

Loretto

MAGAZINE

Fall 2024

Volume 65, No. 3

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Front cover:

At top: Loretto's newly-elected Executive Committee poses with co-members elected to the Community Forum. Back row from left are Maribah Ishaq SL, Jane German CoL (reelected), Cathy Smith SL, Donna Mattingly SL, Cathy Mueller SL (reelected); front row: Mary Margaret Murphy SL (reelected), Mary E. "Buffy" Boesen SL and Kathy Wright SL. Not pictured: Community Forum members Jackie Diego-Medina (reelected) and Fr. Marty Lally CoL.

Photo: Will Myers

At bottom: Eleanor Craig SL leads confirmation students Lois, Colin, Addison, Makaela, Sophie, Olivia and Leilani. The students served as an honor guard for the Blessed Sacrament on the journey from St. Charles Church to the Motherhouse, reenacting the journey the sisters and their students made in 1824.

Photo: Mary Ann McGovern SL

Back cover:

Loretto Community members at the Assembly in Louisville, Ky., give an enthusiastic wave to the drone camera and to all of their friends near and far.

Photo: Will Myers



Sisters of Loretto • Co-Members of Loretto

'We work for justice and act for peace because the Gospel urges us.'

Loretto Community members teach, nurse, care for the elderly, lobby, minister in hospitals, provide spiritual direction and counseling, resettle refugees, staff parishes, seek to abolish nuclear weapons, work with people who are poor and marginalized and minister to those in need. Our ministries are diverse.

The Loretto Community, founded in 1812 as the Sisters of Loretto, is a congregation of Catholic vowed sisters and co-members.

Loretto co-members are those who, by mutual commitment, belong to the Community through a sharing of spirit and values, and by participating in activities that further our mission.

For information on co-membership: www.lorettocommunity.org/join-us/co-members

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Dear Reader,

Is this how it is with you? We are entering the season when nature's way is to let the sap recede. That takes energy, of course, but a restful energy. In actuality, we are gearing up in so many ways. This issue of *Loretto Magazine* brings

forward some of the many ways that we continue to work for justice and act for peace as the Gospel urges us.

Near the conclusion of the Loretto Assembly (July 5-10), I took the opportunity to lead us in the Rite of Missioning, a practice that acknowledges the gift that each one of us brings to the reality of being Loretto, wherever we find ourselves, day by day. Being missioned means being sent from the Assembly to continue our Loretto lives, blessed to do good works.

Having just completed the process of electing new leaders for the Sisters of Loretto and Loretto Community, I invited president-elect Mary E. "Buffy" Boesen SL to join

me as we spoke these words to those present, those on Zoom and to all sisters and co-members:

"It is our privilege and responsibility in the name of the whole Loretto Community to mission you with grace, to send you forth to embrace your particular work of mercy, charity, justice and love in a spirit of informed openness to the deep needs facing us in the church, in our countries — the U.S. and Pakistan — on Earth, in our Cosmos. This is fruitful mission where we meet the Spirit of God, not bound, but revealed in the lives of everyone."

In the months ahead, you will become acquainted with Buffy and the newly-elected leadership team. It has been an honor and privilege to have served as Loretto's president, to have become acquainted with many of you, to have received your generous blessings of time, and service, prayer and most generous contributions to Loretto. I am forever grateful!

And now, let's gear up, enjoy and be inspired by the Loretto lives featured in this *Loretto Magazine*.

With love,

Sister Barbara Nicholas SL
Barbara Nicholas SL
President of Loretto

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*



A cecropia moth with its 6-inch wingspan was snapped at Loretto Motherhouse by Aggie Hoormann RSCJ. After five weeks of developmental growth and 10 months sealed in a cocoon, the moth emerges for a two-week lifespan of mating and producing the next generation.

Justice Fellowship thrives in El Paso

By Annie Rosenkranz, director, Loretto Justice Fellowship

Loretto Justice Fellows carry forward Loretto’s mission and values, providing direct service in key mission areas where Loretto Community members have served for decades.

In the 2024–2025 program year, the Fellowship welcomes 10 students from two universities to serve with justice organizations in El Paso. We hope to build upon the transformative experiences and positive impacts reported by Fellows and partners in our inaugural year.

In the 2023–2024 program year, Fellows provided more than 3,300 hours of service to the community — increasing our partner organizations’ capacity to advance justice and deliver critical social services — while experiencing significant personal growth. They reported deeper self-awareness, expanded capacity to collaborate and a greater sense of connection with a community co-carrying the work of justice.

The Loretto Justice Fellowship program uplifts a new generation energized to change the world and build on Loretto’s legacy. The program is supported by the Loretto Community, Loretto Link and AmeriCorps. Look for more on our Fellows in an upcoming issue of *Loretto Magazine*.



The 2024–2025 Justice Fellows met in El Paso in late August to prepare for a year of community and service. Attending the gathering, coordinated by Annie Rosenkranz, included: bottom row, from left: Araceli Iglesias, Arantza de Jesus; middle row, from left: Diana Acosta, Christina Busuladzic, Sofia Quinones Segovia, Chelsea Le Vey; top row, from left: Jose Gomez, Iris Cano, Alondra Rodriguez, Anamaria Solis.

Photo: Annie Rosenkranz SL

Fellows meet with Loretto Academy students



In June, two 2023–2024 Loretto Justice Fellows, Anabel Theriault (far left) and Arantza de Jesus (far right), collaborated with Loretto Academy faculty in El Paso to offer a presentation to middle school students enrolled in Loretto Academy Challenge Scholars Summer Program. Anabel and Arantza shared about their journeys in justice, connections to Loretto and their experience as Loretto Justice Fellows.

Photo: Annie Rosenkranz

Unforeseen uprooting 200 years ago led the Sisters of Loretto home



Eleanor Craig SL, Loretto Community historian, talks about the history of the Sisters of Loretto at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky.

Photo by Rachel Brahm

In 1824, the Sisters of Loretto were forced to move from their home of the past 12 years to the current location of the Loretto Motherhouse 9 miles up the hill. History has shown that the move would turn out to be fortuitous, but at the time, it felt like a calamity.

Watch a short video of Eleanor Craig SL, Loretto Community historian, talking about this story at our Spotlight Video page:

www.lorettocommunity.org/spotlight.

Read about this history and the 2024 commemoration held in June starting on [page 13](#).

