

Monday 1 September 2025

## 2025 LOG Newsletter

Welcome all to this our 2025 LOG Newsletter.

In the year since our last LOG Newsletter it has been relatively quiet. We thank each and every LOG for keeping in touch with us.

As previously indicated, a decision has been made to put together a combined 2025 LOG Newsletter and also to include the 2024 LOG Reunion Report in a combined mailing. Similarly, the Report of the 2025 LOG Reunion will be included with the 2026 LOG Newsletter when it is sent out next year. **Please don't forget to send us your contributions for inclusion in the 2026 LOG Newsletter.**

Please be assured that the annual LOG Newsletter and the physical annual LOG Reunion will continue. The LOG email address used now and previously to send out LOG correspondence will also remain valid and emails received will be responded to asap. DV.

A reminder; the 2026 LOG Reunion will be held on Saturday 3 October 2026. DV. Please diarise this now already for next year.

## NEWS OF LORETO SISTERS

1. In August 2025 Sister Emer sent us the following article related to the Loreto Sisters and a message to all Loreto past Pupils.

### BECOMING ONE

On the 4th of November 2025, the Sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters) and the Sisters of the Congregation of Jesus will celebrate becoming One Congregation called the Congregation of Jesus. Sisters representing provinces from around the world will meet in Loyola in Spain to celebrate and bring to conclusion a process of reflection and discernment towards Becoming One begun several years ago. Sister Pat Hanvey who ministers in Lukulu, Zambia, will represent our Community of Southern Africa.

When Mary Ward our common foundress began in 1609 in St. Omer, France, it was her desire that the congregation would be One. It has taken over 400 years to achieve this! The desire was always there. Over the years as the Congregation spread throughout the world, geographical, political and financial factors among others caused separate leadership groups to develop. With changes in travel and communication different groups merged and became one. The two remaining groups/branches have now Become One, fulfilling Mary Ward's and her sisters' desire.

To read more of this journey see [ibvmgen.org](http://ibvmgen.org) and [gencj@congjesu.org](mailto:gencj@congjesu.org)

As Loreto Old Girls gather for your annual meeting in October 2025, Sisters Deirdre and Emer wish you a happy get together as you share memories and stories, knowing you now belong to a wider Mary Ward community. We keep our past pupils in our prayer regularly.

2. Otherwise, at Nazareth House, Pretoria, the Sisters are hale and hearty and keeping busy with their various activities.

3. Go to [www.ibvm.org](http://www.ibvm.org) for further information on the activities of Loreto Sisters.

## SCHOOL NEWS

A. Earlier this year we learnt of the sad passing of Miss Violet Nyirenda on 8 February 2025. Violet was a much-loved Teacher at Loreto and had been part of the Staff at Loreto School for many years. Her Requiem Mass was held on Friday 14 February 2025 at The Sacred Heart Cathedral, Pretoria.

Violet was not only involved with the activities at the School but was also always on hand to assist the Loreto Old Girls. Whether it was with the necessary preparations in the Chapel for the Reunion Mass, or even to be at the Reunion itself to assist where necessary, we never had to worry as Violet would ensure that everything was in place and ready for us and that assisted and ensured that the Reunion Mass went smoothly.

Before her retirement, we had conferred on Violet to be an honorary LOG for her dedication to and enthusiasm towards building and strengthening the LOGS. We were saddened to hear that Violet would be retiring but before we could even blink she confirmed that she had already prepared and given strict instructions to Mrs Yon and Ms Nyika as to what is needed and they have ably and efficiently taken over and now assist us in the Chapel.

Violet's calm and organised presence is still with us and can be seen in everything she touched. Nothing was ever done with a flurry of anxiety but done systematically and methodically.

In the words of her Memorial Bulletin, *"May her legacy of love and compassion continue to inspire us each day. You will be missed by every heart you touched."*

Our sincere condolences to her family, friends and colleagues. Thank you Violet for everything, may you rest in peace.

