



Issue Number 4, Spring 2009

Loreto as a Global Community Freedom – Justice – Integrity



In Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of Mary Ward's Founding Vision

Welcome

Dear Sisters, Alumni, and Affiliates,

This special edition of Loreto's international newsletter "Loreto as a Global Community" reports on many of the celebrations being organized by Provinces and Alumni Associations to mark the founding of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Congregation of Jesus in 1609 by Englishwoman Mary Ward (1585-1645).

"That incomparable woman whom Catholic England gave to the Church...."
- Pope Pius XII

Celebrations marking the 400th anniversary take place in Rome from October 4-9, 2009 and the provisional program has been provided by the Generalate (see page 2). Welcome ceremonies commence at 10 am on Monday October 5th and will be followed by concerts, a symposium and a Papal Audience in St. Peter's Square. Celebrations close on Friday, October 10 with a Welcome to the Generalates of the IBVMs (Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary) and CJs (Congregations of Jesus). Updated information is available at www.ibvm.org and further inquiries may be directed to the Jubilee Action Group (JAG). Their e-mail address is JAG2009@congjesu.org

The contributors for this newsletter have dedicated a great deal of their time to providing this information that will be shared by readers around the world. I have been affiliated with Loreto for over thirty years yet I am still learning about the magnitude of the work that is being accomplished. Please share this newsletter with current students and alumni associations so that they too can be informed. †

Dr. Andrea Beaumont, Editor
President and International Liaison,
Loretto Alumnae Association of Canada
lorettointernational@reabeaumont.com

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IBVM GENERALATE
Rome, Italy

Mary Ward's Founding Vision 400 years on

Mary Ward

"That incomparable woman whom Catholic England gave to the Church...."
Pope Pius XII

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Rome
October 4 – 9, 2009

Sunday, Oct 4th	16.00 - 20.00	Registration at Caravita
Monday, Oct 5th	10.00 - 11.30	Welcome ceremony in Piazza del Popolo & S Maria del Popolo
	20.30 - 21.30	Concert in S Ignazio with Ensemble Seicentonovecento
Tuesday, Oct 6th	9.30 - 14.00	Symposium at the Augustinianum with lunch
	20.30 - 21.30	Concert in S Eustachio with Choir from St Mary's School Shaftesbury
Wednesday, Oct 7th	10.30 - 12.00	Papal Audience in St Peter's Square
	16.00 - 17.00	Meditations in Mary Ward churches
Thursday, Oct 8th	from 9.30	Mary Ward's Rome tours
	16.30	Eucharist in Il Gesù
Friday, October 9th	10.30 - 14.00	Welcome to the Generalates of the CJs and IBVMs with lunch

Find out more by contacting
members of JAG
(Jubilee Action Group)



website: www.ibvm.org
email: JAG2009@congiesu.org

AFRICA: Province of South Africa – ZAMBIAN MISSION

Contributor: Sr Pat Hanvey, IBVM

400th Anniversary Celebrations in Lukulu, Zambia



Our sisters in Lukulu decided to initiate celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the Foundation of the Institute with the people of the Parish Community during Mary Ward Week, 23rd-30th January 2009. A banner depicting IBVM setting the world on fire was proudly hung in the sanctuary of the Church during the Sunday Mass. After the Church service the community was invited to engage in an interactive display on the history of the Institute in the Parish hall.

It must be noted that 'interactive' Lukulu style does not mean pushing electronic buttons which light up, or a display that speaks information to you! Rather 'interactive' for us meant getting the people to engage with the display in a more basic way. This was done by having a quiz, with written answer sheets, and all answers to be discovered scattered within the content of the display.

Photo below: People searching for quiz answers throughout the display



Photo left: IBVM banner was hung in the Church during services

It was a huge success with over 120 people taking part in the quiz and many more being present in the hall, including a number of community elders and the District Commissioner. Needless to say, while we would like to think that Mary Ward and the history of the Loreto sisters were the prime motivation, some very good prizes pertinent to the needs of the local impoverished community (sacks of mealie meal and a number of school kits) were part of the attraction!

We were very aware that a large portion of our Lukulu Church community is illiterate. While they too could enjoy the many pictures of Institute history and of Loreto sisters around the world, they were not able to partake in the quiz. In order that they could be part of the experience more fully and with a chance of winning prizes also, we decided to have a series of door prizes. Each one entering the hall was given a Mary Ward sticker with a number. Later on numbers were drawn and prizes of mealie meal and school kits were awarded to these lucky winners also. Thus everyone could be part of and share the joy of the occasion.

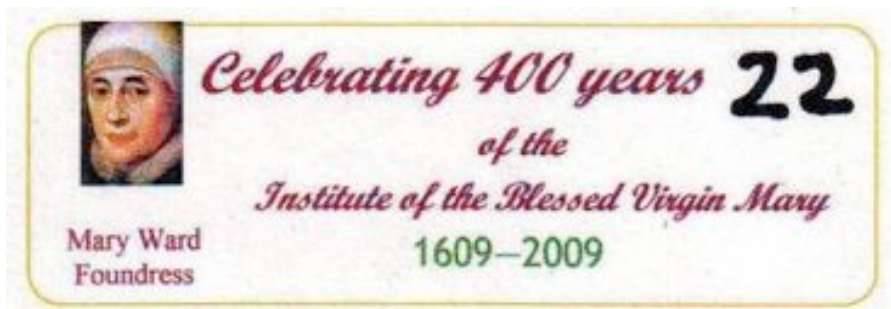


Photo: Label which each person was given upon entry to the event, which also served as a ticket for door prizes

This was a celebration for youth and adults. Later in the year we are going to have a picture colouring competition for the very many young children in our Parish so that they too can join with us in celebrating 400 years of the Institute.

