

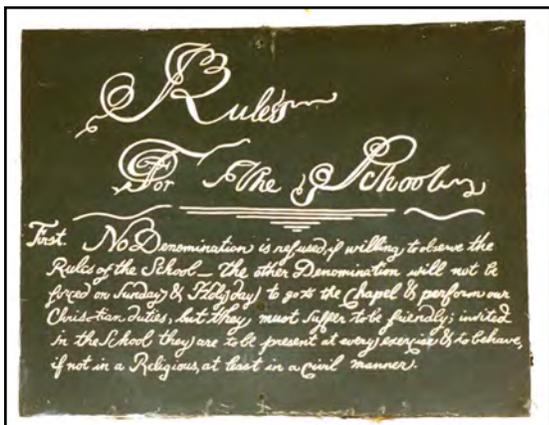
April 2017

ST MARY'S
ACADEMY

FAITH COMMUNITY JUSTICE RESPECT

Faith Walk

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY CAMPUS MINISTRY



Plaque on the wall of the Schoolhouse

Loretto Foundation Day

By Regina Drey, SL

On April 25, Loretto celebrates the 205th anniversary of its founding on the Kentucky frontier and honors the first sisters Mary Rhodes, Christina Stuart, and Ann Havern.

Loretto's founding story is simple and compelling. In 1812, Mary, joined by her friends, recognized the dire need for education and religious formation for children of families who had migrated to Kentucky from Maryland in pursuit of a more accepting religious climate. They were educated women, but not professionally-trained teachers, yet began a school in an abandoned log cabin and lived together in community. This sparked a desire to devote their lives entirely to God and neighbor as a religious community. Their friend Father Charles Nerinckx, a missionary from Belgium, helped them form a simple rule. On April 25, The Little Society of the Friends of Mary under the Cross of Jesus began with the women expressing their commitment in the presence of neighbors and a few curious onlookers. Other women soon joined them.

How they lived and what they valued serve as important lessons in Loretto and the SMA communities today. Their sense of mission was shaped by the world around them. Like Mary, they stood in solidarity with people in need. They faced an uncertain future with unbounded faith in God and reliance on one another. Their life of prayer and sense of community sustained them in challenging times.

On Foundation Day we commit to living their sense of mission and community in a new generation.

Easter - April 16, 2017



“As one who knows metaphorical and literal death, resurrection matters. To see value in the past after seasons of hopelessness, and to stay in community when reason says to walk away – is mercy. To break bread with people who have hurt you, and to retell stories that have lost meaning in today’s apathy and nihilism – is grace. The mystery is not that some people cannot do this; the mystery is that any of us can. Finding life after death is divine activity. Our wills and fortitudes alone shrivel with the task. God maintains hope amidst death.” –Monica A. Coleman



Praying for an End to Gun Violence

Loretto and SMA Praying to End Gun Violence

Again this year we will join Loretto in praying on the first Monday of the month for an end to gun violence. Unfortunately, the need seems even greater than it did last year.

Parents and those not involved in a division are invited to meet at 8:15 in the Community Center on the first Monday. Stay for 20 minutes or any portion of that, for a time of silent prayer. If this opportunity does not fit in your day, join SMA and Loretto in spirit. If you have questions, please contact Sister Regina at rdrey@smamet.org.

Lailat al Miraj

April 24



“Lailat al Miraj is a Muslim holiday that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to the 'Farthest Mosque' in Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily.

On the Islamic calendar, Lailat al Miraj (also known as Isra and Mi'raj, Al Isra'wal Miraj or Laylat al Miraj) is generally observed on the 27th day of the month of Rajab.

The story of Lailat al Miraj consists of two major parts. The first part of the story begins with the Prophet Muhammad at the Kabaa in Mecca. He is visited by two archangels who provide him with a mythical winged steed called Buraq. Buraq carries the Prophet to the 'Farthest Mosque,' believed by Muslims to be the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, where Muhammad joins past prophets in prayer.

The Prophet then ascends to heaven where he is told by God of the duty for Muslims to pray five times daily (Salat). This second part of the journey is commonly referred to as the Miraj, an Arabic word meaning “ladder.”

The events of Lailat al Miraj are described briefly in chapter 17 of the Quran, which is named “Sura Al-Isra” after the Prophet's ascension to heaven. Many of the details of the story are filled in by hadith, supplemental writings about the life of the Prophet Muhammad.

Today Lailat al Miraj is observed by Muslims as one of the most important events in the history of Islam. Muslims may attend special prayer services at a mosque, or they may commemorate the holiday privately at home by telling the story to children or reciting special nighttime prayers.”

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/05/lailat-al-miraj_n_885922.html

Women's Day of Service in Denver SMA and Habitat for Humanity

On Saturday, March 25, (which, by the way, was the first day of Spring Break), more than twenty SMA Juniors, Seniors, Faculty and Board members participated in the first-ever Women's Day of Service in Denver.