B. For news on the Schools, please refer to the following websites for information:

1. Loreto Convent School, Nana Sita Road (previously Skinner Street) Pretoria at [www.loreto.co.za](http://www.loreto.co.za)

2. Loreto School Queenswood at [www.loretoqueenswood.com](http://www.loretoqueenswood.com)

3. Loreto Primary School, Strand, Cape, at [www.loretops.co.za](http://www.loretops.co.za)

## LORETO OLD GIRLS NEWS

### LOG News

#### 1. Report from the 2024 LOG Reunion.

We again had a fair turnout of LOGS coming together at the Reunion; with a mixture of LOGS covering a wide range of years out of school – from the 1950s to the 1990s and quite a mixture in between. There were about 35 people in total, including some of the current and past staff members from the School.

Thank you to everyone who came and made the day so enjoyable. We hope to see you joining us again at future Reunions and bringing along some of your class mates. We are asking for and encouraging as many LOGS as possible to join us at the Reunion.

We would like to thank the following, who helped to make this such a successful Reunion: Father Reynolds for saying Mass and joining us afterwards for the celebrations; Mrs Suzette Truter and the school community for their generous hosting of and assistance with the reunion; the Past and Present Teachers for joining us on the day; Mrs Maria Correia for invaluable assistance, many many times; Mr Jabu and Mrs Karen Nkosi for support and kindness; Boitumelo at reception; Mrs Yon and Ms Nyika for arrangements in the Chapel and assistance on the day; Amy Van Der Colff and Kimberly Nkosi our two altar servers on the day; Martha Dhlamini and Eleanor Brown our readers on the day; Eleanor Brown and Annalize Koekemoer who did the offertory procession on the day; Jaksa and Ursula Jadrijevic for the music and singing accompaniment on the day; everyone who assisted with setting up in the Staffroom; Beverley Terry for leading the proceedings in the Staffroom; Jeanne-Marie for helping with various tasks; and each and every LOG who joined us and brought along the delicious eats.

We are sorry that the Loreto Sisters were unable to join us but we hope to see them at the next Reunion.

The 1974 Golden Girls celebrated are as follows. As previously indicated, going forward it will be only those in attendance at the LOG Reunion of their anniversary year as a Golden Girl who will be celebrated and given a celebratory bookmark.

<b>Golden Girls</b>	<b>50 years out of school</b>				
<b>Maiden Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year left</b>	<b>School</b>
(Van Der Walt)	Estelle	Bam	Mrs	1974	Skinner
(Lorentz)	Vicky / Victoria	Engelbrecht	Mrs	1974	Hillcrest
(Brittan)	Jane	Zahra	Mrs	1974	Hillcrest



Photo of the 1974 Golden Girls - together with Ursula, Beverley and Father Reynolds who assisted with the presentation ceremony.

2. Special announcement. We are looking forward to an extra special 2025 LOG Reunion.

We are honoured to have Gail (Gilbride) Bohle (Hillcrest 1972) who will be our guest speaker at the Reunion this year. Gail is a well-known author; her latest book is titled “Cat Therapy” (Gail writes as Gail Gilbride) and is available at all good general bookshops.

At the 2017 Reunion, Gail gave us a presentation about her book “Under the African Sun”. In 2019 Gail shared with us the start of her journey through cancer treatment – sharing her experience through her blog and periodically being interviewed on Cape Talk.

Gail has now written and published a new book which is her “unplanned memoir”. In the words of the author Penny Haw “Cat Therapy is an anthology of diary entries written by Gail during her cancer treatment”.

This book is more than just a memoir. It is an incredibly personal reflection and uplifting work. It also shows, if we did not already know it, that animals have an extra special sense and know what we need even before we know ourselves – they understand and appreciate that that is exactly what we need. They come along at just the right time and do what needs to be done.

Please join us at the Reunion this year to listen to Gail’s presentation.

Here follows a short biography of Gail.



Author bio:

Gail Patricia Gilbride was born in Pretoria and despite playing with dinky cars in the dust, she developed a love for dolls, ballet, and all things pink. These days she lives in the Hemel en Aarde valley with her family, where she swims in the sea, writes, gardens, and paints.

Gail holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (Rhodes) and a post-graduate diploma (UCT). She taught English, Sound Perception and Communication Skills. She also used to dance and mastering the Tango is still on her wish list.

Gail is the author of *Under the African Sun*, a top ten finalist in the Author Academy Awards competition (USA). *Cat Therapy*, an unplanned memoir and *An unsuitable woman*.