Photo right: Several of the community elders who attended the celebration



Photo left: Prize 1: A leper patient receiving her prize of a 10 kg sack of mealie meal

Schools of the Province of South Africa: Loreto Convent School, PRETORIA

Contributor: Kathy Wisselo, Alumna

Loreto Convent School, Skinner Street Pretoria, participated in the tri-annual conference, with the two other Loreto Schools in South Africa – Loreto School in Queenswood (Pretoria) and Loreto Strand (Cape). This week-end (which took place at the end of February) focused on “The Person of the Child” – something close to Mary Ward’s heart. The conference’s theme was celebrating 400 years of this remarkable woman’s wonderful contribution to education.

Our school has also organised a competition amongst the learners, with prize winners from the three sections of the school – Foundation Phase, Senior Primary and High School. There was much excitement as all the pupils studied the Charisms of Mary Ward, and tried hard to come to a deeper understanding of what they meant.

The Loreto Old Girls Association, to mark this special year, awarded partial bursaries to three girls - one from each Loreto in South Africa. The Loreto Old Girls Association will hold its annual reunion in October and we hope to have Mary Ward’s legacy as our central theme.

Please accept warm greetings from the Principal, Staff and Learners of Loreto Convent School Skinner Street Pretoria to the Loreto Global Community, and we look forward to receiving news and views from our Sister Schools very soon. †

Province of East Africa: TANZANIA, GHANA, KENYA

Contributors: Sr. Ephigenia Gachiri and Margaret Sewe

Dear friends,

Celebrations for the East Africa Province include Tanzania, Ghana and Kenya.

The main Mary Ward Day in Kenya will be on September 12, 2009. The Province is preparing for a large National Celebration that day with a New Mass composed by teachers and friends from all our schools. Mass will be presided over by our Cardinal.

There is a special committee in the Province involved in mobilizing the expected participants to this great event; the committee has held several meetings thus far.

1. Our Loreto schools have been conscientizing the students and our lay collaborators on the forthcoming Mary Ward 400 years Jubilee celebrations. This year schools organized Mary Ward week based on the theme of Jubilee celebrations.
2. We have had the committee members visit our areas of apostolates to create fresh awareness about our foundress Mary Ward. This has received positive response as a number of people were able to feedback on how grateful they are to know about our foundress.
3. There are poems, songs, essays and plays being worked on by different schools as they gear up towards the celebrations. One of our teachers has written a play on Mary Ward in the African context. It was entered for the Kenyan Schools Drama festival and was given an Award for the Best Original Composition. This play is now on a CD.
4. Three weeks ago the committee arranged for media interview in which some of our teachers, past Loreto students and the sisters were able to speak about our foundress and her dream for holistic education especially for the Girl Child. This was a great debate and Sr Ephigenia, Jane Francis and Sr Catriona did us proud when they seized the opportunity and quickly gave information about our Forthcoming Jubilee
5. Lastly, a special choir for the Jubilee has been meeting monthly for about five months now and are quite advanced in their preparations. It consists of almost all the music teachers drawn from our schools, our own sisters and other gifted singers.

The above information is just highlights of some of what is taking place. In addition, a delegation of 30 past students are planning to attend the celebrations in Rome.

Wish all Gods blessings. †

AUSTRALIA: Schools of the Province of Australia

Contributor: Ms Sophia Ljaskevic,
Communications Officer, Loreto Sisters Australia



Dear Loreto friends and colleagues,

As part of the international celebrations marking 400 years of Mary Ward's institute, Loreto schools around Australia are this week participating in Mary Ward Connect from 10 – 13 March. Up to 35 Year 10 students and 6 teachers from each Loreto school will be spending time at other Loreto Colleges.

During their time away students and teachers from each of the seven schools will share their stories and experiences of being a student at a Loreto College. They will bring back their stories of new friendships and new experiences to home schools on their return.

Sr Christine Burke, Loreto Sisters Province Leader said, "In 2009 we celebrate the fact that Mary Ward has inspired young women for over 400 years, and that those with her vision are in all continents and in 45 countries across the globe. Loreto schools offer a Catholic education which liberates, empowers and motivates students to use their individual gifts with confidence, creativity and generosity in loving and responsible service. This is a call to young women today to live out of their truth and maybe someone will celebrate them in 400 years time!"

For further information about this and other Mary Ward 400 celebrations, including a calendar of events, please visit our website: http://www.loreto.org.au/about/mary_ward_003.html

Upcoming events include a "Mary Ward: A Woman for our Times" presentation by Provincial Christine Burke, on 16 March at ACU Ballarat, Vic, celebration events at Bayview College, Portland, Vic on 20-22 March, Young Adults Leaders and Achievers Evening at John XXIII College, Perth, WA and a school community mass at Loreto Primary, Nedlands, WA on 23 March.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

www.loreto.org.au/works/overseas.html †

CANADA: Province of Canada
Contributor: Sr Evanne Hunter, IBVM
Authors: Sr Sheila Smith, Sr Mary Mallany,
Sr Margaret O'Keefe, Sr Marion Norman, IBVM

Loretto Sisters Celebrate 400 Years of Service!

Mass at St. Paul's Basilica

On May 5, 2009, the 400th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving will be held at St. Paul's Basilica in Toronto from 2 to 3 pm. The Mass is being organized by the IBVM and is *by invitation only*. Mass will be followed by an outdoor reception for Benefactors, Family, School Boards, Parishes, Religious Communities and Friends. For more information, please visit: www.ibvm.ca/400th-anniversary

The Province of Canada would like to extend an invitation to all Provinces to alert any alumnae residing in North America that they are welcome to attend the following 400th events being held in Toronto, Canada:

Fundraising Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction

On Friday, June 5, 2009 a fundraising dinner and silent auction will be held at the Terrace Banquet Hall in Vaughan, Ontario. **Sister Cyril Mooney**, IBVM, from the Province of India will be the Guest Speaker. The event begins at 6pm. Tickets are CDN \$150 per person and tables of 10 are \$1,500. All proceeds will support Loretto Missions for Women and Children. The event is being organized by the IBVM. For additional information please visit www.ibvm.ca or contact srsheilasmith@rogers.com

Alumnae Mass and Garden Reception

An Alumnae Mass and Reception celebrating the 400th anniversary will be hosted this year by the Province of Canada (IBVM). The event will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2009 at 11:00 am in the Loretto Abbey Chapel in Toronto (101 Mason Blvd.). Afterwards, an outdoor reception will be held in the courtyard. Due to limited seating in the Abbey chapel and catering requirements, please ensure that you RSVP with Eunice Huff at: ibvmadm@rogers.com or telephone (00) 1-416-483-2238.



