

Loretto Heritage Center Archives and Museum

Finding Aid: Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Agnesetta Reid, SL

LHC17.M

Date Range: 1903-2007

Creator: Sr. Agnesetta Reid, SL; Sr. Ann Rose Reid, SL; Sr. Emily Marie Kohl, SL

Extent: 1 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.M Personal Mission Materials, Sr. Agnesetta Reid, [Folder i.d.] [Folder Title], Sisters of Loretto Heritage Center and Archives (Nerinx, KY)

Creator of Material Biography: Agnesetta Reid, SL, was born as Agnes Veronica Reid on November 11, 1891 in St. Louis, Missouri to James A. Reid and Margaret Mary Fitzsimons. After attending public grade school (because the family's parish had no parochial school), she finished her last three years of high school at St. Vincent's Academy in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, a boarding school run by the Sisters of Loretto where her cousin Sr. De Chantal Coffey, SL, was stationed. Upon graduating from St. Vincent's in 1910, she went through several periods of alternating illness and health, often suffering from debilitating rheumatoid arthritis. One way she attempted to get well was by bathing in the waters of Hot Springs, Arkansas. Around this time, her older sister became a Sister of Loretto, so Agnesetta decided that if God allowed her to recover from her illness, she would join the order also. Finally, after being well for an entire year, she was accepted into the Novitiate and was received into the order on December 8, 1914. In 1916, she was assigned to teach at the newly opened Loretto College Academy in Webster Groves, Missouri (which later became Webster University), first teaching in the elementary school and later in the high school mathematics department. From time to time, she was still plagued by arthritis in her hands, and in 1922, the pain became so debilitating that she had to give up teaching. Agnesetta lived the remaining 20 years of her life confined to a wheelchair and bed. She lived at the Lafayette Infirmary in St. Louis, where she died on August 3, 1942. However, Agnesetta's legacy lasted beyond her life. The Little Flower Burse fund, begun by Agnesetta to develop a home for ill and aging members of Loretto, went toward completing the Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary. Agnesetta's radiant smile, cheerfulness, and deeply-held faith in God's will despite her years of suffering inspired her family and friends so much that they began praying to her for heavenly favors and even hoped to canonize her someday. Several articles and biographical sketches were written about her after her death in order to spread her story, and thousands of copies of a poem she wrote entitled "The Only Solace" were distributed all over the world to comfort patients facing long-term illnesses.

Description: Materials collected by Agnesetta's older sister, Sr. Ann Rose Reid, and Sr. Emily Marie Kohl, in the years immediately following Agnesetta's death. The materials are divided into two parts. The first contains Agnesetta's personal papers, consisting of materials created during her lifetime, including photographs, letters, poetry, a few artifacts, and microfilm copies of the letters. The second sub-series contains materials created after her death, including letters, articles, biographical essays/sketches written about her by her family and friends.

Related Materials: Personnel file for Agnesetta (LHC04)

Arrangement

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

Sub-series 1: LHC17.M.a Agnesetta's Personal Papers

Box 1: LHC17.M.a.01

- Folder 1: Photographs
- Folder 2: Poetry and Other Writings
- Folder 3: Memorabilia and Artifacts
- Folder 4: Little Flower Burse Materials
- Folder 5: Letters, 1912-1927
- Folder 6: Letters, 1928-1939
- Folder 7: Letters, 1940-1942

Box 2: LHC17.M.a.02

- Folder 1: List of Agnesetta's Letters on Microfilm
- Folder 2: Microfilm Copies of Letters, 1912-1926
- Folder 3: Microfilm Copies of Letters, 1927-1939
- Folder 4: Microfilm Copies of Poetry and Letters, 1939-1942
- Folder 5: Microfilm Copies of Letters to Sr. Regina Marie in China

Sub-series 2: LHC17.M.b After Agnesetta's Death

Box 1: LHC17.M.b.01

- Folder 1: News Clippings, Biographical Data and Works Inspired by Agnesetta
- Folder 2: Scrapbook Compiled by Fr. Paul Murphy, SJ
- Folder 3: Biographical Essays/Sketches about Agnesetta
- Folder 4: Manuscript of a Biography of Agnesetta
- Folder 5: Letters to Sr. Ann Rose Reid and Other Family Re: Agnesetta
- Folder 6: Letters Reporting Favors Performed by Agnesetta
- Folder 7: Letters to Sr. Emily Marie Kohl Re: Agnesetta
- Folder 8: Additional Letters Re: Agnesetta
- Folder 9: Miscellaneous Items