[www.gailies.co.za](http://www.gailies.co.za)

3. We note with sadness the passing of Shirley (Velcich) Plisic (Hillcrest 1952) on 27 October 2024. Our sincere condolences to her family and friends. The Requiem Mass for Shirley was held at St Piux X Catholic Church, Waterkloof, Pretoria, on 8 November 2024.

Shirley was married to John and is survived by her children, Michael, Raymond, Andrew, Julia, Sonia and Fiona, and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They recall the love Shirley had for each of them in a very special way, and they remember with fondness their various unique memories of Shirley.

4. We note too with sadness the passing of Juliana (Van Eden) Van Heerden (Lydenburg and Skinner 1970). Our sincere condolences to her family and friends. Shannon (Khun) Abdo (Skinner 1969) let us know of Juliana's passing on 12 July 2025.

5. Father Mike Van Heerden (Strand Loreto Old Boy) from Durbanville Cape Town kindly provided us with two of his thought provoking homilies to include: This is the first -

Dear Parishioner

We all have heard, probably many times, the parable of the sower and seed. Jesus tells His disciples that He is the sower, His words are the seed and the different types of soil are the different responses to His word. Today's parable is taken from the gospel of Matthew – when we look at the same parable in the gospel of Luke, Jesus explains that **the good soil**, the fourth response, are **those people who “with a noble and generous heart take the word of God to themselves and yield a harvest through their perseverance”** (Luke 8:15).

The first response, **the path and the birds**, are those who hear the word of God, but Satan takes that word from their hearts before they can truly understand it, so that they do not believe. How can Satan do this? This is where the notion of a noble heart comes in: anyone has a **noble heart if they believe that we are born, not only to live for ourselves, but also so as to aspire to make the world a better place – to leave behind a better world.**

Joseph Lahey, the famous energy magnate, tells this story about himself: as a child he had had a crooked back, which did not show when he had his shirt on – but was very ugly when the shirt was off. Finally the dreaded day came when he stood in the line to be examined by a school doctor. He was called into the room and the doctor asked him to remove his robe. His hands were shaking as he fumbled with the cord. The doctor examined him and then did

something very unusual. He cupped the boy's face in his big hands and looked into his eyes. "Joseph", he said gently, "do you believe in God?" "Yes, sir", replied Joseph. "Good", said the doctor. "The more you believe in God – the more you will believe in yourself"! The doctor then went back to the desk, wrote something down and left the room. Joe's eyes looked at the chart – he wondered what the doctor had written – bracing himself for the worst, he inched forward to peek at the chart. Under the heading: "Physical Characteristics" – the doctor had written: "Has an unusually well-shaped head". Soon the Doctor returned and said to Joseph: "Okay, Joseph, you can put your robe back on and send me in the next boy". That brief episode in Joe's life took place a long time ago - but the encouraging words of the doctor made him believe that God had a purpose for his life – a purpose that would build God's kingdom.

Mark Twain once commented: "The two most important days of our lives are the day of our birth – and the day when we realised **why** we were born". Those who do not realise this are those people who perhaps have had some negative experience that Satan uses to put a block on their understanding: perhaps a negative father image that is projected onto God, perhaps they had a sceptical science teacher who ridiculed faith in a creator God, perhaps some Christian acted in an unchristian way towards them. There are many blocks that come from life and we have all seen the results of these blocks time and time again.

One writer noted very poignantly: "The human without God - soon becomes inhumane". Do we need to remind ourselves that Hitler and Stalin were rejected by their fathers – which put a block on their self-understandings and they both turned to inhumane politics to prove their worth. Did you notice that in the parable today, of the four places the seed fell, it is only on the path that the seed did not grow.

The problem, then, put forward by Jesus is not only in receiving God's word, the problem is also in **treasuring it and putting it into practise**. To do this we need a **generous heart** - one that is aware of God's goodness to it and so is willing to share the blessings of God with others. Have you noticed that people who are self-absorbed lack depth of character – and Jesus tells us that this is the **shallow earth**. The "rocks" of selfishness cause the lack of depth in the soil - that is needed for the roots of the seed to grow. In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah, God reminds us that His "word shall not return empty but it shall ... prosper in the thing for which I sent it". So we need to take the word to ourselves in generosity of spirit knowing that with the help of God's grace the word can be fruitful in us. With the word we can overcome our selfishness and develop depth of character by reaching out to others.