Loretto Sisters Celebrate 400 Years of Service!

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1609 - 2009

CALLING ALL LORETTO CHILDREN HOME

Anniversary Dinner/Silent Auction

Friday, June 5, 2009, 6:00 pm.
Terrace Banquet Hall, Vaughan, ON

Guest Speaker: Sister Cyril Mooney, IBVM
Tickets \$150.00 per person.
(Tables of 10, \$1,500.00)

Contact: srsheilasmith@rogers.com

*All Proceeds will go to support Loretto
Missions for Women and Children*

Alumnae Mass and Reception

Sunday, June 7, 2009, 11:00 am.
Loretto Abbey Chapel,
101 Mason Blvd. Toronto

Contact: ibvmadm@rogers.com
416.483.2238



For more information about these and other
Anniversary Events: www.ibvm.ca

Freedom • Justice • Integrity

The following articles were written for the anniversary celebrations and provide a picture of the Canadian Province in this 400th year. In particular, they relate to locations where Sisters still minister in Canada.

ARRIVAL IN NORTH AMERICA, SEPTEMBER 16, 1847

Mary Ward, a Yorkshire woman, born on January 23, 1585, founded her Institute at St. Omer in 1609. Ahead of her time, she came into conflict with the conservative forces in the Church. In 1631, she was accused of heresy, imprisoned, and her Institute suppressed. In 1645, she died without vindication. In 1877, Pope Pius IX formally approved the Institute and, in 1909, Pope St. Pius X, re-instated Mary Ward as its foundress.

In 1821, Teresa Ball founded the Irish Branch of the Institute and called her first home Loreto House; a name attached to succeeding foundations and to the Community. From the beginning, Teresa Ball

responded generously to requests for Sisters received from around the world. Such a request was received from Michael Power, Bishop of Toronto, and, on August 5, 1847, Ignatia Hutchinson, Gertrude Fleming, Bonaventure Phelan, Valentina Hutchinson and Teresa Dease left Ireland. Bishop Power, unaware that they had arrived in Toronto, on September 16, 1847, had sent no one to meet them. Accommodations were eventually secured for them at 45 Duke Street and their school opened on September 29.

Ignorant of the Typhus Fever raging in Toronto and the Bishop's absorption with its victims, the Sisters were disconcerted by his physical appearance and obvious fatigue. He died on October 1, 1847, and Toronto was left without a Bishop for three years. On their own and cloistered, the Sisters had to fend for themselves. While their faith and courage were tested, their health failed. Overworked and impoverished, they were unaware of the growing opposition to their schools.

While Teresa Dease and Valentina Hutchinson taught in the house, Gertrude Fleming taught at a school in St. Paul's Parish—the nucleus of the Toronto Separate School system. Gertrude's inadequate winter garments resulted in a gangrenous condition and the amputation of her foot above the ankle. The harsh climate and their financial situation severely undermined the health of the community in the months ahead. By March of 1851, Bonaventure Phelan, Gertrude Fleming and Ignatia Hutchinson were dead and buried in the crypt of St. Michael's Cathedral. Broken in health, Valentina Hutchinson returned to Ireland and Teresa Dease, the sole survivor, was appointed superior. For thirty-eight years she directed the growth and expansion of the Institute in North America. In 1881, the Institute in North America became a separate generalate. The changing religious, political, social and educational developments in Toronto and expansion into the United States necessitated the need for greater autonomy. On July 1, 1889, Teresa Dease died and was succeeded by Ignatia Lynn.

Despite its ominous beginnings, the Institute in North America prospered in vocations and in foundations in Toronto and beyond. The oldest surviving foundation, Loretto Abbey, was located at 403 Wellington Street from 1867-1930, and, in 1928, at its present location, 101 Mason Boulevard. Anyone, witnessing the arrival of these five women at Toronto in 1847 would not have predicted much of a future for them. The climate, illness, lack of money, problems, death, and juridical concerns presented insurmountable challenges. Today, Loretto Sisters continue to serve the Church in Canada wherever the needs demand.

Sheila Smith, IBVM

TERESA DEASE, IBVM: 1820-1889

Founder of the North America Branch of the IBVM

Ellen Dease was born at Naas, County Kildare, Ireland, on May 4, 1820, to Anne Nugent and Oliver Dease. Her siblings were Anna Maria, (Sister Eucharist, founder of Loreto Fermoy); Bridget Dease, a benefactor of Fermoy and Youghal; and her brothers, Christopher and William, who emigrated to Australia.

On February 13, 1845, Ellen entered the Institute, received the name Sister Teresa, and was professed on August 3, 1847. She wrote: "On the 3rd of August the two novices . . . M.J. Bonaventure Phelan and . . . M. J. Teresa Dease, made their vows, expecting to leave Kingston on the 4th and . . . Liverpool a few days later. Even one day longer in the cherished land of their birth . . . was balm to the heart of the two novices, particularly to one, S.M.T.D. whom obedience rather than zeal sustained under the sacrifice which she felt almost as great as that of life would have been."

Teresa Dease and her companions: Ignatius Hutchinson, Bonaventure Phelan, Gertrude Fleming and Valentina Hutchinson arrived at Toronto on September 16, 1847 and moved into their home on the 24th. She wrote: "A few days after we had taken possession of our new and dreary home, the appalling news 'The Bishop is dead' reached us." Three years later Bishop Charbonnel was appointed Bishop of Toronto.