The bishop came to the women in 1824 and said, "I'm sorry, the priests want your land so you're going to have to move ..."

Eleanor Craig SL, Loretto historian



See our most recent Loretto Spotlight video:
www.lorettocommunity.org/spotlight

Vector World Maps

Bringing running water to a Kentucky family

A dad and his two daughters, ages 11 and 14, living a short distance from Loretto Motherhouse were hauling water to their home month after month. Judy Popp SL, who lives at the Motherhouse, found out and determined to help. She started by purchasing a 16-foot-by-16-foot preconstructed building. She had it sited on a hill across the road from the family's trailer where town water and sewage could be accessed and set to work turning it into an attractive water house. A water tank, toilet and tub/shower were installed. Electricity was accessed, and a heater and lights installed. She had a washer and dryer put in. A Motherhouse painter painted the walls. Sister Anndavid Naeger SL made curtains. Gravel was hauled in to improve access.

The girls and their dad have a trek to get to their water house — down the hill, across the road and up the gravel drive, but they have no complaints!

Judy is grateful to many: those who issued the water line permit, the truck driver who donated the gravel, the carpenter who donated his labor to build the steps, the plumbers, utility installers and painters. The project was funded by Loretto, the Abbey of Gethsemani and individual donors.

Read about Judy and her work with local families over the years in the [winter 2020](#) issue of *Loretto Magazine*.



Judy Popp SL conceived of and directed the project to bring water to a family living near the Motherhouse.

Photo: Mary Helen Sandoval CoL

Students volunteer at Loretto Motherhouse

On June 1, students from Loretto-associated schools — Loretto Academy in El Paso, Nerinx Hall High School in St. Louis and St. Mary's Academy in Denver — arrived to spend a week at the Motherhouse. They enjoyed time with one another and Loretto Community members, took part in planned activities and worked hard.

They gardened, painted, cleaned, helped out in Loretto Archives, baked scones, cleared paths at the Nature Preserve Cemetery, built a wagon with Cody Rakes, manager of the Loretto Motherhouse Farm, and took care of numerous other tasks. Whew.

During their visit they participated in a Bioblitz led by New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future. A Bioblitz is a method for obtaining a count of plants, animals, fungi and other organisms in a particular locale. On their last day, they took a trip to Bernheim Forest and Arboretum.



A student lends a hand in Loretto Archives in June.

Photo: Rachel Brahm

Back in April, the Outdoor Explorers Club from Nerinx Hall had journeyed to the Motherhouse, taking part in tours of Archives, the Motherhouse campus, Motherhouse Farm and Nature Preserve Cemetery. They even got to camp at Mary's Lake!

This group also put in many work hours. Motherhouse staff member Rachel Brahm shares, "Community members and residents loved spending time with the girls during their meals, and everyone raved about their hard work and positivity. We look forward to having this group back in the future!"

The Motherhouse Community happily welcomes students whenever they arrive.

With thanks to Rachel Brahm



A Loretto Academy student volunteer engages with a member of the local wildlife.
Photo: Rachel Brahm



In June, Nerinx chaperone Samantha Coates (center, in purple) and students take a break from their gardening work with Mary Swain SL, far right, and Eleanor Craig SL, wearing black. *Photo: Rachel Brahm*



Nerinx Hall High School's Outdoor Explorers Club members pose at the entrance to the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. They spent several days volunteering (and camping!) at the Motherhouse. *Photo courtesy of Jen Staed CoL*

Loretto and Nerinx Hall celebrate milestones together



Students listen to a presentation during Loretto's Foundation Day commemoration.

Photo: Warren Laird

This year Nerinx Hall celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding by Loretto. The school also celebrated the 212th year of Loretto's own founding on April 25. The Foundation Day celebration included presentations and discussions on topics that included the history of Loretto and of Nerinx, Earth justice, women in Pakistan and justice for those on the margins. Jennifer Staed, new Loretto co-member and Nerinx Hall teacher, also was recognized.



Loretto members and Nerinx Hall students, staff and friends enjoy a presentation. Front row from left, Claudia Calzetta SL, Barbara Ann Barbato SL, Annie Stevens CoL, Ann Compton Kammien CoL and Craig Kammien. Barbara Ann and Ann have since died; see their remembrances on page 30. *Photo: Warren Laird*



Molly Kammien CoL, left, and Shaista Alyas share the stage during the commemoration of Loretto's Foundation Day at Nerinx Hall.
Photo: Jean M. Schildz



Jennifer Staed CoL celebrated her acceptance into Loretto co-membership on Foundation Day.
Photo: Warren Laird



Barbara Roche SL talks with students following her presentation on Nerinx Hall's history. *Photo: Jean M. Schildz*

Leading into the future ...



Loretto's newly-elected Executive Committee members gather for a photo following the election at the July Assembly in Louisville, Ky. Back row from left, Cathy Smith SL, Donna Mattingly SL, Cathy Mueller SL (reelected); front row: Mary Margaret Murphy SL (reelected), Mary E. "Buffy" Boesen SL (president) and Kathy Wright SL. Photo: Will Myers

By Christina Manweller

In July Loretto gathered to elect new leaders, hold discussions, pass proposals important to the Community and enjoy time together.

As Community members gathered in Louisville, Ky., and on Zoom starting on July 5, the excitement was energizing. The following days brimmed with elections, deliberations and decisions, camaraderie and even dancing! In fact, music was a valued carry-through, boosting energy and enthusiasm each day.

A primary responsibility of the Community during the Assembly was selecting leadership for the next four years. Mary E. "Buffy" Boesen SL was elected president, and Mary Margaret Murphy SL was reelected vice president. The congregation's Executive Committee includes three new members, in addition to Buffy: Donna Mattingly SL,

Cathy Smith SL and Kathy Wright SL. Cathy Mueller SL was reelected to the Executive Committee.

The Community Forum is made up of the Executive Committee plus three or four additional members — co-members or newly-professed sisters. Forum members elected were Jane German CoL (reelected), Maribah Ishaq SL and Marty Lally CoL. (See photo of the combined EC and Forum members on the cover of this issue; not pictured: Jackie Diego-Medina CoL, who was reelected, and the Rev. Marty Lally CoL.)

The Community held passionate discussions and voted on proposals with respect to internal Loretto matters, reparations, land justice and affirming Loretto's support of the U.N. Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination in all Forms Against Women (and girls).