One of my most favourite aspects of the African concept of **Ubuntu** is not only the saying that we are people through other people, but also the realization that the only way that we can pay the debt that we owe to our ancestors, is by making our children indebted to us. So with a noble and generous heart we take the word of God to ourselves and yield a harvest through our **perseverance**. We all need perseverance because we live in a world that is both challenging and very materialistic – as Jesus tells us, **the thorn bushes** are the cares of the world and the delight in riches which choke the word and stifle the growth of the harvest.

A story is told about a wealthy merchant on one of the Caribbean Islands who witnessed the selling of slaves at the harbour in the early days of the nineteenth century. One young slave woman gave out heart-wrenching sobs which really moved the young tradesman – he bought her at a high price and then disappeared into the crowd. After the auction the clerk came to the young woman and handed her the bill of sale. Across the paper the tradesman had written

“free” – she was so astonished that she had her freedom that she threw herself at the feet of the clerk: “Where is the man who bought my freedom I must find him. For such a man I want to serve as long as I live”.

When we think about what Christ has done for us - we realise that through His death and resurrection He has bought our freedom – He has liberated us from the fear of death. Our perseverance is based on that **desire to serve a man like that** - the one who has bought our eternal freedom.

In our second reading today, St Paul’s describes this as the “glorious liberty of the children of God” – he says that all of creation waits eagerly for that final consummation at the end of time when the universe itself will be transformed and will also share in Christ’s victory over death. Paul goes on to say: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”. It is good to remind ourselves at this time of pandemic chaos that we need to persevere in that **sure hope of sharing in Christ’s glory**.

Whatever this life throws at us: cancer, unemployment, even death of a loved one from the virus – nothing can take away from us that victory. But, as the late Archbishop Henry used to say, the Christian life is not a sprint, it is a marathon. The harvest is produced by the perseverance. Let us then be people of hope – the good soil - people who “with a noble and generous heart take the word of God to themselves and yield a harvest through their perseverance” (Luke 8:15).

Every blessing - Fr Mike

6. Father Mike Van Heerden (Strand Loreto Old Boy) from Durbanville Cape Town kindly provided us with two of his thought provoking homilies to include: This is the second -

Dear Parishioner

A Maharaja in Northern India was once visiting one of the villages in his kingdom and there was the long procession of his entourage until his own elephant entered the town. Just at that moment a very poor man stepped forward and, bowing to the ground, said to the king: “My Lord, I am the poorest subject in your kingdom – I beg for your help”. “Ah, but my friend”, replied the king: “I am visiting your town – it is you who should give me a gift of welcome”! The man, realising the king was right, reluctantly pulled from his pocket his handkerchief that was filled with rice and counted out ten grains to give to the king. That night, after the festivities had ended, it came for the poor man to cook the last grains of rice – when he opened his handkerchief, however, he noticed that the ten grains he had given had been returned and had now turned to gold.

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand is recorded in all of the four gospels – but, it is in the gospel of John that we are told that it was a boy who provided the food. Andrew, Peter’s brother, tells Christ: “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish – but what is that among so many” (John 6: 9)? The boy had given what he had, however small, as a welcome to Christ. That gift was the symbol of his willingness to welcome the kingdom and give his life to the Lord.

That is the **first and most important discovery of the good news** – as Christ told us: “Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it” (Luke 18: 17). Christ came to the earth to bring us the gift of the kingdom - the salvation of God. But, in **order for us to receive this grace in our lives - it is up to each one of us to have the openness of a child to welcome it in freedom**. Isaiah, in today’s first reading, describes this welcome in terms of **one who is willing to listen**. “Incline your ear and come to me; hear that your soul may live and I will make with you an everlasting covenant” (Is 55: 3).

When we open our lives in love to Christ He can then take our lives, as He took the loaves and fishes, bless them and multiply our efforts so as to feed the growth of His kingdom. What we give to Christ is transformed in His love and given back to us so that we do not lose our freedom, but our freedom grows as we give freely. No life is too insignificant or unimportant – Christ desires to make this everlasting covenant with each soul so that the greatness of His love is manifest.