Besides having charge of the boarding school, Teresa taught English, French, Italian, Drawing and Painting and the Advanced Music Pupils. She also prepared meals, did house work and ordered provisions. Their chaplain suggested public examinations in the form of plays in English and in French which added to her burden. These examinations became the forerunner of the Graduation Exercises at Loretto Schools.

With Ignatia's death and Valentina's return to Ireland, Teresa Dease, sole survivor of the original five, became interim superior. Unaware of Teresa Ball's letter to Charbonnel, March 19, 1851, stating that "Sr. M. Teresa Dease is a person of superior mind and distinguished piety . . . she is well suited to take the place . . . of Mother Ignatia Hutchison.", Teresa Dease wrote to Teresa Ball: "My position here at present is very painful and only tolerable because obedience requires it for present." Despite her added responsibilities, she continued to teach and, because there were few priests, gave Retreats. She was a keen judge of human nature and acted as a buffer between clashing personalities and opinions. For thirty-eight years, she directed the affairs of the North American Mission, establishing foundations in Ontario, and Joliet, Illinois. Concerned about the chain of authority she wrote to Teresa Ball "The Archbishop on one occasion made the remark that it was the Bishop in whose diocese we were situated who was to govern the Community through the superior." The North American foundation became a separate generalate in 1881.

Teresa Dease died on July 1, 1889, at the age of sixty-nine. Her funeral liturgy was celebrated at Loretto Abbey, Wellington Street, and her coffin travelled by train to Niagara Falls for interment in the Convent grounds—a fitting end to the life of a remarkable, creative and wise woman. Her struggles with enclosure and juridical authority forced her to make difficult but far-reaching decisions that embodied the vision and spirit of Mary Ward and her conviction "that women in time to come will do much."

Sheila Smith, IBVM

LORETTO MARYHOLME

What do you do when your spirit flags? Where do you find peace and comfort for your inner self?

Sixty plus years ago, Sr. Constance McMahon found a place where members of the North American branch of the Institute of the blessed Virgin Mary could spend a few weeks each summer being renewed by God's creation on the shores of Lake Simcoe, just north of Toronto. Today, the long drive up the lane bordered by flowering hedges brings you through woods on one side and a meadow on the other to a sweeping view of the lake. The buildings seem insignificant until you enter in and enjoy the views again from wrap around verandas that never end. At that point, you might as many before you have done, just find yourself sinking into the peace and beauty that is Loretto Maryholme.

In 2001, Loretto Maryholme opened its arms to those who seek such peace in the generous gifts of creation found there. Retreats, faith development, community building, and wellness programs are all enriched by this amazing site. Whether you walk the labyrinth, swim in the lake or walk on it in winter, meet the 40 or so varieties of trees, watch the resident foxes play, or listen to the birds as you enjoy a walk or a book, nature surrounds you and works its healing into your being. Perhaps colour is your inspiration. Find it here in flowers wild and cultivated, the ever changing skies, the greens of grass and woods. If you crave solitude, the property is large enough to be a world unto itself far from most of the noises that besiege us daily. It is such a spiritual centre.

“Times in solitude, particularly connected to nature, allow us to renew and regenerate our own natures. Time spent in nature for purpose of reflection and guidance reawakens us to our own life purpose and remembering the original medicine (or unique gift) that is ours to offer to all creatures and human beings. Nature teaches us what is important; it is beneficial in helping us work out emotions, moods.”
Arrien Angeles

Healing at Loretto Maryholme is happening on a cosmic scale, not just with human beings. Forest restoration including the removal of invasive species is a long term goal. So is the protection of our shoreline. As always, we listen to the land to determine what is most happy in this space. So much of our efforts here are enabled by our large crew of volunteers, neighbours and school groups who help with the restoration projects giving their labour and in return being educated by the place and each other.

As Jane McDonnell IBVM wrote to the local parish: Loretto Sisters continually try to discern and respond to the needs of the time. We believe the present anxious and searching times call us to share Loretto Maryholme with those who need the beauty, peace and sense of community that Maryholme offers. We wish to share this beautiful place with you. Welcome!

Mary Mallany, IBVM

LOVE THE DRIVING FORCE AT LORETTO COLLEGE

In 1869, when Emily Stowe, the first woman licensed to practice medicine in Canada, applied to take psychology and chemistry at University College and was rejected, she predicted, “These doors will open some day to women.” Her prediction came true fifteen years later.

As St. Michael’s College had been founded as a Minor Seminary the admission of women occurred in a far different context than that of University College, Thus, the question of the admission of women was a complex one. The founding of Loretto College was a significant step in the struggle for the admission of women to St. Michael’s College. In the history of that founding, two women, Mother Estelle Nolan and Mother Margarita O’Connor stand out for their undying efforts to provide higher education for women in a Catholic environment.

What was the driving force of these two great women? What was the love that drove them to pursue their dreams so courageously. I believe it was their love of learning, a love that was imbued with the spirit of Mary Ward. Years before, addressing her community in Liege, Mary Ward had stated, “To attain perfection, knowledge of verity is necessary to live it and to effect it. That you may not err, I beseech you all to understand and note well wherefore you are to seek this knowledge. Not for the content and satisfaction it bringeth though it be exceeding great, but for the end it bringeth you to, which is God. Seek it for him who is verity.”

Mother Estelle Nolan’s great desire was to make higher education possible for women and in a Catholic environment. Her success in founding this Catholic college is largely due to her indomitable spirit. Mother Margarita O’Connor has been called one of the foundation stones in the Catholic colleges in the University of Toronto. This is due to her share in the arrangements by which the two women’s colleges, Loretto and St. Joseph’s, became part of St. Michael’s College, whereby the Sisters became the first women professors in the Toronto University.

For forty years a long procession of well-educated Loretto Sisters continued to assist women in their goal of higher education with classes in languages and literature. In 1997, Marion Norman IBVM

wrote, "From 1925 onwards the procession of women undergraduates continued to grow. Women were still segregated for General-course subjects in classes taught by the nuns in their respective residences. ...Only in 1952, after the enlargement of St. Michael's facilities by the Carr, Teefy, Elmsley and Brennan buildings, did co-education become a fact in the General Arts courses."