These were fruitful days full of hope for Loretto.

Loretto Assembly snapshots



Photo: Will Myers



Photo: Leslee Moore CoL



Photo: Will Myers

Above left, Community members listen to a presentation.

Above right, from left, during a lunch break, Carole Eschen SL, Jessie Rathburn CoL and Libby Comeaux CoL enjoy a hug and smile for the camera.

Left, from left, Saima Munir, Maribah Ishaq SL and Shaista Alyas perform a Pakistani dance.

Below, from left, Kathy Santopietro Weddel CoL, Carole Eschen SL, Mary Ann McGivern SL and Eleanor Craig SL enjoy a light-hearted moment between happenings.



Photo: Paulette Peterson CoL

Assembly 2024: work of challenge,



work of joy



Page 12, clockwise from top left:
Jean East CoL listens to a presentation, with Paulette Peterson CoL in the background. *Photo: Will Myers.*

Nasreen Daniel SL sprinkles holy water at Monday's Mass. *Photo: Will Myers*

Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali, friend of Nasreen Daniel SL, presents on Pakistan's history and Christianity and Islam in Pakistan. *Photo: Will Myers*

Jessie Rathburn CoL participates in table discussion. *Photo: Will Myers*

Alicia Ramirez SL listens to an Assembly speaker. *Photo: Will Myers*

This page, clockwise from top left:
Maureen O'Connell SL smiles for the camera on her 80th birthday!
Photo: Leslee Moore CoL

Mary E. 'Buffy' Boesen SL hugs Maria Daniel SL. *Photo: Will Myers*

From left, Shaista Alyas, Donna Day SL, Maribah Ishaq SL and Saima Munir sing during Monday's Mass. *Photo: Will Myers*

Barbara Nicholas SL, outgoing Loretto president, left, applauds, with Mary E. "Buffy" Boesen, incoming president, at her left. *Photo: Will Myers*



Seeking Home: Comme 200 years at Loretto Mo



At St. Charles Church in Lebanon, Ky., Eleanor Craig SL speaks prior to the procession to Loretto Motherhouse, a reenactment of the 1824 journey of the first Loretto sisters from their original home at Harding Creek near St. Charles to what was then St. Stephen's Farm — a rundown series of buildings that over the years the sisters would transform into the Loretto Motherhouse. *Photo: Will Myers*

In the beginning ...

By *Eleanor Craig SL*

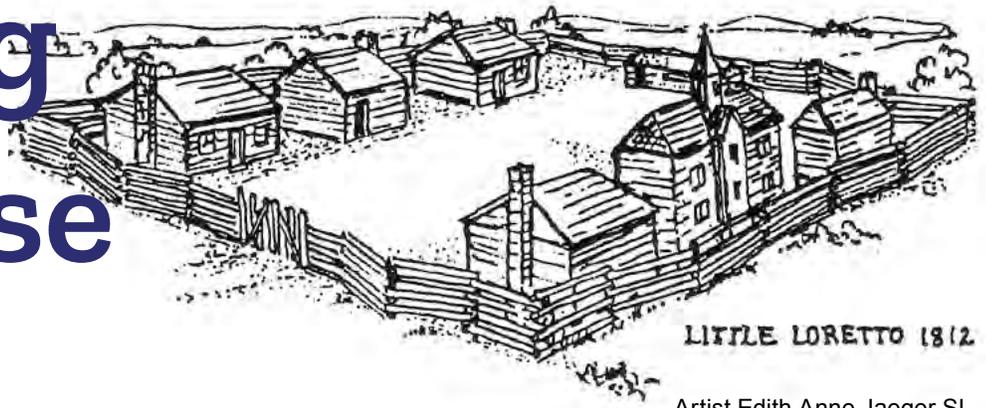
This story is about an unusual group of women, daughters of Maryland settlers. They were young women who came together on the Kentucky frontier in the area some call the Kentucky Holy Land because of the sizable Catholic population who arrived in the late 18th century from Maryland — frontierspeople seeking fresh, unplowed lands where they could live and worship

together. These women committed to teaching pioneer children and to living simple religious lives.

The sisters bought land in what then was southern Washington County, near St. Charles Church — they paid for that land with cash gained from selling a man named Tom.

Later they bought more land nearby. They called their log cabin compound Little Loretto; their neighbors called them the Sisters of Loretto.

morating therhouse



LITTLE LORETTO 1812

Artist Edith Anne Jaeger SL depicted the sisters' original home near St. Charles.

Upheaval ...

By Eleanor Craig SL

In 1824 a group of priests wanted to use the sisters' land, and the bishop agreed. The bishop told the sisters to take their school equipment and students, all the garden and household items, and move to a place called St. Stephen's Farm — which Father Stephen Badin had abandoned six years before.

The sisters borrowed wagons and packed up everything. The last thing they packed was the Blessed Sacrament. They made a place on one of the wagons and had the students walk alongside as an honor guard. It was 9 miles to St. Stephen's Farm; it took most of one day to walk over the rough road. Some neighbors walked with them. It was late November 1824 — cold and cloudy like November days are in Kentucky.

The sisters gradually settled into the few neglected buildings Badin had left behind. It was a cold winter as they worked together making a new school and living space that they called Loretto Motherhouse because it would be the homeplace for all the sisters. The Motherhouse is in the same place today, 200 years later, and sisters still live there.

The sisters called themselves the Friends of Mary Beneath the Cross of Jesus to help themselves remember the many sorrows of Mary. When they had to pack everything and leave their home, they remembered when Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt to save Jesus from King Herod. The sisters felt like they were refugees the same as Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They were carrying the body of Jesus too. Maybe they also thought of all the people in the world who were refugees. Maybe they thought of the Cherokee Indians, who even then had begun pounding out a Trail of Tears across Kentucky.

The Kentucky settlers and the Indigenous peoples they displaced have a common story — they were almost all refugees, which means for one reason or another they needed to leave where they were living because times were hard.

The native peoples had to flee or be killed by the settlers. The settlers had to move because they needed fertile land for their families. All of these refugee peoples took everything they had from their homes and walked to Kentucky or away from it to seek new land where they could make a safe and healthy living. Even when they settled, they sometimes had to move more than once to find the right place for their families. Loretto's story is one very small part of the refugee story.



