

**Remembering Sister Mary Lois Logan  
May 24, 1928 - Feb. 21, 2011**

Lois's Book of Life page and IHM ministry commitment forms make it clear that bringing the Good News of the Gospel, proclaiming God's love, especially to the poor and oppressed, was her primary mission. She recounts a particular incident that illustrates what a challenge this mission can be.

I recall, while religious education director at one parish, going into a class of young students and asking, "Who knocked down the walls at Jericho?" A youngster seated in the front desk immediately replied, "I didn't do it!" I smiled and went on with the lesson.

Later on in the week while shopping, I met his mother. I told her of the incident and expected a chuckle from her. In return came, "If my son said he didn't do it, then he didn't do it." Away she went.

A few days later while working in my office, the boy's father came in and very seriously stated he wanted to end this trouble about the walls. He asked, "How much will it cost to repair the walls?" Very delicately I explained to him that the walls were an event recorded in the Bible. He smiled and left. I don't think he realized how little his family knew about Scripture.

This incident helped me realize how much prayer and effort still had to be done and probably will always need to be done to proclaim the message of the Gospel. I'm happy to have been called to share in the proclamation of God's love. My life has been and will continue to be enriched as I daily reach out to those who touch my life.

Lois was born on May 24, 1928, in Baltimore, Md., to Earl Austin Logan and Barbara Louisa Lewis. Her father converted to Catholicism because of his wife's good example of living up to her faith, and he wanted to become more closely united to her and their children by becoming one with them in the Catholic faith. Lois was the oldest of three children. Vilma and Ronald were her younger siblings. Family was



very important to Lois. She treasured the times she was with the family and was proud of her nephews and how they had grown into manhood.

Lois attended St. Rita Catholic School in Baltimore where she had IHMs from Scranton. After graduating from high school, she joined the Navy during the Korean Conflict. In the Navy she worked with weather/cloud predictions much like a meteorologist. This accounts for her tremendous knowledge of clouds.

From 1949-1953 Lois served in the Navy. She loved her first "career" as a Wave and proudly displayed pictures of herself in uniform in her room. One of her greatest wishes was to have a military funeral.

At the time of her discharge, Lois told a Navy friend she desired to go to college. This friend suggested Marygrove College, which Lois eventually attended under the G. I. Bill. Lois graduated from Marygrove College in 1957 and through the urging of Sister Mary Mercy entered the congregation Sept. 7, 1957, at age 29. The transition from Navy Blue to IHM Royal Blue was not that difficult. Lois still remembered military maneuvers, and, according to Sister Pat Glaab, often had the other Novices march up and down the campus. (Are we having fun yet?)

From 1959-2007 Lois wore many hats. Her ministries included elementary and high school teacher, student, secretary, coordinator of religious education, tutor, hospice volunteer, Development Office, election inspector and LARC bookstore in Michigan, Florida, Delaware, Missouri, California and Illinois.

Lois was very dedicated to her teaching. She believed the more experiences we have the better teachers we are. She considered trips places to be educated. Therefore, she was a great traveler. Her insatiable thirst for knowledge was mind-boggling to her students. They also found it mind-boggling that a woman who had been in the Navy could become a nun. Lois's response to this was, "Why not?" Her students affectionately called her Sarge, and when Sarge spoke, one former student shared, "We all jumped to (attention)." Perhaps Sarge was not really an accurate nickname for Lois considering the branch of service she joined. At any rate, her students always knew she was the captain of their ship.

In the '60s Lois met Sisters Jane Arthur Duffy and Catherine Broughton, and they forged a long-standing friendship, much like the Three Musketeers, "All for one, and one for all" except perhaps on card or Rummikub nights. Then it was every nun for herself.

Lois's bond with Catherine was what the Irish describe as *anum cara*: soul friend. Their relationship deepened through the years. They lived life to the fullest in community with no regrets.

In 2007 Lois went into the Health Care Center of the Motherhouse.

Lois, woman compassionate of heart,

clear in word,

gracious in awareness,

courageous in thought,

generous in love,

you have accomplished your mission. Not only did you bring the Good News to others, you *were* the Good News as well. Rest now with your loving God in an eternal furlough.

Sr. Mary Ellen Loren, IHM  
March 1, 2011