From its original home on Wellington St. to its present location at 70 St. Mary St., Loretto College has undergone many changes. Its role today is that of a woman's residence for St. Michael's College, a residence which still retains the spirit of Mary Ward which animated the founding Sisters almost 100 years ago. The successive deans, all gifted laywomen, have carried on the tradition inherited from a long line of outstanding daughters of Mary Ward.

Margaret O'Keefe, IBVM and Marion Norman, IBVM

LORETTO ABBEY 1867-2009

For one hundred and forty-two years, Loretto Abbey, located at two different sites, has made a significant impact on the lives of young women in Toronto and beyond. Crowding at Loretto Convent and School at 81 Bond Street, which opened in 1862, made it urgent to find larger accommodations. This need resulted in the purchase of Lyndhurst in 1867. The original house, a small two-storey building with a pointed roof, had been built on a five-acre parcel of land at Wellington (Market) and Spadina (Brock), by Robert Sympson Jameson, Attorney General, for his wife, Anna Murphy Jameson. Their residence was brief and Anna returned to England. In 1844, Frederick Widder, later Chief Commissioner of the Canada Company, purchased the house for 2,000 pounds. The Widders, connected to English and Austro-Bavarian royalty, called their home, Lyndhurst, adding a westward extension to the ground floor and two more stories with a tower on the southwest corner. Lyndhurst became the centre of social gatherings such as the private ball held in 1860 for the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII.

In 1865, a Mr. Gordon, who held a two-year lease and intended to buy the house, was in England when it was put up for sale at a public auction. His mother and sister were legally powerless to act, but strangely enough the property did not sell, although it was one of the finest homes in or around Toronto, with a large garden, and situated far from the industrial section. Sister Teresa Dease asked a business acquaintance, Mr. Mulvey, to make inquiries, and the property was thus purchased for the Sisters. The Sisters changed the name to Loretto Abbey. Over the years, there were many building additions but none more dear to the heart of Teresa Dease than the beautiful Baroque Chapel, dedicated to the Holy Family, to commemorate the 1897 Golden Jubilee of the Sisters' arrival in North America. By 1878, the Novitiate and Motherhouse had transferred from 81 Bond Street to the Abbey. However, as Industry encroached upon the property, the sale of the Abbey was considered in 1911 and also in 1918. In 1923, property was purchased on Mason Boulevard for a new Motherhouse and School and, in 1927, Wellington Street was up for sale. On January 27, 1927, the first sod was turned at the new location and, in September, 1928, the new Loretto Abbey High School opened. On June 25, 1930, the property at 403 Wellington was transferred to the Jesuits, and on June 30, 1930, the Novitiate, Infirmary and General Leadership moved to 101 Mason Boulevard.

In 1950, General Leadership approved the building of a Chapel, a Novitiate, and a Garage. The Chapel opened in 1952 and was blessed on December 8, 1953. The beautiful stained glass window, created by Yvonne Williams, was dedicated to the Holy Family. New educational developments, supervisory personnel and an ever-increasing student body were factors that influenced the decision to close the boarding school in June, 1968. Those same factors resulted in the closing of the Elementary School in 1985. Full Government Funding placed Loretto Abbey under the administration of the Toronto District Catholic School Board. Loretto Abbey's reputation as a fine, academic facility remains intact and many

of its graduates move on to higher institutes of learning to assume, after their studies, prominent positions in education, business, medicine, science, social programs, the law, the arts and politics. Its imposing beauty and grace are a monument to the courage, foresight and financial risk taken by Reverend Mother Pulcheria Farrelly and her Council to build Loretto Abbey, an undertaking many called “Folly.”

Sheila Smith, IBVM

BRANCHING OUT INTO NEW MISSIONS IN GUELPH

When Loretto Convent closed in 1996, it was clear that Mary Ward’s mission would go on in a different form. In 1979 Christine Leyser had come to Guelph with a sense, like Mary Ward, that God wanted something else. This insight led her to work with prisoners and former prisoners, to provide for the homeless poor, and to be a voice for those who had no voice or power in Guelph and surrounding region. She began her ministry working in the Ontario Reformatory and living in the Jesuit “Farm Community”, which housed a number of disadvantaged adults.

To religious leaders in Guelph it had become very clear that there were many people in Guelph who needed a great deal of help, a fact which led Christine to establish the first Drop In Centre. The third, expanded Centre now meets many needs, not just a warm meal. Regular assistance is given in obtaining shelter, obtaining medical help, and accessing social services; there is also access to a shower, a hairdresser, computers, a library and the work shop. More than any of these, the Drop In is a community of people who help each other, and some who use it also volunteer there, especially those who live in the various shelters which Christine has established. There are now four shelters in the city, one exclusively for women and children, the others for a variety of people.

Yorkhaven deserves special mention. Much more than a shelter, it is a low-income housing complex which provides accommodation for 24 adults who could not otherwise live on their own, but who, with the caring oversight of Christine and Donata Dean, live somewhat independently in small apartments. Christine and Donata provide whatever assistance is necessary with medication and appointments, and provide a supportive, loving presence in the complex. Some of the residents are able to hold jobs; others assist at the Drop In Centre. For her work among the poor of the city, Christine will receive the Order of Canada sometime in the coming year, and Donata will be with her to share the occasion.

Two other new ministries deserve mention. Three years ago Sister Jeanine Glute began her work at Loyola House Jesuit Retreat Centre, and recently was hired as a full member of staff. Her ministry includes spiritual direction, planning workshops, co-chairing the Summer Directors’ Practicum and working with those who are in the nine-month-long Internship in Spiritual Direction. Meanwhile, Helen Cameron provides a continued Loretto presence in the Bishop Macdonell High School community, assisting in chaplaincy, and responding to other situations as they arise.

