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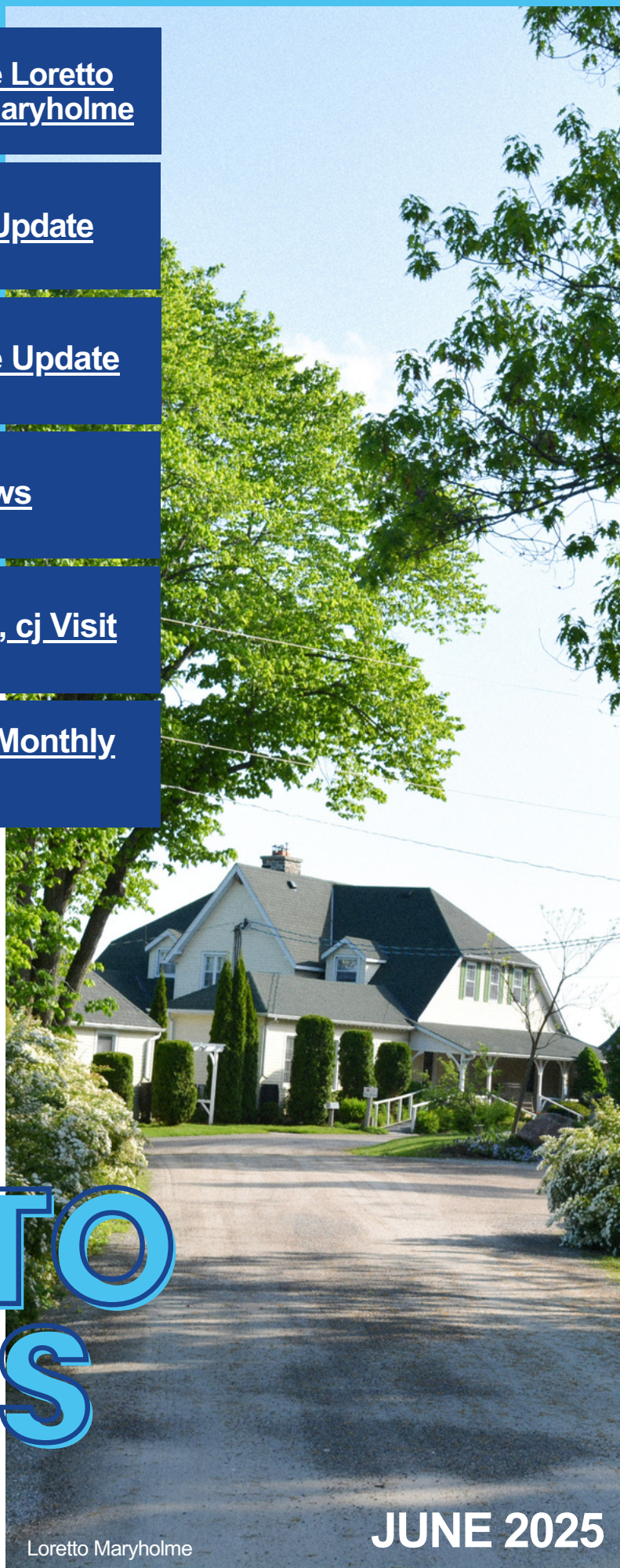
Institute of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Canadian Province

LORETTO SISTERS

~ Since 1847

Loretto Maryholme

JUNE 2025





Reflection from the Loretto Ministries Day at Maryholme

At the end of April, the staff of the Loretto Ministries gathered at Loretto Maryholme for a 2-day event:

to become more immersed in the charism of Mary Ward and how this inspires us and resonates through our work; to follow the journey of Becoming One; and to connect as 'one staff' under the Mary Ward banner.

We were blessed to have Sr Brenda Eagan from Chicago facilitate the event. Here are a few quotes from attendees.

