s and 2000s, *Let the Spirit Sing* (2 versions), Book and Accompaniments, con't
Folder 1a: Music Books from the 1990s and 2000s, *Let the Spirit Sing*, Book and Accompaniments, con't
Folder 2: Music Books from the 1990s and 2000s, *Let the Spirit Sing*, Book and Accompaniments, con't

Box 2: LHC17.D.b.02

Folder 1: Master/Original Accompaniment for *Musical Reflections*
Folder 2: Master/Original Songbook for *Musical Reflections*
Folder 3: Master/Original Songbook for *Musical Reflections II* (alternate name for *Surprised Into Praise*)

Box 2a: LHC17.D.b.07

Folder 1: Master/Original Songbook, *Let the Spirit Sing*
Folder 2: Master/Original Songbook, *Let the Spirit Sing* (version 2)
Folder 3: Master/Original Accompaniment, *Let the Spirit Sing*

Box 3: LHC17.D.b.03

Folder 1: Master Recordings and Digital Copies, *Let the Spirit Sing*, *Surprised Into Praise*, *Cedars of Peace*, and *Cedars of Peace* vol. 2
Folder 2: *Surprised Into Praise* Arrangement Notes
Folder 3: *Cedars of Peace* Arrangement Notes

Box 4: LHC17.D.b.04

Folder 1: Master Recordings, *Sounding Symbols* and Unknown
Folder 2: *Sounding Symbols* Recording Notes

Box 5: LHC17.D.b.05

- Folder 1: *Surprised Into Praise* (Audio Cassette)
- Folder 2: *Sing with Your Life* (Audio Cassette, Compact Disc)
- Folder 3: *Let the Spirit Sing* (Audio Cassette)
- Folder 4: *Sing the Word* (Audio Cassette)
- Folder 5: *Musical Reflections* (Audio Cassette)
- Folder 6: *Easter Exalt and Peace*
- Folder 7: Untitled Cassettes

Sub-series 3: LHC17.D.c Photographs

Description: Photographs taken by or of Jane Marie.

Box 1: LHC17.D.c.01

- Folder 1: circa 1928-circa 1970s
- Folder 2: 1970s-1980s
- Folder 3: 1990s
- Folder 4: 2000s and undated (circa 1990s and 2000s)

Sub-series 4: LHC17.D.d Correspondence

Description: Correspondence written to and from Jane Marie.

Box 1: LHC17.D.d.01

- Folder 1: Family Letters
- Folder 2: Letters from Mary Schaldenbrand, CoL, 1970-1979
- Folder 3: Letters from Mary Schaldenbrand, CoL, 1980-1985
- Folder 4: Letters from Mary Schaldenbrand, CoL, circa 1980-1989

Box 2: LHC17.D.d.02

- Folder 1: Various Correspondence, circa 1960-2008
- Folder 2: Cards from Mary Luke Tobin, SL and others
- Folder 3: Correspondence Regarding Theological Projects Pursued by Jane Marie

Sub-series 5: LHC17.D.e Merton Materials

Description: Materials Jane Marie collected (and some that were likely written by her) related to Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani, whom Jane Marie met while working as Mary Luke Tobin's assistant. Jane Marie became a scholar of Merton's work and joined the International Thomas Merton Society.

Box 1: LHC17.D.e.01

5 folders of research materials regarding the Thomas Merton

Box 2: LHC17.D.e.02

5 folders of research materials regarding the Thomas Merton