Confirmation students prepare to escort the Blessed Sacrament from St. Charles Church in Lebanon, Ky., to Loretto Motherhouse 9 miles up the hill. Photo: Mary Ann McGivern



A European artist's fanciful rendering of Little Loretto, the location near St. Charles Church where the Sisters of Loretto first built their home and school. Note the mountains and palm trees — details that may have been based on tales the artist had heard about America.
 Image: Loretto Archives

Upon This Hill

Excerpts from a poem by Cecily Jones SL

No eager journey this autumn of our grief
 but, new, the priest had ordered we should move,
 our place a trade for this. I looked to Ann
 and Mary (Christina had passed on). Obey,
 a cloud of sorrow in their eyes, a shoulder's
 stoic shrug. I knew the flames that had consumed
 our Father's scripts still burned their hearts (and mine
 as well), but *Be obedient and faithful*,
 his words from Belgium four years ago, now seared
 again our shattered souls. And we said yes
 to Loretto's dark uprooting to this hill.

...

Though high and coveted, St. Stephen's Farm
 Was bleak, unfit for school and livelihood
 (with Badin back to France five years ago)
 Till we could dig and fence, clean out and patch
 Dilapidated walls to race the chill
 December winds. The priest engaged a crew
 To build in early spring. As we began
 To settle in, dear Clare brought saplings from
 The woods to green the barren drive, a way
 To plant our broken hearts upon this hill.

Read the poem in its entirety at our website:
<https://tinyurl.com/yzp5efyh>

Coming home ...

By *Mary Ann McGivern SL*

We Loretto sisters have lived at the Motherhouse for 200 years this November. We commemorated the sad march at the end of June. About 100 sisters, individuals and families, including six confirmation students, traveled by wagon and car from the first Loretto site near St. Charles along the 9 miles of road to the Loretto Motherhouse.

At St. Charles Church, Eleanor Craig SL spoke of today's refugees: victims of war and drug cartels and political violence and destruction caused by climate change. She gave the confirmation students a bread basket containing the Eucharist — bread for the journey, bread to give us strength, bread that is with us every day.

The students carried the Eucharist on the wagon, and we held a Benediction at the Motherhouse when we got there in the early evening: a thanksgiving for the arrival of the sisters 200 years ago, tinged with a sense of the hardship the sisters faced and the sorrow of the loss of their first home.

Perhaps in November we will celebrate the joy and vigor of our 200 years here, upon this hill.



Above, Barbara Nicholas SL, president of Loretto, greets the guests who have traveled to the Motherhouse from St. Charles Church, near where the first Loretto settlement stood.

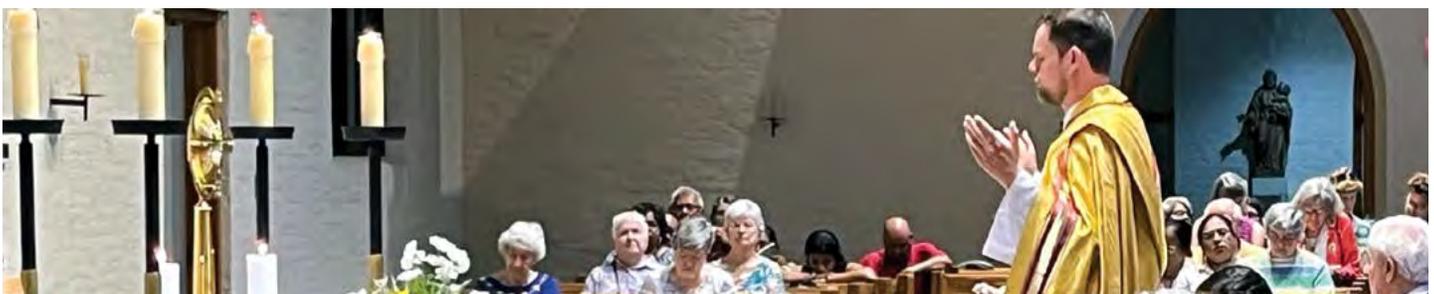
Photo: Will Myers

Left, confirmation students on the hay wagon are ready to escort the Blessed Sacrament from St. Charles Church to Loretto Motherhouse, reenacting the sisters' 1824 journey.

Photo: Angela Young

Below, the Rev. David Farrell officiates at the Benediction at Loretto Motherhouse once the pilgrimage reaches its destination.

Photo: Donna Mattingly SL



Gathering, remembering and marking 200 years at Loretto Motherhouse



Top left, the Rev. Scott Wimsett, pastor of St. Charles Parish in Lebanon, Ky., talks with guests as the church begins to fill. *Photo: Donna Mattingly SL*



Left, an attendee chats with Barbara Schulte SL at the Loretto Motherhouse church; Elizabeth Croom SL is in the background. *Photo: Will Myers*

Below left, a confirmation student, center, smiles with her family. *Photo: Mary Ann McGovern SL*

Below right, attendees at St. Charles Church wait for the event to begin. *Photo: Mary Ann McGovern*





Jeanne Dueber, SL

Above, over the past 200 years the Loretto Motherhouse has become a place of nurturance, learning, beauty and renewal.

Drawing: Jeanne Dueber SL

Right, parishioners from St. Dominic Catholic Church in Springfield, Ky., attend the 200-year commemoration.

Below, Angela Young, in yellow, sits beside Rachel Fenwick, in pink. Angela is the director of religious education at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Springfield, Ky. Several of the confirmation students participating in the pilgrimage came from St. Dominic Church.

Photos: Mary Ann McGivern SL



Summer at Loretto Motherhouse

In addition to the Seeking Home procession in June and an important Assembly, this summer saw Loretto visitors engaging in numerous family activities.