I left feeling a powerful sense of ownership, belonging and gratitude in the group. (be)



The Loretto Ministry event was especially meaningful to me because it gave me a chance to truly connect with others as a Loretto family. The heartfelt talk on the art of listening really stayed with me—it reminded me how powerful it is to be present for one another, especially when working together as a team. (jd)



MARYHOLME STAFF RETREAT

April 2025

I still reflect on our get together with a smile to this day. So great to meet the Toronto team and spend some time getting to know one another. I feel incredibly blessed to be a small part of this organization. Finding out more about Mary Ward was a huge inspiration. I am humbled by all that she was able to accomplish. (sv)



Mary Ward Centre: Strategic Plan Renewal

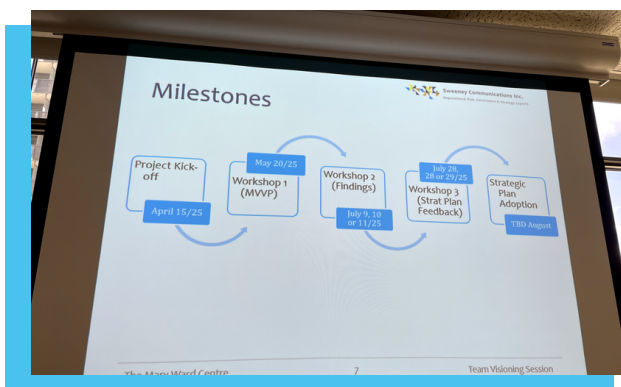


With the help of a consultant (Brenda Sweeney of Sweeney Communications Inc) the Mary Ward Centre staff have been working diligently on a renewed Strategic Plan for the Centre. Interviews have been conducted with all the staff, a few of the Loretto Sisters, as well as some external connected persons.

Thank you to everyone who has participated openly and thoughtfully during this process.

We ask for the prayers of the Sisters, Staff, Associates and friends as we participate in workshops over the next month or so, to analyze all the feedback we have gathered. May the Holy Spirit guide us towards a focus where our efforts will have the greatest impact. The staff at the Centre have been doing exceptional work and everyone is encouraged to visit their updated website:

www.marywardcentre.ca



We look forward to sharing our renewed Purpose, Vision and Mission statement in an upcoming newsletter.

- *By Dolores Kwapien*



Sr Sarah Rudolph, Audrey ferrer and Coco.

Mary Ward Centre Update: Recap

In addition to working on a renewal of their Strategic Plan, The Mary Ward Centre has been busy. The broadcast, Storytime with Sr. Sarah: Fun with Birds, was a big hit during Earth Week, with over 1200 registered viewers. To launch the 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si' Week, they hosted the retreat, Indigenous Wisdom on Care for Creation and the Wisdom Carriers exhibit featuring paintings of Métis Algonquin artist, Diane Montreuil.

MWC coop students are finalizing their projects: animating the story of the Irish Loretto Sisters arrival to Toronto; a digital escape room to learn about the Jubilee year; a Faith4SDGs quilt; social media outreach; illustrations for a youth education booklet against human trafficking; as well as a "Green Saints" children's book.



Métis Algonquin artist, Diane Montreuil

MWC hosted 'Sisters in Fiction' an event featuring author Jodi Michalachki, who shared excerpts of her novel-in-progress about missionary sisters in Burundi.

The May First Spiritual Exercises Ignatian retreat wrapped up on May 26. There were 8 participants.

During the Week of Victims and Survivors of Crime, Mary Ward Centre collaborated with FCJ Refugee Center, and ARISE Ministry | Hope Lives Here to host a 2-day awareness event.



Pieces of the Puzzle - Understanding Exploitation on a Spectrum: a workshop focused on understanding labour exploitation of temporary foreign workers (TFW) in Canada. The Migrant Workers Exercise, a role-play activity, opened the session. Participants had the opportunity to experience the situations TFW experienced from the recruiting stage to their job stage in many Canadian farms. The afternoon activity was a lived-experience panel listening to migrant workers talk about their own experiences and the deception encountered in different industries.

Pathways to safety - Sex trafficking and the toxic drugs crisis: This workshop focused on analyzing the pathways of sex trafficking and the toxic drug crisis with people working on prevention of human trafficking and drug abuse. Testimonials from survivors and workers supporting victims and survivors served as the basis for the group's work and analysis.



- *By Audrey Ferrer*

Loretto Maryholme Update



As winter turned into spring, the centre has become busier with silent 3-day retreats as well as a number of private retreats. A few highlights were: hosting the Loretto Associates for a weekend; sharing two-days with the full staff of the Loretto Ministries; and a fully booked new writing retreat: Journaling as Spiritual Practice. An Earth Day event was a great start to re-engaging the local community in the Centre.

The April Ice storm created challenges with some significant tree damage which was effectively dealt with by our talented and dedicated grounds team. Volunteers joined us for a spring blessing of the Labyrinth and to joyfully help get it ready for the season. There is no limit to the opportunities for volunteers to assist the grounds staff. Please reach out to the centre if you might be interested in joining us!

