

UA Pittsburgh Grad Connected to Ursulines since Childhood

BY ELLEN MCKNIGHT



“Strolling” on the UA campus

An only child, Pittsburgh native Mary Ann Larkin was raised in a traditional Irish Catholic family, in which her parents and extended family were part of her early faith formation. Catholic education paved the way for her enrollment at Ursuline Academy, from which she graduated in 1970.

She explained, “I was educated by the Dominicans at St. Lawrence O’Toole Parish in grades one through eight. The plan was for me to attend high school there as well. However, at the end of eighth grade, it was announced that my freshman year would be the last year for the high school. My parents didn’t think it would make sense to start at St. Lawrence and then have to transfer. So it was decided that I would go to Ursuline Academy (UA), which was five doors up the street from my house. I pretty much rolled out of bed and into the school each morning.” She said, “If you were looking for me, it was never hard to find me. I was usually in one of three places. We joked that I lived in a triangle...my

home, my aunt’s home (which was across the street from the Academy on Winebiddle) or at UA.

Was it location or destiny that played a major part in connecting Mary Ann with the Ursulines? Most likely both. Mary Ann says, “When I graduated in 1970, I headed for Duff’s Business Institute for a one-year course in business. While searching for a job after business school, I

way up to an executive administrative assistant until she retired.

The decision to include the Ursulines in her will came 22 years after Mary Ann graduated from UA. In summing up her decision, she said, “It was a simple desire to help my friends who had become like a second family to me. My four years at UA were some of the best years in my life, and I had become friends with many of the Sisters who taught me.”

Mary Ann had the opportunity to get to know the Sisters who had been assigned to the Academy over the years. Once Sister Assumpta Devine and Sister Rita Joseph Jarrell returned to Louisville, they introduced her to their friends. As Mary Ann says, “With my regular visits to their Motherhouse over the course of many years, I ended up being acquainted with most of the community, some of whom became very good friends...in some cases, best friends. It is because of all of these Ursuline friendships and connections, both past and present, that I have included the Sisters in my will.”

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spent four months in the principal’s office at UA helping principal Sister Rosemary King, then assisting principal Sister Rita Joseph Jarrell until the school closed in 1981. I was the graduate who never really graduated!”

The clerical support in the principal’s office gave her the opportunity that eventually led to her career. She worked in the insurance industry in various capacities, but mainly as an administrative assistant for 25 years with Aetna and then 17 years with Highmark (Blue Cross/Blue Shield), where she worked her

What’s in Your Will?

If you have included the Ursuline Sisters, or you are considering inclusion in your planned giving, please make sure this information is on your legal documents:

Corporate Name:

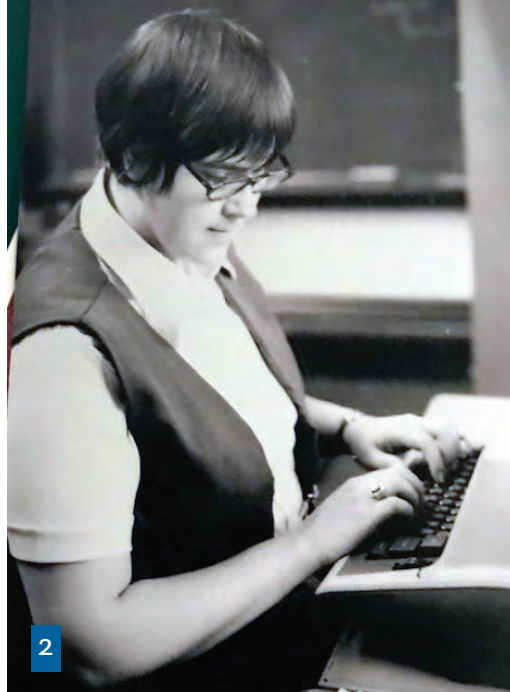
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1. First Communion Day
2. Typing class at Ursuline Academy
3. Graduation Day
4. Sister Assumpta Devine (deceased) and Mary Ann
5. Sister Rita Joseph Jarrell and Mary Ann