Recently, I was reading a book written on the enlightenment by Professor Steven Pinker. He tells about the efforts of just two scientists who dedicated their lives to alleviating starvation in the world. In 1909 Carl Bosch perfected the process invented by Fritz Haber which used methane and steam to pull nitrogen out of the air and turn it into fertiliser on an industrial scale. Those two chemists saved the greatest number of lives in history: it is estimated that that discovery has saved 2.7 billion people from starvation.

Amado Nervo – a famous poet and mystic from Mexico -once wrote:

“I’m only a spark – Make me a fire,  
I’m only a string – Make me a lyre,  
I’m only an ant-hill –Make me a mountain,  
I’m only a drop – Make me a fountain,  
I’m only a feather – Make me a wing,  
I’m only a beggar – Make me a king” !

**In welcoming the gift of the kingdom we become a priestly, prophetic and royal people.**

We know that some from the community are called to be deacons, priests and bishops – they provide shape and form to the body of Christ and unite our efforts in a common mission. However, as the Second Vatican Council stressed, all of us also share in the priesthood of Christ through our common baptism and are, therefore, a priestly people. St Peter puts this so beautifully – he writes: “Come to Him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and , like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house – to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2: 4-5).

Just like the little boy who offered the loaves and fishes to Christ as the sign of his welcome of the kingdom - that new covenant promised by Isaiah – we too offer our gifts of bread and wine in the Eucharist as our welcome. Christ takes these – blesses, breaks and distributes them so that we can be spiritually fed and nourished.

In John’s gospel, the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes takes place just before Jesus teaches that He is the Bread of Life. As Jesus said to His disciples: “Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me” (John 6: 57). At this time of the corona virus – where access to

the Eucharist is so restricted – we can use the experience of the absence of the living bread to grow in our appreciation and love for the Mass. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. One of my favourite psalms sums this longing up so beautifully (Ps 63):

“O God you are my God - for you I long!  
 For you my body yearns – for you my soul thirsts;  
 Like a land parched and lifeless without water.  
 So I look to you in the sanctuary – to see your power and glory.  
 For your love is better than life – my lips offer you worship”!

As we make our spiritual communion let us echo these words that God’s love is better than life and we gaze into the sanctuary to see His power and glory.

When Jerusalem, the city, was built – the builders cut the sandstone from the surrounding hills. The stone from one of the hills, however, was too soft and so was rejected by the builders. It was this hill that became the place of crucifixion – Golgotha. This is why in psalm 118: 22 we hear that: “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone”. The place where Christ made the supreme offering of His life - so that we could believe in the greatness of God’s love for each one of us. **When we offer our gifts of bread and wine we unite our own lives with that of Christ offering to the Father - so that we can be assured of His love and, in turn, become instruments of that love to others.**

Our second reading, from St Paul’s letter to the Romans, puts this so well: “For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God made manifest in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8: 39). The thing that is present at the moment is the corona virus and its devastating consequences – but this, nor “anything else in all creation”, Paul assures us, will separate us from God’s love. We must just persevere in welcoming God’s love through the offering of our lives and then living out that love in our daily interactions.

A story is told about a ragged old lady who for years was seen every day on the beach picking up things and putting them in her basket. Whenever she came across children she would smile and greet them. Some parents, however, seeing her rather ragged clothing would warn their children to keep away from her. One day they found the old lady dead on the beach from a heart attack. In her basket were many pieces of broken glass – and now the townsfolk realised that for all these years she had been picking up the glass from the beach so that none of the children would injure themselves.

Our attempts to live the life of love given in Christ will not always be understood and we might even be rejected. But, it is Christ who enables us to endure. Especially at this time we need many who are willing to pick up the broken glass left behind by the virus – people who work to ensure that others – particularly our children - are kept safe. British TV celebrity Malcolm Muggeridge did something he swore he would never do – he became a Catholic. It was mother Teresa of Calcutta, St Teresa now, who brought about the change of heart. As Malcolm wrote: **“She showed me Christianity in action – she showed me the power of love – she showed that one loving person can start a tidal wave of love that can spread around the world”.**

Every blessing - Fr Mike

7. A group of the 1985 Skinner LOGS held a get-together for their group in March 2025. Here follows the report and photographs received from Natascha (Uberbacher) Crundwell-Uberbacher on the gathering.