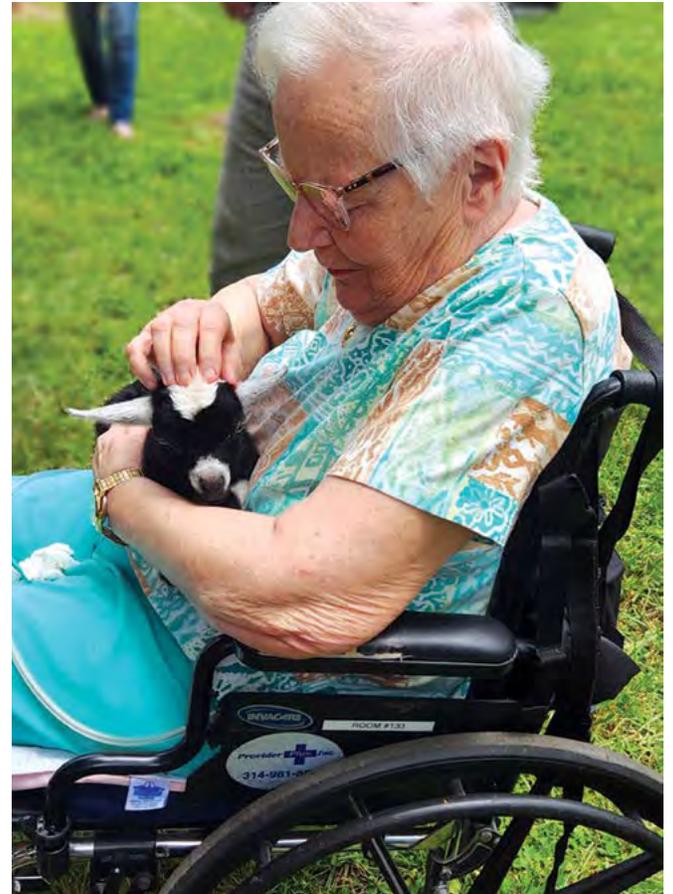
Going on a hayride! Loretto Motherhouse Farm Manager Cody Rakes, far left, prepares to treat visitors to a tour at the farm on Family Fun Day. Photo: Donna Mattingly SL

Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day in early June was enjoyed by all, with activities for kids that included hay rides and face painting as well as live music, hiking and fishing. The day was organized by Loretto Living Center Activities Director Stacy Ballard. Visiting volunteers from Loretto-affiliated schools helped make the event a success.



Cheryl Mattingly, left, longtime Motherhouse staff member, hugs Marie Lourde Steckler SL. Photo: Donna Mattingly SL



Anthony Mary Sartorius SL finds a friend in a tiny goat kid during Family Fun Day in June. Photo: Angela Rakes

brims with community activities



Above, Loretto Heritage Center and Archives Director Reba Weatherford leads a tour of the Loretto Motherhouse campus. Right, visitors check out exhibits in the Heritage Center. Below, guests enjoy the campus tour.
Photos: Will Myers

Heritage Center Open House

In July, 110 visitors were welcomed to the Loretto Heritage Center and Archives Open House. Guests joined a tour of the Motherhouse campus led by Heritage Center and Archives Director Reba Weatherford, visited the research room and collections storage spaces, viewed ornate vestments worn by Father Nerinckx, who founded the Sisters of Loretto in 1812 with Ann Havern, Mary Rhodes and Christina Stuart, listened to a Reginaphone — combination music box/phonograph from the early 20th century — and even participated in a scavenger hunt featuring the collection of nun dolls that emerged from storage especially for this occasion.

Reba looks forward to planning future events.

'Attendance far surpassed our expectations, and visitors left with smiles on their faces. Since then, we have had the pleasure of answering a few research requests from open house attendees.'

Reba Weatherford, director,
Loretto Heritage Center and Archives



Living history



Photo: Loretto Archives



Photo: Angela Selter

In the 1961 photograph above, taken in the museum at Loretto Motherhouse, Antonina Ryan SL shows an old spinning wheel to Marian Wheatley Medley, daughter of Carl Wheatley, Loretto's farm manager. Marian's family lived in Clare House on the Motherhouse grounds for many years. Sister Antonina, born in Denver and daughter of Irish parents, entered Loretto in 1900 at the age of 17 and obtained a master's from Denver University. She taught in schools in Colorado, Kentucky,

Missouri and New Mexico before moving to the Motherhouse in 1958. She died in 1975 and is buried in the Motherhouse cemetery.

In late July, 63 years after Marian was photographed with Sister Antonina and the spinning wheel, Heritage Center staff enjoyed staging a recreation of the 1961 photo. Marian traveled to Loretto Motherhouse where she was photographed with Johanna Brian SL.



The Wheatley family poses during the Heritage Center and Archives open house at Loretto Motherhouse in July. Marian Wheatley Medley (see photos at top) was unable to attend, though several of her siblings appear in this photo, including Rose Mary Wheatley, second from left, who is a Heritage Center volunteer. Photo: Virginia Nesmith

Loretto Motherhouse Farm receives historic designation

In a summer full of exciting happenings, the Loretto Motherhouse Farm was officially named a Kentucky Heritage Farm.

Anthony Mary Sartorius SL was an early proponent of including Loretto's farm in the Kentucky Heritage Council registry that includes farms that have been in the same family or organization for more than 100 years. This year, Liz Perez SL suggested once again that Loretto pursue the designation.

Matthew Yagle (see photo at right) shared, "Of all the applications I've processed, this was my favorite Heritage Farm experience." He was grateful for the hospitality of everyone at the Motherhouse.

The application process was completed and the farm received its designation in July, just in time to celebrate Loretto's 200th Anniversary on the Motherhouse property.



Matthew Yagle of the Kentucky Heritage Council, presents Loretto with its official historic designation sign. From left, Matthew, Cathy Smith SL, Donna Mattingly SL, Mary E. "Buffy" Boesen SL and Liz Perez SL. *Photo: Will Myers*

Ag Bash offers families and friends a romping good time



"What's this?" A child and pony are mesmerized by a curiosity they've spotted on the ground. *Photo: Will Myers*

On the first Saturday of August, the Loretto Motherhouse held its third annual Back To School Ag Bash with more than 400 visitors.

Families enjoyed the activities and food, and little ones especially loved the petting zoo, equipment displays and grain sandboxes. As in the past, free kids' books and goody bags were a hit.

Nineteen community sponsors and more than 40 volunteers contributed to the event's success.

'I think my favorite parts of Ag Bash are seeing the excitement on the kids' faces and watching them walk away with handfuls of local produce provided by our amazing sponsors.'

Angela Rakes, Loretto Motherhouse Education and Outreach Coordinator



From left, Sue Charmley SL, Nancy Wittwer SL, Concha de la Cruz SL and Maureen Fiedler SL catch a ride out to the farm. *Photo: Will Myers*

Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award



Emmy Stoll is a 2024 awardee of the Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award.
Photo: Christina Manweller

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4



Brendan Staff is a 2024 awardee of the Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award.
Photo: Christina Manweller

By Christina Manweller

Emmy Stoll and Brendan Staff, 12th annual Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award honorees, impressed the selection committee with their deep commitment to social justice.