Over 50 organizations and 2,500 volunteers were scheduled to take part in service projects for the Women's Day of Service. Many of the projects are geared toward helping women, including agencies working with domestic violence, poverty, sexual abuse, and teen parents.

SMA's contingent joined with Habitat for Humanity to work on the Sheridan Square development, the largest Habitat project to date in Denver, as described on their website:

"Sheridan Square will be the largest development in Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver's history. Located on a 4.35-acre former elementary school site in the City of Sheridan, Habitat's plans include the construction of 63 energy-efficient homes built over the course of five years.

With housing costs skyrocketing across metro Denver, Habitat's mission of building and preserving affordable housing has never been more important. Habitat's ultimate goal is to create a world in which everyone has a decent, affordable place to live in dignity and safety. Sheridan Square will further Habitat Metro Denver's vision by creating permanent housing solutions for approximately 130 adults and 225 children."

Organized by Ms. Amber Summers, Community Service Director and High School faculty member, SMA community members showed their commitment to serving others.

<https://www.habitatmetrodenver.org/current-builds/sheridan-square/>

SHERIDAN SQUARE



St. Catherine of Siena April 29

"The value Catherine makes central in her short life and which sounds clearly and consistently through her experience is complete surrender to Christ.

She was the 23rd child of Jacopo and Lapa Benincasa and grew up as an intelligent, cheerful, and intensely religious person.

Catherine disappointed her mother by cutting off her hair as a protest against being overly encouraged to improve her appearance in order to attract a husband. Her father ordered her to be left in peace, and she was given a room of her own for prayer and meditation.

She entered the Dominican Third Order at 18 and spent the next three years in seclusion, prayer, and austerity. Gradually, a group of followers gathered around her—men and women, priests and religious. An active public apostolate grew out of her contemplative life. Her letters, mostly for spiritual instruction and encouragement of her followers, began to take more and more note of public affairs. Opposition and slander resulted from her mixing fearlessly with the world and speaking with the candor and authority of one completely committed to Christ. She was cleared of all charges at the Dominican General Chapter of 1374.

Catherine ranks high among the mystics and spiritual writers of the Church. In 1939, she and Francis of Assisi were declared co-patrons of Italy. She was canonized in 1461. Pope Paul VI named her and Teresa of Avila doctors of the Church in 1970."

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-catherine-of-siena/>

Our Lady of Loreto Oratory

By Regina Drey, SL

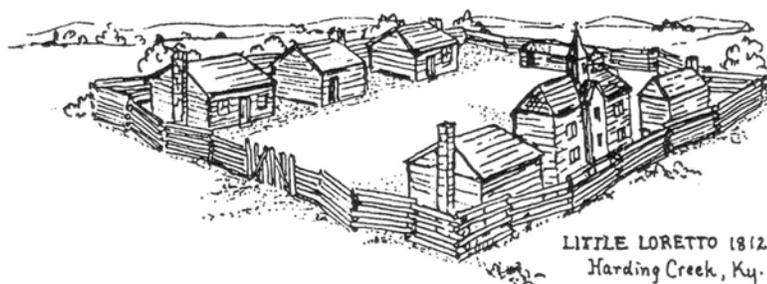
On March 16, 2017, the Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila blessed the Oratory of Our Lady of Loreto, followed by Mass in the High School Forum. The oratory, located in the southeast corner of the high school, offers a quiet, peaceful space for reflection and prayer. The Blessed Sacrament resides in the Oratory.

The name holds special importance in Loretto. The name recalls Little Loretto, a complex of log cabins erected several months after the Sisters of Loretto was formed in 1812. It accommodated the growing number of women joining Loretto, increased enrollment in the school, a chapel, housing for Father Nerinckx, a day school, a school for orphans, kitchen, and other necessities. While the term "complex" may sound grand, the buildings were simple and the community was very poor.

The name Little Loretto was a good choice for the complex as it reminded the early sisters of the home in Nazareth where Mary, the mother of Jesus, spent her childhood and where the Angel Gabriel announced that she had been chosen to be the mother of God. With this as a mode, the early community aspired to a community where faith and love thrived.

Years later in 336, it was faith that drew the Empress Helena to erect a church at the site of Mary's house. Tradition says that in 1291 when the Crusaders were about to lose control of the Holy Land, angels transported the house to modern day Croatia. A few years later the house was transported to Loreto, a hilltop town in Italy. (Our Lady of Loreto follows the Italian spelling.)

For the SMA community, the oratory's name connects us to the faith and courage of our early Loretto members. Like the early sisters, we cherish our SMA home. Here we strive to create a nurturing home for our community and at the same time challenge our community to be attentive to people who do not have the caring, supportive environment we enjoy.