The Class of 1985 held a 40th reunion at the Blue Crane in March 2025.

Natascha Crundwell (nee Uberbacher) had a business trip planned from the UK and saw it as an ideal opportunity to try and get as many together from that year as possible at relatively short notice. Some of us had not seen each other since we matriculated. Still, you would not have been able to tell from the nattering that went on - once we started talking and sharing anecdotes from our school days, it was like the old days – and boy was there laughter and a sense of camaraderie.

What was clearly in evidence was that, despite our journeys to date having been full of challenges, here was a group of super-strong women who, no matter what, had been able to push through and come out on top, thanks to a strong faith and resilience. What a fantastic time we had, and one we are keen to repeat more regularly.

In attendance were Leonor Roque, Judite Teixeira, Nazira Carrim, Manuela Guimor, Sarie Pretorious, Linda da Costa and Natascha Crundwell (Uberbacher).





8. Felicity (Joseph) O'Donnell (Hillcrest 1974) went on an extended holiday to various parts of the UK and Europe in 2024 with her husband. Here follows a copy of the synopsis and photographs Felicity has sent us related to her travels. This is the second time that Felicity has walked the Camino – hence the wonderfully apt title of the article.

### Camino, round 2.

After many months of planning, my husband, Dennis, and myself left for a two and a bit month holiday to the UK and Europe last August. Our first experience was to do a narrow boat trip on a canal. We went to Stratford upon Avon and there remembered my great English teachers from Hillcrest as we watched a Shakespeare play, "As you like it". A brilliant start to our holiday.

After 2 weeks in the UK we set off to Spain where we were walking 130km of the French way of the Camino de Santiago starting in Sarria. We had previously walked the Portuguese way. This time we decided to pre-book our accommodation. It made us feel more relaxed and able to enjoy our pilgrimage more.

As I am getting older, I didn't find this Camino any easier, but we made it and loved every moment of it. We met so many people along the route and it was lovely to see some of those people at mass with us in the evenings. One group of men were from Ireland and hearing their accents made me think of our Loreto nuns. We also met up with Fr Mariano Perez, a Spanish priest who had spent many years here in SA, in Nelspruit and Pretoria.

After 8 days of walking, we arrived in Santiago, had the front pew at Mass to enjoy the huge 'Botafumeiro' (this is the famous giant thurible used in the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral) swinging from one side to the other of the Cathedral.

We included visits to the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Croatia, Italy and Turkey. We were very privileged to see Pope Francis twice while in Rome.

One of our other highlights was spending a night in Medjogria. What a special, holy and spiritual experience! We spent time in prayer on Apparition Hill where Our Lady appears. We managed to be there for an English Mass. Some 3 weeks after the Camino, in Medjogria, we met one of our Irish pilgrims whom we had become friendly with on the Camino de Santiago. Such a small world and the reminder to pray in thanksgiving for our Loreto education and nuns!

After two months we were fit, happy and ready to plan our next trip.



9. Perhaps the experience of Felicity has inspired you to take on and complete your own Camino. It does not have to be an expensive overseas journey. A Camino traditionally has referred to a pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago, with various sections of the route through Europe that culminates in Santiago in Spain.

Camino can mean different things to different people. It can be seen as a pilgrimage towards personal growth and spirituality. There are also now various Camino routes in South Africa. But, even just taking a walk in your own area where you can experience, for example, the beautiful natural landscape, will touch your soul and nurture your spirit.

The Camino experience does not have to be a big planned once off event - just taking a walk when you need a break or a regular walk to reconnect with yourself can produce the same result. Research in your area to find safe and suitable places with terrain that is within your range. Ask a family member or a friend to join you.

10. News from Natasche (Uberbacher) Crundwell-Uberbacher (Skinner 1985).

This year Natasche and her family enjoyed various day-trips, one day to Broadstairs and one day to Brighton, both in the UK. They also recently had a family holiday in Crete. Their son, Nic, has started working with Natasche and her husband in their business. Their son, Anthony, is Head Boy at his school for this coming academic year. Back in June Natasche joined the choir she belongs to to sing at Victoria Station in London to raise funds for MenCap (a charity that supports people with learning disabilities). In May Natasche visited her parents in Austria. This year Natasche and her husband, Frank, celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary - congratulations!