- *By Carol Ivens*



Labyrinth J.J. Martyn



Crabapple May 2025



Soft Sunset of May 19th



Ground



Labyrinth J.J. Martyn

Loretto Maryholme Update

Loretto Schools News



Photo from Catholic Register

Three students from Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School in Toronto have been crowned this year's High School Ethics Bowl National Champions after outlasting 300 of the country's top high school debating teams. Read their story here:

<https://www.catholicregister.org/item/2165-no-debate-loretto-abbey-girls-national-champs>

- *By Sister Carmen Diston*



Photo from www.tcdsb.org/o/lorettoabbey

Pilar Urretavizcaya, cj Visit

In October 2021, I received an e-mail from Jane Livesey, our leader.

“I think your Canada idea for a brief break is an excellent one, for all the reasons you give, so do go ahead and start planning for that. You more than deserve it. And I will enjoy hearing your Canadian accent when you speak English at the GC next year!”



Pilar Urretavizcaya, Sarah Rudolph, Mary Mallany



I never thought that would be a reality 4 years later. I enjoy always this sentence from Mary Ward “God has a time for everything”!

I lived in Loretto College and from my window I enjoyed this beautiful city. During the day I contemplated the majesty of the tall buildings, but at night the glints of the light of the CN Tower and the different colours of the buildings were a magnificent spectacle.

I often wondered how so many people were living in this multicultural city (happy, suffering, maybe some jobless migrants, without hope?)

I enjoyed visiting different places: Lake Ontario, Niagara Falls, High Park, Kensington Market, so many establishments under the ground to facilitate the life during the snow-time...

But now, I would like to share my deep experience. I came to rest a little bit and at the same to try to improve my poor English and I can say that I have achieved some of the 2 goals.

In the community were 5 sisters (2 IBVM and 3 CJ) The community lifestyle with 2 official meetings a week, where we could pray, talk and have a dinner all together was a very important moment. This deep, free moment was a way to have other contacts any time. This experience allowed me to pray, rest, walk, visit places...

I am very grateful to all the sisters, especially to Mary Mallany who accompanied us to various places and took us to Ottawa to enjoy the tulip festival.

I had a few days of retreat in a wonderful place (Loretto Maryholme). At night it snowed and in the morning the landscape was like a white picture wrapped in silence.

I would like to say that I felt at home. We are one Body united by Mary Ward, and it is belonging to its roots that binds us together.

I will not forget my "conversations" with Helen Cameron. She corrected so many grammatical mistakes with love and always encouraged me.

 Pilar Urretavizcaya



Pilar Urretavizcaya, Helen Cameron



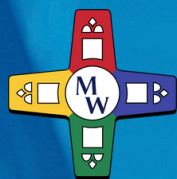
Lake Ontario Beach, View more by Orchidpoet

The Mary Ward family with its diverse cultures enriches each one of us and prepares us to carry out our mission in this multicultural world.

I am grateful to Carmen Diston because from the first moment she encouraged me to come to Canada and offered me everything I needed to have a pleasant stay.

THANK YOU! WE WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS UNITY

- By Pilar Urretavizcaya



Spiritual Journey: Monthly Reflection Evenings

Participant's experience

This has been such a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with long time and new friends to share our Mary Ward experiences and faith life. It feels like intimate community even though we are at such distances from one another. It makes it even more exciting as we move toward union.

- By Adrienne Corti

On the 23rd of each month, Sisters, Associates and friends, mostly from Canada and USA, logged-on for a 1-hour online reflection gathering, a time for community and conversation, sharing the fruits of our experience.

It has been a wonderful experience of sharing our journeys toward merger.

We absolutely love our monthly Spiritual Journey Zoom meetings! In Arizona, we value this time of connection and find it engaging, energizing, and encouraging. Thank you for preparing and offering this sacred space!
Peace.

- By Christa Parra

I was intrigued by the creation of these monthly postings. The creativity and the variety of opportunities for expression were ample. The vocation stories were shared from the heart.

Meeting and sharing with friends from years ago was a delight. I have memories of novitiate in 1956-8 sessions with Mother Margarita, who spoke of her hopes that someday the daughters of Mary Ward would become one. Her dream is coming to fruition!

- By Rita Mary Cote