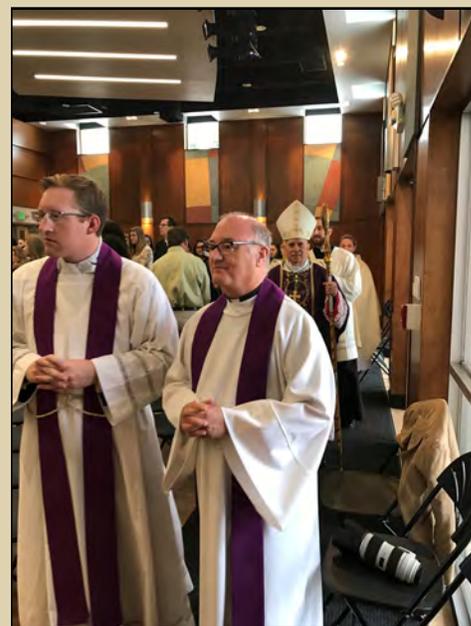
LITTLE LORETTO 1812
Harding Creek, Ky.



**Archbishop Aquila
blessing the Oratory**



Sisters of Loretto



**Fr. Marty Lally and
Fr. Sam Morehead**

Charlene Teters **Born April 25, 1952**

“Charlene Teters, (Spokane), known for her activism and art, is presently a professor at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. As a founding Board Member of the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and the Media, her activist-career began with a vigorous dispute with the University of Illinois over their use of a stereotyped image of an American Indian for the school’s sports mascot. She picketed sports events and launched a national debate about the appropriateness of this practice by sports and media. This history of Teters’ work is the subject of a nationally aired award winning documentary “In Whose Honor?” by Jay Rosenstein.”

http://www.charleneteters.com/Charlene_Teters/Welcome.html



International Day for Street Children **April 12, 2017**

“Why is 2017 significant?”

2017 will see the publication of the United Nation’s General Comment on children in street situations.

What does that mean?

The UN established the UN Convention on the Rights of Children, which states that every child has rights, whatever their gender, ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, abilities or any other form of distinction might be.

However, every day, millions of street-connected children suffer multiple and repeated violations of their rights. Their numbers are likely to be growing worldwide as a result of conflicts in the Middle East, recession in Europe, natural disasters in Asia and Africa and many other factors.

The General Comment on children in street situations is a set of guidelines that will give Governments around the world the information they need to make sure street children’s rights are recognised.

This is important for street-connected children because it’s the first piece of authoritative UN guidance on street-connected children’s rights, and this is our time to stand with them and make sure Governments around the world implement these guidelines.

CSC is proud to have made the process of developing the General Comment one of the most participatory to date and we look forward to carrying this innovative approach forward into the next phase of our strategy – working with our members to promote implementation of the General Comment and make the words a reality for street-connected children around the world.”

<http://www.streetchildrenday.org/>

Poetry Corner

Palm Sunday - A Sonnet by Malcolm Guite

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come
Break my resistance and make me your home.



Prayer Opportunities

- Parents and Faculty/Staff: First Tuesday of the month at 8:15.
- Prayer Intention Boxes - On the counter in the HS Office, MS Foyer and LS Faculty Lounge
- HS Student Prayer Group meets in the HS Chapel at 10:00 on Wandering Wednesdays. Join us!

HAPPY APRIL!

St. Mary's Academy is a school that believes the fundamental message of God as taught and lived by Jesus, to love without bounds.

Together we continue to build and live the Loretto School values of faith, community, justice and respect!

Paula Lee, Ph.D.

Campus Minister

plee@stmarys.academy

APRIL 2017

Interfaith and Justice Calendar

April Religious and Justice Observances

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

*The event begins the evening of the previous day

**Exact date may vary between traditions and communities

Adapted from: www.interfaithcalendar.org and www.adl.org



National
Child Abuse
Prevention
Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Lazarus Sunday Orthodox Christian
2 Fifth Sunday of Lent Birthday of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (1928-1996)	3	4 Anniversary of the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)	5 Ramanavami Hindu	6	7 Day of Remembrance Victims of Rwandan Genocide	8
9 Palm Sunday Christian	10 Passover Jewish April 10-18	11 Theravadin New Year** Buddhist 4/11-4/14	12 International Day for Street Children	13 Holy Thursday Christian	14 Good Friday Christian Baisaki Sikh	15 Holy Saturday Christian
16 Easter Sunday Christian	17	18	19	20	21 Birthday of Helen Prejean, CSJ (1939)	22 Earth Day
23 Anniversary of the Death of Cesar Chavez (1927-1993)	24 Holocaust Remembrance Day 4/23-4/24 Lailat al Miraj* Islam	25 Birthday of Charlene Teters (1952)	26 Birthday of Sister Joan Chittister, OSB (1936)	27	28	29 Feast of St. Catherine of Siena
30 Anniversary of the Death of Daniel Berrigan, SJ (1921-2016)						