Emmy, born in Ethiopia and adopted by her American family as an infant, shares that "God says all people are cre-

ated equal and in the likeness and image of God. Therefore, every single person has equal value." She is passionate about serving others, and particularly about orphan care. As an orphan in Ethiopia, she says, she "was born into struggles to develop and thrive." Emmy has been supporting Yabesara, an Ethiopian who is her age, since she was 12. His



Posing for a photo at the ceremony's conclusion are, from left, Ken Fitch, Mike G. Gabriel, Gwen Gabriel-Berens, Anna Koop SL, Emmy Stoll, Joan Spero SL, Brendan Staff, the Rev. John Stapleton, the Rev. Marty Lally CoL and Mary Joy Peter OSF.

Photo: Christina Manweller



Emmy Stoll's parents, Jessica at far left and Caleb third from right, and siblings are proud attendees of the award ceremony.
 Photo: Christina Manweller

education, medical needs and food cost \$43 a month, which she earns as a soccer referee. Her family continues to help families in the adoption and foster care processes. Emmy is heading to Texas Christian University where she will major in social work.

Brendan finds inspiration in the examples of Mary Luke Tobin SL and Pope Francis and says pursuing social justice enables him to act on his Catholic beliefs. He is especially concerned about the issues of homelessness and justice for immigrants. Brendan has valued nurturing relationships with clients at Harvest of Hope, a food pantry in Boulder, Colo., saying, "I saw how simple conversations made the clients very happy, and we enjoyed building relationships through recurring visits." Immigrants, he says, are our brothers and sisters who should be "thought of as humans with dignity capable of contributing to the common good of society." He is heading to Boston College to study economics.

The first Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award was presented in 2012. Ken Fitch, Holy Family High School graduate and teacher at the school, was inspired by Mary



Anna Koop SL, left, the Rev. Marty Lally CoL and Joan Spero SL represent Loretto at the award ceremony.
 Photo: Christina Manweller

Luke's commitment to social justice to create a scholarship for seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to social justice.

Ken shares, "The recipients, in their years at Holy Family, have consistently echoed the cry of the poorest of our society for dignity and labored in their own way for justice and peace — both inside and outside the Church." Recipients plan to continue their social justice actions beyond high school.

Congratulations Emmy and Brendan! The Loretto Community commends your steadfast commitment to social justice and wishes you Godspeed as you embark on your college journeys.



Brendan Staff holds the Mary Luke Tobin Social Justice Award. He is joined by his parents, Brian and Heidi, and sister, Caroline.
 Photo: Christina Manweller

Celebrating Lore

80 years

Kathleen Tighe SL



Kathleen Tighe SL was received into Loretto on April 25, 1944, and was known as Sister Venard. She followed the vocation call of four siblings who had entered Loretto: Lucina, Alice Eugene, Ann Virginia and Carolyn Mary. Another sister, Helen, would join the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Kathleen served in California, Colorado, Illinois and Missouri, teaching in various schools and serving as principal at Loretto Academy High School in Kansas City, Mo., and at Nerinx Hall High School in St. Louis. She earned a bachelor's degree in music, with a minor in piano, from Webster University, St. Louis, and a master's in education from DePaul University in Chicago.

In 1976, Kathleen took part in the Loretto Third World Experience, serving in Majuro in the Marshall Islands. She has served in senior citizen housing and as a creator of the Loretto Spirituality Network. She served on the Loretto staff, retiring in 2000 in Danville, Calif., where she and her housemate, Kay Lane SL, developed an extended Loretto community that prayed and celebrated together. Kathleen and Kay moved to Kentucky in 2013.

Kathleen resides at Loretto Living Center at the Motherhouse, where she loves to listen to classical music and read stories, particularly some of the classics. She said she loves “to hear a good story, and I love telling my stories about Loretto.”



The six Tighe sisters, their father and two brothers pose for a newspaper photo during a visit home in 1964.
Photo: Loretto Archives

It's Tighe time!

Kathleen is one of six daughters of Eugene and Alice (Weir) Tighe. Five of the Tighe sisters became Sisters of Loretto. Lucina entered in 1932, Alice Eugene in 1933, Ann Virginia in 1934, Carolyn in 1935 and Kathleen in 1944. They spent most of their careers serving at Loretto schools around the country.

Helen, the youngest, joined the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Kathleen's family's years of service to the Church and the world total 389 years and counting!

ttto's jubilarians!

50 years

Mary Bundy CoL

Mary Bundy CoL shares that lines from Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" popped into her thoughts on this 50-year anniversary:

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less traveled by.
And that has made all the difference.*

Mary was a temporarily-vowed sister until 1974. Co-membership had been introduced as a new way to belong to the Community and became one of the roads from which to choose. She could make final vows as a Sister of Loretto or become a co-member. Mary decided co-membership was the best fit. "I remained connected with the Community," she shares, "while I pursued nursing studies, began a career in public health nursing and raised my son." In time she was able to participate more actively on committees and in a Community Group.

Mary served as a public health nurse, bringing healthcare to migrant labor camps, into people's homes and to clinics for the uninsured. Fluent in Spanish, she worked with the immigrant population in Delaware.

"It has meant a lot to me to be a Community member for such a long time," Mary says. "A shared history is a great gift. Belonging to a community, wonderful companions/friends is my treasure."



Check out additional jubilarians — those celebrating their 65th and 70th anniversaries — on our [website](#). Starting in 2025, we will feature Loretto jubilarians in each issue of our magazine.

25 years

Libby Comeaux CoL



When Libby Comeaux CoL became a co-member in 1999, she imagined it would mean "spending lots of time with elders, more or less sitting at their feet soaking up their spiritual wisdom and caring for them in one way or another. Instead they put me to work!"

Libby shares, "I have learned so much and shifted so many limiting beliefs by participating in the mission work of Loretto. Without the education I received by walking alongside these spiritual and activist mentors, I would never have developed capacities that lay dormant. The challenge to become a spiritually-mature member of a community of faith was just what I needed."

She adds, "It's been a whole lot of fun."