In a variety of ways, there is continuity from the earliest beginnings in 1856, as we live Mary Ward’s mission and vision of responding to whatever are the needs of our times. †

CANADA: Loretto Alumnae Association for the Province of Canada

Contributor: Dr. Andr ea Beaumont, President

Loretto Alumnae Celebrate the 2008 ‘Order of Mary Ward’

The Order of Mary Ward Award is the highest honour the Loretto Alumnae Association of Canada can bestow upon an alumna and it is presented to a woman who embodies the qualities of Mary Ward. Most often the recipient has made a significant contribution to the academic, spiritual or material welfare of Loretto schools, demonstrated service to neighbours and respect for religion. Recipients for the prestigious award in 2008 included Sister Frederica Boyle, IBVM, Sister Maria Lanthier, IBVM, and Ms. Anna Olson, and awards were presented at the Order of Mary Ward Tribute Evening held at Toronto’s Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School on November 7, 2008.

Our Keynote Speaker at the event was the Provincial Leader of Canada, **Sister Evanne Hunter, IBVM**, who recently celebrated her 50th year with the IBVM. Sister Evanne has long been involved with SalvAide which is the only Canadian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with an exclusive focus on El Salvador. In 2002 the IBVM was officially awarded NGO status at the United Nations and Sr Evanne was the first IBVM NGO Representative at the United Nations.

At the Order of Mary Ward Tribute Evening, Sister Evanne gave an informative presentation pertaining to the history of Mary Ward and the events that will take place in Canada in 2009 to celebrate the 400th anniversary.



*Photo: Provincial Leader
Sr Evanne Hunter, IBVM*



Sister Sheila Zettel, IBVM, whom many remember fondly as the former Principal of the Loretto Abbey Junior School, was a special guest at the Event and opened the ceremonies by reading a special prayer that was written for the occasion by Sr Sheila Smith. Sr Sheila Zettel is an inspirational individual who possesses admirable leadership qualities and exemplifies the lifelong dedication of the IBVM.

Photo: Sister Sheila Zettel, IBVM

Sister Mary Digirolamo introduced award recipient Sister Frederica Boyle and discussed her many outstanding accomplishments.

Sister Frederica Boyle, IBVM, was educated at Loretto Abbey and earned a B.A., M.A. and M.Ed. at the University of Toronto. She then became actively involved in the school system as a teacher, Principal, Curriculum Coordinator, and Superintendent of Schools for the Toronto Catholic School Board. She was appointed Secretary General of the North American Branch of the IBVM in 1977 and was elected General Superior in 1981. In the mid-1980s, the famine and civil war ravaged Ethiopia and left many refugees seeking asylum in neighbouring countries. Many individuals fled to Rome but were left unemployed and homeless. As a result of Sr Frederica Boyle's initiative, a number of these refugees were sponsored to come to Canada.

Sister Frederica's leadership qualities, sense of humour and vivacity have been contributing factors in motivating others to pursue leadership roles and she is an influential and inspirational figure.



Photo left: Award recipient Sr Maria Lanthier, IBVM

Photo right: Sr Rosemary Albon, IBVM (right) with Andréa Beaumont, President



Sister Rosemary Albon introduced the very deserving award recipient Sister Maria Lanthier, IBVM.

Sister Maria Lanthier, IBVM, was a student at Loretto Abbey High School before she obtained teaching credentials at O.I.S.E. (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education). She taught at a number of Loretto schools and became Dean of Loretto College. Sr. Maria ministered at the Scarborough General Hospital and founded a Residential Home, Arrabon house, for young women.

Sister Maria has touched many lives and has dedicated her efforts for several decades to helping refugees from several countries. She was the Institute Refugee Coordinator who sponsored Ethiopian refugees to seek asylum in Canada. Sr. Maria states, "We've probably brought in about 80 refugees since the Vietnamese boat people in 1979." . . . We've watched the kids develop, seeing the teenagers now in college. It's amazing what they can contribute to Canada" (*The Catholic Register*). She has also spent time working with indigenous people in northern Canada and in Africa and is a most worthy recipient of the Order of Mary Ward.

As recipient Anna Olson was unable to attend the event, her mother Mrs. Tomcik graciously accepted the award on Anna's behalf and delivered a lovely speech. Membership Convenor Patty O'Toole introduced Mrs. Tomcik and discussed Anna's many accomplishments.



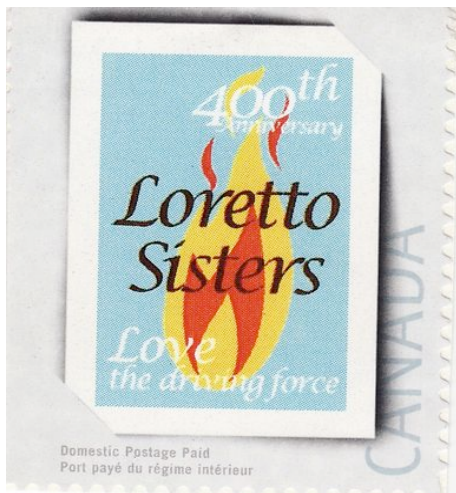
Photo: Anna Olson

Anna Olson, celebrity pastry chef, was born in Georgia and moved to Toronto where she attended Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School in Toronto. She trained in the culinary program at Johnson and Wales University in Denver, Colorado, and is currently the host of *Fresh with Anna Olson* on the Canadian television Food Network. Her prior shows include *Sugar* and *Kitchen Equipped* and she has authored

and co-authored five books. Anna and her husband Michael, who is also a talented chef, own Olson Foods in Port Dalhousie, Ontario, and Olson Foods at Ravine Vineyards near Niagara, Ontario. Anna participates in numerous fundraisers, including Niagara Women's Enterprise Centre which trains women who may not otherwise have the opportunity or financial resources. Her business donates food to the YMCA women's shelter and to the very important *Out of The Cold* program which provides food and shelter to the homeless.

