

Sister Loretta Spotila, RN, MSN

President and Founder

Sister Loretta Spotila is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and has been a member of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine for over 50 years. Sister Loretta has been a Registered Nurse for over 45 years and received a Masters Degree in Nursing from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, in 1973. She founded Interfaith Wellness Ministry as a non-profit organization 1977.

After receiving her Masters Degree, she worked as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in several Cleveland, Ohio hospitals. In this role she provided advanced clinical nursing care to patients with chronic illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease and established several hospital-based patient education programs. In addition, she has served in Nursing Administration and hospital-wide Quality Management and Performance Improvement. Sister Loretta was instrumental in several Ohio hospitals receiving renewal of Accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

During her vast clinical and administrative experiences, Sister Loretta always was active in the community where she lived. She has served on several Boards of Trustees for area hospitals and community agencies, as instructor for the Nursing Continuing Education Program of Cleveland State University, and as a Red Cross Nurse Volunteer. Along with her great love for nursing, Sister Loretta enjoys all types of music and has played both piano and organ for many years. She likes to garden and has a favorite Lavender herb plant which she has cultivated since the 1980s. Her favorite colors are those of Autumn, which also happens to be her favorite season of the year! She reminds us that orange and brown are also the colors of the Cleveland Browns football team for whom she's been an avid fan for 30 years!

In early 1993, Sister Loretta had a life-changing experience during a ecological research trip to Costa Rica in which she worked with her brother James R. Spotila, Ph.D., of Drexel University to save the endangered leatherback turtle. She returned to Cleveland with an intense recognition of the global community and the sacredness of the planet. She spent the next several months investigating a simple, more basic way to communicate her Christian faith and a more simple way to care for others-physically and spiritually.

In September 1993, with a willing heart and saying "yes" to God's call, Sister Loretta moved to Estill County in Eastern Kentucky to begin mission and outreach work in Appalachia. After 3 years at Marcum

& Wallace Memorial Hospital in Irvine, Kentucky, she founded the Interfaith Wellness Ministry, Inc. where today she works with local churches and the area community promoting faith and wholeness in body, mind, and spirit.

After living and working in Estill County, Sister Loretta finds her health ministry in a rural mission area, her contemporary yet contemplative lifestyle, and her life in small parish-based Christian Community not only challenging but a most blessed and life-giving time! She believes, in the words of her religious community, that.....out of the traditions of the past, we find meaning for the present, and hope for the future.