

# Ordained Co-Members enrich Loretto through their ministries

Loretto is fortunate to have as co-members several women and men who are ordained priests and ministers. These co-members, Catholic and non-Catholic, enrich the community through their ministry and through the varied perspectives they offer to their community groups and the Congregation as a whole. Here are some examples:



**Karen Wehrman CoL** was ordained as a Presbyterian minister (PCUSA) in 1982. She has served on staff in congregations as well as being a Pastoral Counselor (AAPC) and most recently a learning facilitator. She meets with clients for counseling and for learning issues, preaches when colleagues are on vacation and sometimes serves as the on-call person for a congregation whose pastor(s) are on vacation. She is also the minister-at-large for people who live in nearby communities and have a need for a pastor but do not attend church. "This give me the opportunity do memorial services and weddings among bright, spiritual people who have been hurt and/or unhappy with organized religion." Karen learned

about Loretto from a minister who knew Sister Elaine Prevalett. She went to the Motherhouse for a retreat and there met Elaine and began returning to Kentucky once or twice a year. "Meals with sisters, walks in the woods, sitting beside Mary's Lake was restorative for me," she says. During one retreat, she met Co-member Peg Jacobs working in the organic garden. "Peg helped me realize that as a non-Catholic, I could be a co-member," she notes. "Over my many years as a co-member, I have definitely been blessed."

**Kaye Edwards CoL** was raised in, ordained by and retired from ministry (6 years ago) with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Ministry with children has always been her passion. Currently she is working with the Loretto Child Care Center and the Loretto Head Start Program. She is also babysitting for Co-member Jessie Rathburn and her husband, Andy, as they have just taken in two foster children, ages 4 years and 4 months. All of this plus her own 6 year old granddaughter are her current "ministry with children." Kaye has been a Co-member for about 37 years. She started coming to Knobs Haven on retreat when she was in school at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. After moving to Virginia, she continued to come on retreats and brought many women with her over a period of several years. "I have loved the place and the people since first stepping on the Motherhouse grounds in the late 60's," she says.

**Ray Ensmann CoL** is currently retired and living in Ohio. Father Ray entered Co-membership at the urging of Sister Evelyn O'Houlihan, whom he met while they were both studying at Boston College in the 70s. During his years of ministry, Father Ray taught school, was the pastor at several parishes and served in administration of the Catholic Diocese of Toledo, Ohio. "I thought the Sisters of Loretto were so interesting," he says. "They were engaged in so many different ways to help women and children in need."

**Scott and Susan Winkler CoLs** are co-pastors of Old Union Christian Church in Lexington, Kentucky. Susan has retired after 25 years of active ministry, but Scott continues to serve and describes the church as "small, but vibrant and healthy." Although Susan is retired from active ministry, they are both fully involved in the daily life of their church, which Scott describes as "small, but vibrant and healthy." Scott and Susan, who have two grown children, have been pastoring for 27 years. "We are now seeing children of the children we worked with more than twenty years ago," noted Scott. "It is very gratifying and gives a strong sense of family to all that we do." Scott and Susan first came to know the Sisters of Loretto when they attended retreats at the Motherhouse - sometimes private retreats at Cedars, other times with a group at Knobs Haven. "We loved the simplicity of the Sisters, and the peacefulness of the Motherhouse. As we came to know the Sisters better we knew we wanted to be part of their work." Scott and Susan have been Co-members for more than 20 years.



**Peter Urban CoL** currently lives at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Denver, where, in addition to his dedication to Hispanic ministry, he works to support the Miguel Pro Mission (MPM), founded in 2010. Along with Tonanzin Sisters and other dedicated individuals, MPM serves the people of Juarez by improving living conditions and offering educational support to keep kids in school. In 1976, spurred by a friendship with Sister Elizabeth Dyer, Peter became a Loretto Co-member. His commitment included an agreement "to share concern which all members have for each other, to nourish, extend and share Loretto's vision, and to gift personal talents and ministry." Father Urban celebrated his 60th year as a Catholic priest in 2018.

**Jacque Foster CoL** first connected with the Loretto Community in 1998 when the Loretto Women's Network gathered several ordained women to talk about ordination of women. "I found the community to be so engaging that I continued to connect following that gathering," she says. Ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1982, she served congregations in Massachusetts and Indiana before arriving in St. Louis in 1996 to serve as pastor of Compton Heights Christian Church (DOC). In the 22 years that she have served this congregation, she has worked to create a community of affirmation and welcoming ministry for people of differing races, sexual orientations and identities. Jacque also serves as adjunct faculty at Eden Theological Seminary. Jacque notes, "I continue to feel a profound connection to the Loretto Community through the ministries I live out and the passion for justice and the God's realm that we all share."



**Irvin Mouser CoL** is the longtime chaplain at the Motherhouse in Kentucky. There he celebrates Mass and the sacraments for the sisters, visits in the infirmary and listens when needed. "My role is to meet the spiritual needs of this ever-growing community," he says. "In that way, I am 'blessed among women.'" Father Mouser has been a co-member for 20 years, having been encouraged by Sister Carol Ann Ptacek. "Being one community is a good idea," remarked Father Mouser. "We respect each other and learn from each other in many ways. I have always had a strong sense of justice, and Loretto definitely supports that!"



# Loretto

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*A continuing mission in Pakistan, Loretto Co-Members, and Motherhouse activities give energy to the New Year.*



**In Pakistan,  
Loretto builds  
on its 200-  
year history of  
education**