A number of students from Dr. Kuriyan's (Liaison for Alumnae Association and Loretto Abbey) math classes at Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School generously dedicated their time to assist the Alumnae Committee at the event and helped to make it a very successful evening. The presentation ceremonies were followed by a catered reception and a new attendance record was set with nearly 150 guests! Additional photographs for this event will be included in the next newsletter and on our website.

To nominate a deserving individual to receive the Order of Mary Ward, please submit a nomination form which is available at the Loretto Alumnae of Canada website www.lorettoalumnae.ca



A commemorative postage stamp has been issued in Canada by Canada Post to mark the 400th Anniversary of the Loretto Sisters! The stamp, shown left, features the motto: "*Love: the driving force*". †

ENGLAND: Schools of the Province of England

Contributor: Sr Kathryn Keigher, Literacy support worker at Loreto Sixth Form College, Manchester, England



The logo was the winning entry in the competition with IBVM and CJ schools and the bookmark was designed by Sr Kathryn Keigher, IBVM. Following is the text from the bookmark:

This week, in January 2009, we have celebrated history in the making. We have witnessed the inauguration of the first black President in the White House. Such choices are only possible as a result of the courage and determination of those who have gone before us: Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus, Martin Luther King led the Civil Rights movement which followed and which became a symbol of freedom and justice for all.

This week we also celebrate the life and work of another great civil rights campaigner. Freedom and Justice, rooted in a sincere love for God, were the values for which Mary Ward risked everything in the seventeenth century. She showed extraordinary courage and determination in the face of opposition, imprisonment and ridicule. In 1609, with a passion and a mission to make education available to all, especially to women, she set sail for St. Omer to begin the religious congregation known to you as Loreto.

Today there are thousands of students in Mary Ward's schools and colleges across the world and on every continent. They are united in the foundation values of freedom, sincerity and justice which were to become the values of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and Barack Obama.

*As a student at Loreto College,
what challenges do you face?
What are your values?
What determines your choices?*

Aled Jones interviews Gemma Simmonds on (Radio)‘Good Morning Sunday’



On Thursday (29 January 2009) about 2000 people descended on York Minster for a Catholic Mass to celebrate the Foundation of the Congregation of Jesus and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Given the difficult history of Anglican-Catholic relations this ecumenical gesture marks the culmination of a 400 year long struggle by a pioneering Yorkshire woman, Mary Ward, and her followers, to found an active Order of nuns in the Jesuit model. I am joined now by **Sister Gemma Simmonds CJ:**

Aled Jones (AJ): How did the Service in York go, then?

Gemma Simmonds (JS): Oh, it was a blast! It was wonderful! 2000 people, the place heaving, so many of our friends, people we’ve worked with, past pupils from our schools. It was so beautiful, and the warmth and kindness of the Minster clergy and the Minster staff was just overwhelming.

AJ: You’ve said that Mary Ward is one of Britain’s best kept secrets and a saint for the 3rd Millennium, and someone we should be proud of as a great pioneer for women. Tell us more about her, then.

GS: Well she lived at a time when there were only two options for women, certainly in the Catholic Church: either the cloister or a husband. Women were kept indoors and kept very quiet and [Mary Ward] thought, ‘Oh there’s got to be a third option which is that women can do great things in society if only they are educated,’ so she left England to go abroad and become a nun and with a group of young women, most of whom were related to the gun-powder plotters. You know the men in the family decided to do this awful act of religious terrorism. The women got down to doing something much more useful which was educating girls and helping them to have better choices for their lives.



AJ: Mary Ward has many Anglican admirers. Does the gesture to hold a Catholic Mass at York Minster open a new chapter in Catholic-Anglican relations?

GS: Oh, I very much hope so, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O’Connor was there and spoke very warmly to the Anglican clergy and it was their invitation. And Mary Ward herself was buried in an Anglican church during the Civil War and her tombstone is still there in Osbaldwick which is a little village outside York. People come from all over the world to honour this woman who said:

“There is no such difference between men and women that women may not do great things.”

And she said this in 1617 when people were still debating whether or not women had souls!

AJ: Why didn’t we know more about her?

JS: I think it’s because partly she lived at a time when Catholicism was a secret, underground religion in this country and people had to



keep quiet. But, unfortunately, the Church wasn't ready for her either. She was condemned and imprisoned as a heretic and our Order was suppressed and we've been keeping going but rather quietly for 300 years until 1909 when she was fully vindicated by the Vatican and pronounced to be the Foundress of our Order and a woman for our times.

AJ: It seems to me that this Service meant a great deal to you.

GS: Oh, it did and the terrible shame with these kind of days, Aled, you've got 2000 people there, everyone wants to talk to each other, you want to see all your friends and you can't get round them fast enough. The historic Bar Convent in York is the oldest convent in England, now running a B&B and Conference Centre and we invited everyone back here to feed them. We fed 940 people. So lots of loaves and fishes there, you know.

AJ: Is that all you gave them!

GS: Well, actually, there were piles and piles of sandwiches laid by for the staff 'cause we've got a marvellous staff at the Bar Convent and we ended up cutting these up and giving them to everyone as well 'cause we didn't have enough.

AJ: Sounds fantastic! Her Canonisation is well under way. How long is it since an English woman has been canonised?

GS: Oh, I think the last one was probably Margaret Clitherow [1556-1586] also a Yorkshire woman, [canonized] in the 1970's. She was a butcher's wife who was crushed to death in the streets of York for hiding Catholic priests and Mary Ward was part of that network of women who have been imprisoned or have suffered for their faith.

AJ: Now, I have been told to ask you about Sister Frances North. Spill the beans.

GS: Well, two years ago, when we were just starting to think about celebrating this wonderful Jubilee we sent an e mail round our Province of Sisters saying,

'OK, Girls, this is going to be a great celebration - how do we get Mary Ward better known, how do we celebrate?'

And Frances, who has been a red hot fan of yours since your choirboy days, said,

'We've got to get Mary Ward on the Aled Jones show.'

She emailed immediately and she said,

'Whatever you do, you've got to get Mary Ward on the Aled Jones show.'

And we emailed back saying,

'In your dreams, Frances!'

