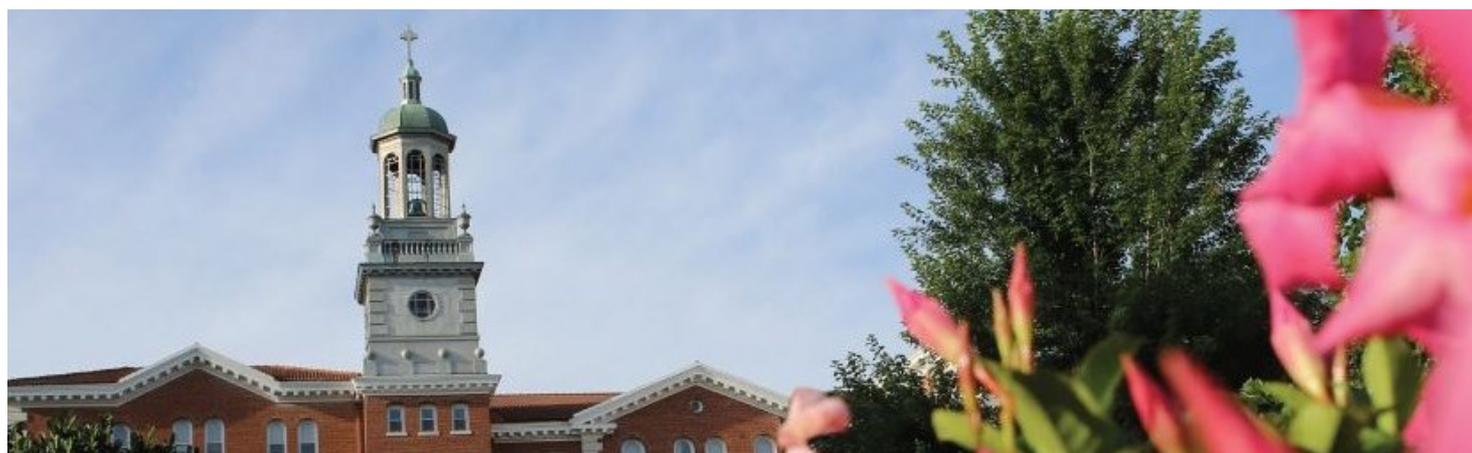BELOW IS A SPECIAL EMAIL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECIEVE FUTURE EMAILS LIKE THIS, CONTACT JANE LIEBERT, C'97, ALUMNI & PLANNED GIVING, jane.liebert@stmary.edu

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Wait for the LORD;

Be strong, and let your heart take courage;

Yes, wait for the LORD.

Psalm 27:14

Our dear Sister Mary Lenore Martin, 89, died in Ross Hall on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, one month shy of her 90th birthday. She was comforted and accompanied by the prayers and presence of many in her final hours. Sister Mary Lenore faithfully served the People of God for 68 years.

Betty Lou Martin was born to William Henry and Mary Ann Sullivan Martin on Nov. 15, 1925 in Butte, MT, where she was raised along with her brother Bill and her sister Margaret. Even though it was during the great depression, education was important to her parents and they sent the children to Catholic schools. Betty graduated from Immaculate Conception Grade School and Girls Central High School in Butte, and Saint Mary College, Leavenworth, KS. She entered the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth on Aug. 14, 1947, and as Sister Mary Lenore, professed her first vows on Aug. 15, 1949.

She began her teaching career while she was in the novitiate, having been assigned to teach five postulants and novices American History, American Government, and English so that they would obtain a high school diploma before making vows. After profession, Sister Mary Lenore taught in secondary schools staffed by the SCLs for twenty years. At Central Catholic High School in Billings, MT, she also served as principal. In 1969, she began teaching in the history department at Saint Mary College and remained there as instructor, professor, and finally Chair of the Department of History/Political Science from 1980-1996. Since retiring in 1996 from what is now the University of Saint Mary, S. Mary Lenore assumed the position of college historian and curator of antiques until 2005. She then began to research the two groups of young women from Ireland who entered the SCL community.

When she wasn't engaged with her professional duties, S. Mary Lenore could often be found performing with some SCL musicians in a small group called the Remnants, where she played saxo-phone and served as manager and MC. The Remnants appeared on national television with Lucille Ball, performed with Bob Hope and other celebrities, toured in Colorado, New Mexico, California, Nebraska, and Montana, and made numerous appearances in Kanas and Missouri.

In speaking of her own faith, S. Mary Lenore was first influenced by her mother. Her college advisor and history teacher, S. Mary Paul Fitzgerald, stood out prominently as another who influ-enced her in both her academic work and her personal life. As a result, she majored in History and English, spent almost 50 years in the classroom, and became a Sister of Charity. S. Mary Lenore concluded a paper entitled "Reflections on Being a Sister of Charity" with this paragraph.

"Perhaps I can say that over a lifetime **I am** becoming a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth. Frederick Beuchner defines a vocation in this way. *Vocation is the place where the heart's deep gladness meets the world's deep hunger.* That is a poetic way of saying what my vocation as a Sister of Charity has meant to me."

Sister Mary Lenore was preceded in death by her parents, William and Mary Ann Martin, her brother Bill, and her sister Margaret Martin Stuart. Survivors include many nieces, nephews, friends, former students, and her SCL community.

October 18, 2015
Homecoming 4:00 p.m.
Vigil Service, 7:00 p.m.
Ross Chapel

October 19, 2015
Mass of Christian Burial 10:30 a.m.
Ross Chapel

Send your Sr. Mary Lenore stories to:
Jane Ellen Liebert, C'97
Alumni and Planned Giving
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