JoAnn Gates CoL



"I'm sure I didn't imagine how involved in the Community I would eventually become," JoAnn Gates CoL shares about her initial steps to enter co-membership. "I know I didn't think that in just over three years I would be living at the Loretto Motherhouse, and while I probably hoped that some day I would work at Knobs Haven Retreat House, I'm sure I didn't think it would become a reality in just five years."

The relationships with "so many smart, wise, funny, gifted, strong, committed and — yes — quirky women and men" have meant a great deal to JoAnn during these years as a co-member.

"Loretto has stretched and challenged me in many and various ways, and I'm so grateful for the opportunities and individuals that have helped me become who I believe I am meant to be.

"Thank you, Loretto."

Karen Knoll CoL



When Karen Knoll CoL's aunt, Margaret Rose Knoll SL (aka Sister Ann Mark) retired to Loretto Motherhouse, Karen began visiting the Motherhouse annually and found many like-minded friends. Thus began her road to co-membership.

“Belonging to Loretto opened my eyes and my heart to ways of being of service to others. They challenged me in many ways and provided me with the experience of living and working on the Navajo reservation, where I fell in love with New Mexico and the Native American people. The sharing I am currently able to do with the food pantry on the Jemez Pueblo and the soup kitchen at the Francis House Catholic Worker in Albuquerque would not be possible without the moral and financial support of the Loretto Community.”

Karen finds inspiration in *I Am the Way*, the Loretto Constitutions, article 20, “The basic desire to be united in love with God, with one another, with all people, and with all creation shapes this community of faith.”

Alicia Zapata RSM CoL



Loretto co-membership, Alicia Zapata RSM CoL, says, has enriched her life. “Twenty-five years ago, I was looking for a mind-broadening experience. I was able to avail myself of that experience in attending the assemblies, reading the materials and other information that was made available and attending the Community Group discussion when possible. I found that those experiences opened new vistas for me and helped increase my desire for deeper learning. It has been both an intellectual and spiritual growth. Being a vowed member of the Sisters of Mercy and a Loretto co-member has enriched my life in a manner I could not have imagined 25 years ago.”

Alicia treasures the sense of belonging she has experienced as a Loretto member. “I have always been proud of my connection to Loretto and have felt that sense of belonging in a profound way. The Community has always been one of open arms.”

A visit to the Sindh region of Pakistan



A Parkari Kohli woman prepares bread.
Photo courtesy of Nasreen Daniel SL

By Loretto staff, with Nasreen Daniel SL and Maribah Ishaq SL

A visit to the Tharparkar desert area in the Sindh region of Pakistan reveals scenes of hardship and poverty. Malnutrition, disease, lack of education and child labor are common. Debt bondage, or bonded labor, a form of modern slavery known to ensnare entire families, is prevalent. Add climate change to the mix. The area, homeland to tribal peoples, has suffered from nearly 20 years of drought, followed by devastating flooding.

Nasreen Daniel SL traveled more than 745 miles from Loretto's home in Lahore with young sisters — her students from several congregations — to visit Parkari Kohli tribal people in Tharparkar.

Nasreen wrote, "In 1995, I was in Sindh when the then-bishop of Hyderabad, Joseph Coutts, with the help of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, released about 40 families from bonded labor. He had a piece of land that he gave to the people to build homes and start new lives. Now the Columban and Spiritan missionaries are continuing the same mission, taking a few people at a time and buying land for them to live on and earn a living."

Maribah Ishaq SL was one of the young sisters who traveled with Nasreen. Those they visited may be poor, she shared, but "they are rich in hospitality and love. They are so welcoming, offering whatever they have to visitors. The spirit of gratitude in the people is remarkable. They are joyful and happy with whatever they have. They never complain of what they do not have but are thankful for what they do have.

"We were invited to the engagement ceremony for a girl who was only 13. The tribal people marry their girls young so they don't have to feed them and take care of their other needs. At the same time, it is a protective measure, shielding them from societal stigmas of losing family honor if the girl

runs away with someone. I was surprised to see that the in-laws put a thick silver ankle bracelet on the foot of the girl during the engagement ceremony; she will get the second when she is married off. This serves as a reminder that she belongs to someone."

Though faced with seemingly impossible conditions, Nasreen shares that the missionaries have progressed in improving lives. She writes, "They are building two-room schools in the area so the children can start learning, and they also are teaching trades to those who are interested. The hope is seen already: Twenty years ago, the religious sisters and fathers taught the little children, and now the teachers are hired from within the tribal community."



Children line up to receive sweets from Nasreen.
Photo courtesy of Nasreen Daniel



Maribah Ishaq SL, center, stands with women who are carrying mud on their heads.
Photo courtesy of Nasreen Daniel SL



The Rev. Tomás King, who is a Columban Irish priest, celebrates Mass. Nasreen, at right, listens to the homily. Fr. King has worked in the area for more than 30 years and believes that the dire humanitarian situation is due to corruption, violence and limited access to education. He says that one of 14 children dies before the age of 1, and he has conducted more funerals for children than for adults.
Photo courtesy of Nasreen Daniel SL

Please donate to Loretto's Pakistan mission
using the envelope provided or by visiting our website:
www.lorettocommunity.org/donate

Ann Compton Kammien CoL

Feb. 25, 1956 – June 29, 2024

Ann was a Loretto co-member for 43 years. She was named Elizabeth Ann Compton in honor of her aunt, Elizabeth Ann Compton SL. Ann and her husband of 37 years, Craig, had two children, Molly and Kevin. Molly is a Loretto co-member. Ann's spirited, welcoming personality drew people in and made them comfortable, and her friends came from all walks of life. She was a physical therapist for more than 40 years, running her own business and teaching students at universities in St. Louis. Ann received the devastating diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in 2021. She reacted with her customary strength and dignity. Supported by her loving family, Ann bravely sought treatment that was fruitful. Eventually, she courageously chose palliative care and moved to a peaceful death on June 29.



Dorothy Ortner CoL

Feb. 13, 1932 – Aug. 4, 2024

Dorothy was a Sister of Loretto from 1950 until 1978; she became a co-member in 2011. Dorothy served in Catholic schools for several years, and in the mid-1970s, she became the first field director for Bread for the World. In 1976, she moved to Tanzania in East Africa to participate in the Loretto Third World Experience. She became the director of adult education for the National Council of Churches in 1983, a position that led her to several international destinations. Within a year, she established the Literacy for the 90s Project, an English as a Second Language program in Colorado that has expanded and continues today as Phillips County Family Education Services. Dorothy retired in 2018 and returned to Loretto Motherhouse for the last years of her very full life.