And here I am talking to you! Sadly, Frances herself died last year so she never lived to hear this but we know that where she is she is knowing and is here and is laughing a bit, I think.

AJ: I was about to say she's most definitely listening...

GS: Lots of young women listening, come and be nuns. They've a wonderful life and there's lots of work to be done.

AJ: What's the best thing about being a nun?

GS: It's huge fun – you never know what is going to happen next.

AJ: So Sisters really are making an impact on the 21st century, you would say?

GS: Oh hugely, and of course we have big international networks so because of these networks we can do things like get involved in the question of sex trafficking and helping women to get out of that, or helping people abroad in the education of children and girls where they are deprived of access to education.....women's voices were silenced all over the world through lack of education. †

IRELAND: Schools of the Province of Ireland

**Loreto Education Centre, Ireland
Springfield Park, Foxrock, Dublin 18
Contributor: Rionach Donlon, IBVM**

Celebrating the 400th Anniversary

In Issue No. 1 of **Loreto as a Global Community** we spoke of beginning our preparations for celebrating 2009. This article for Issue No. 4 outlines some of the events we in Ireland are planning. We in this office help with school planning, but we will also tell you about other celebrations in the Province.

- Our main liturgical celebration has already happened - a Eucharist in Mullingar Cathedral on Saturday 24th January 2009 with Cardinal Sean Brady as celebrant. The Irish composer and musician, Liam Lawton, was commissioned to write the music for this mass. A representative number of students, staff, parents, Boards and IBVM Sisters from all our schools in Ireland participated. Including Gibraltar and a visiting school from Mandeville Hall, Melbourne, Australia, 33 schools attended. The cathedral holds 2000 and it was filled to capacity in praise and thanksgiving for 400 years of IBVM and its schools.
- The schools stitched squares for a patchwork quilt (several squares from each school) which was carried up to the altar in procession and all were delighted to see their own school represented.
- A play entitled “The Trial of Mary Ward” was written by one of our former school principals, Brendan McCann. It is available from this office and anyone interested in drama could contact us for a copy if required.
- A one hour documentary for television, entitled “Mary Ward, Dangerous Innovator”, is in preparation by Sarah McDonald, a former Loreto student and now a journalist in Dublin. Further information will be available on the website (www.marywarddocumentary.com) as production proceeds. When complete, the documentary will contain material on Mary Ward’s life, the Painted Life, aspects of IBVM and CJ work in places such as India, Sudan, Albania etc. Dame Judi Dench has given permission for her readings of Mary Ward’s letters. Directed by Gerry Nelson, the documentary is produced by Kairos Communications. The DVD is to be made available for purchase in IBVM and CJ schools worldwide and will have dubbing /subtitles in German, Spanish and French in order to widen potential viewership. It is hoped to have it shown on BBC and other channels. When the website is ready, do please register your interest by agreeing to receive an e-newsletter which will update you on progress. The documentary is due for completion in late 2009, probably October.
- A conference on “Mental Well-Being” is being organised for the 21st March at which Dr. Tony Bates (director of “Headstrong”, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health) will be the keynote speaker and workshop topics will centre on the various problems associated with the teen-age years. The President of Ireland, President Mary McAleese has graciously agreed to formally open the event.
- Similarly, a series of training seminars for teachers will be held to build capacity within the Loreto schools to advance the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation agenda which is strong in our Loreto philosophy of education. These seminars will be limited to a number of teachers committed to this agenda.

- Thirty-two students, accompanied by some teachers, will visit Kenya in June as part of an immersion project. We are grateful to our Loreto, East African province for making this visit possible.

In addition to the schools' programmes, two further events are in process of planning by the Loreto Sisters:

- On 25th-26th April there will be a gathering of IBVM members and friends in a Dublin venue. Elizabeth Liebert will be the keynote speaker, and she will speak on the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and Women in the Church.
- On June 20th and 21st a Summer School on Mary Ward will be organised where the main speaker will be Gill Goulding CJ, who lectures in Regis College, Toronto.

We join in spirit with all who are celebrating this Jubilee 400 and pray God's blessings on all the celebrations and participants in this significant year for all Mary Ward followers. ✚

SPAIN: Province of Spain

Contributor: Atana Torres-Quevedo, Instituto de la Bienaventurada,
Angels G^a- Arenal, IBVM

This Invitation is being sent in English and Spanish to friends, Lay Associates, Past Pupils, Parents Associations, Mary Ward Mission Members and others. The invitation lists events that have been organized up to this point. School Celebrations in Seville, Madrid, and Bilbao will take place later on, as will celebrations in Asilah (Morocco) and Guayaquil (Ecuador).

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Loreto Sisters, Spanish Province)
invites you to remember us and join us
as we celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the
Institute founded by
Mary Ward

IBVM and C.J. (Congratia Geisu), the two Branches of Mary Ward's Institute today celebrate :

Opening Ceremony
Barcelona: Eucharist in the Basilica of Santa Maria del Mar.
25 th. April 2009, at 19.30h.

Retreat and Workshops on Mary Ward's spirituality
10th - 17th July 2009 (Spanish)
Casa de Espiritualidad de Zamartze, Navarra, Spain.

International Celebration
Rome October 4 - 9, 2009

Madrid: November 2009
Organized by IBVM and Misión Mary Ward (Lay Associates)

Information: www.ibvm.es
www.ibvm.org
ibvm@ibvm.es

The two branches of Mary Ward's Institute, the IBVM and C.J. celebrate an opening ceremony in Barcelona on April 26, 2009 commencing at 7:30 pm with the Eucharist in the Basilica of Santa Maria del Mar. A retreat and workshops on Mary Ward's spirituality will be held (in Spanish) from July 10 – 17, 2009 in Navarra, Spain. The international celebrations in Rome from October 4-9 will be followed by Madrid events in November organized by IBVM and Misión Mary Ward (Lay Associates). For more information please visit the Spanish website www.ibvm.es or email ibvm@ibvm.es †