Barbara Ann Barbato SL

Feb. 4, 1932 – Aug. 7, 2024

Growing up in Texas and Colorado, Barbara Ann made herself at home by exploring her world from an early age. Her father, an Army surgeon who became a psychiatrist, encouraged her to read widely, and her mother taught her to climb trees (always over grass instead of pavement). She loved to read stories of saints and Biblical heroes; she said, "In second grade, I knew I would be a nun." Her life in Loretto was filled with students, from fourth graders to college level. A longtime professor of history at Webster University, she developed innovative methods that former students still remember, and she helped create the program in refugee studies. She lived the Loretto charism of loving service among Community members, neighbors and through Red Cross volunteering. She passed peacefully at home.



Unabridged remembrances are found on the Loretto website:
www.lorettocommunity.org/category/obituaries

Memorials and Tributes of Honor

May 2024 — July 2024

In Honor of:
Requested by:

Barbara Ann Barbato SL
Donna Marie Campbell
Denise Ann Clifford SL
Mary Baker
Donna Day SL
Dennis Cuddihee
Maureen Fiedler SL
Jennifer Morgan
Brodie Goodell
Emma and George Steen

Jeannine Gramick SL
John Le Bedda, II
Jennifer Morgan
Mary Jo Highland
Mary A. Highland
Loretto High School
Louisville, Ky. 1969
Angela Hildreth
Barbara Nicholas SL
Ellen Castille
Charlene Laseter

Lydia Peña SL
Bernice Strawn CoL
Sandy Richardson
Kathleen Stewart
Patti Rosenkranz
Deborah Sigrist

In memory of:
Requested by:

*An asterisk (*) following a name identifies a Loretto co-member.*

Pauline Albin SL
Frank Albin, Gail Albin and Jane Fijal
Sandra Ardoyno SL
H. William McAtee
Loretta Barket
Class of 1974
Cathy Dunican
Paula Wilder Belleville
Marsha Dearing
Veronica Lipary Bonino,
Loretto Heights College, 1969
Barbara López Martin,
Loretto Heights College, 1969
Domitilla Brown SL
Rev. Robert E. Osborne

Ann Carr SL (formerly Nerinx Marie)
Barbara Warner
Elizabeth Ann Compton SL
Martha Alderson CoL
Mary Ann Coyle SL
David Dwyer
Marilyn Cusick
Dorothy Cusick
Charlotte El SL
Rev. Joseph Spina, OSF
Virginia Feters SL
Margaret Shields
Marie Noel Hebert SL
James Hebert

Joseph Highland
Mary A. Highland
Elizabeth Ann Compton Kammien*
Martha Alderson*
Elizabeth Lottes Barry & Bert Barry
Kathy Davenport
Maureen Flanigan* & Brad Buckner
Kaye Strom
Loretto Heights College
Class of 1961 (deceased)
Denise and Ed Skiba
Anne Marie Lynn
Mary A. Highland
Mary Cornelia McNellis SL
LaVerne Saxbury

In Memory of:
Requested by:

Christella Morrison SL

Maureen DeCoursey

Dianne Marie Myers

Bea Combs

Janice Underwood

Margaret Nelson

Margarita Covarrubias

Rosalie Marie Phillips SL

Raymond Stevison, Jr.

Howard Ratcliff

Thomas Jewell

Ellen Rehg

Michael Rehg

Marie Joann Rekart SL

Rose Marie Hayden

Jane Marie Richardson SL

Mary Vincent Breeck

Mary Kaye Robinson

Jack and Judith Pottle

Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Schmidt

Regina Schmidt

Ida Rosina Trujillo

Barbara López Martin

Loretto Heights College, 1969

Mary Westfall

Emma and George Steen

Jane Wilcox SL

William Wilcox

Rosemary Wilcox SL

William Wilcox

Myra Wisniewski

Barbara and Arthur Ratkewicz



Photo: Donna Mattingly SL

Donate in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one or a cherished Loretto member:
www.lorettocommunity.org/donate

Postscript

Dear Loretto Friends,

Loretto is an inspiration to me and to so many people. Think about how you are inspired.

Is it by your Loretto teachers and the impact of your education? Or is it by Loretto's work for justice and peace and their encouragement of young people to do the same? Do Loretto's pioneer women inspire you — those who forged new trails in Kentucky, across the US and beyond our borders? Has your journey been helped by a Loretto author or spiritual director? Do you follow the work of our courageous sisters in Pakistan? Have you been moved by the loving care at the Loretto Living Center, the beauty of the Motherhouse land or the church services and special events held there?

Whatever inspires you, we are very grateful that you share your appreciation of Loretto with your prayers, notes and donations that help to ensure the continuance of our mission.

Whether you are a longtime donor or a new donor we want to be sure you know the multiple ways you can make a charitable gift to the Sisters of Loretto, a 501(c)(3) organization. You can:

- * Give online: Go to www.lorettocommunity.org/donate
- * Write a check. Use the enclosed envelope or send a check made out to the Sisters of Loretto. Send to: Sisters of Loretto, Finance/Development Office, 515 Nerinx Rd. Nerinx, KY 40049.

* Direct that a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA be donated to Sisters of Loretto at the address above. Get a deduction and avoid capital gains tax.

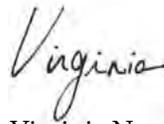
* Give a gift of stock or other appreciated assets. Contact us for details.

* Designate a gift in a will. It can be any dollar amount or a percentage of your estate.

* Name Loretto a recipient of a charitable trust or a life insurance policy.

Questions? Contact me at vnesmith@lorettocommunity.org or 270-431-0100, ext. 5102.

You inspire us! Thank you for all the ways you share your care and generosity with Loretto.



Virginia Nesmith
Development Director
vnesmith@lorettocommunity.org



Loretto members and friends stand up for justice at the recent Do not Be Afraid: March and Vigil for Human Dignity in El Paso, Texas. Participants attending the event in support of immigrant rights included, from left, Kathleen Corbett SL, Jackie Diego-Medina CoL, Jane German CoL, Ophelia Becera and Annie Rosenkranz, director of the Loretto Justice Fellowship.

Photo courtesy of Annie Rosenkranz



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A warm Loretto greeting from Assembly 2024!