11. News from Judite (Teixeira) Gomes (Skinner 1985).

My name is Judite Gomes my maiden name was Teixeira. I matriculated from Loreto, Skinner Street in 1985. I was Vice Head Girl and Natascha Uberbacher was Head Girl.

I married Nelson Gomes and we will be celebrating our 37th wedding Anniversary next year. We have two children, a son, Nicolau born in 1990 (he is getting married this year in Mauritius) and a daughter Dominique born in 1993. She studied teaching at Tuks and is currently vice principal and teaching Grade R, in Midstream. My daughter is married and has a daughter, Emilia, born in 2021, during COVID. She has been very sickly since birth, on oxygen for her first year and since then in and out of hospital but grown into a beautiful sweet little girl. I taught at nursery schools for 20 years plus and then retired to look after my granddaughter. I enjoy baking and bake from home, specializing in special occasion cakes etc. I have a Facebook page Diti's Creations.

My best friend at school was Liesl Farrell, who later became my sister in law, she married my brother Johnny and became Liesl Teixeira. She sadly passed away in 2011 from lung cancer, leaving two children, Ricardo and Danielle, 13 year old twins, behind. They have both married and Danielle emigrated to Ireland, living in Cork. She has a little boy, Caleb who will be 3 next year. Ricardo lives in Pretoria with his wife Georgina, he is a journalist and is often seen on TV reporting about national defence matters. Danielle works in the Hotel Industry. I have lived all my married life in Centurion, except for 2 years abroad in 1994, when I spent time in Madeira, with my in laws. I have sadly lost both my parents. My mom passed away in 2007 from pancreatic cancer and my dad passed away in 2012 from an aneurysm.

I look forward to receiving the LOG newsletter and send all my love to everyone attending this year's Reunion. Thank you for the wonderful 12 years spent at Loreto Convent Skinner where I was taught from Grade one to Grade 12, Matric in 1985. I have so many wonderful and happy memories and look forward to attending the reunion next year. I was fortunate enough to make contact with my Grade 4/Std2, teacher Mrs Walker, and we still keep in contact. A few of us had a wonderful lunch in March this year and spent a wonderful afternoon reminiscing about our school years. Love to Sarie Van Rensburg, Natascha Crundwell/ Uberbacher, Manuela/Nina Caires, Linda Da Costa and Leonor Roque and all the girls living overseas Valerie Lefebvre, Barbara-ann Adlard, Jenny Swanepoel, Judite Sousa, Annie De Sousa, Eleanor Harvey, I hope I've remembered everyone.

Lots of love  
Judite Gomes

12. The Cape Town Catholic Bookshop keeps a wide range of books and other religious items. They can be contacted on 021 465 5904.

### **LOG To Do List**

Here is the LOG “to do” list: Send news, memories, events, adventures (funny or otherwise), festivities, achievements, anniversaries and bereavements for future LOG Newsletters. Please let us know if your email address changes.

Send all LOG correspondence to [loretooldgirls1950@gmail.com](mailto:loretooldgirls1950@gmail.com)

**We thank Mrs Suzette Truter (Executive Principal Loreto Convent School) (through her PA Maria Correia who is the LOG representative at the School) for kindly allowing us to use the facilities at Loreto Convent School for the LOG Reunion of 4 October 2025. We also thank Mrs Truter and her staff for all their ongoing support and their participation in the Reunion when they can.**

**This year we are celebrating only the Golden Girls of 1975 but we invite and encourage all Loreto past Pupils, Loreto Sisters, current and past Teachers and current and past Principals to attend the Annual LOG Reunion.**

**The LOG Reunion of 2025 will take place at Loreto Convent School (Nana Sita Street – previously Skinner Street) on Saturday 4 October 2025 starting at 11h00. There will be Mass in the Chapel at 11h30, followed by a gathering in the Staffroom starting at approximately 12h15. The Staffroom is in the same passage as the Chapel.**

**There is adequate parking on the School grounds and is accessed from the vehicle entrance on Visagie Street – this is the only entrance; please don’t try to enter the School from any other side/gate/entrance.**

**The reception takes the form of Tea and whatever you bring for a “Bring and Share”, and any cash donation towards the costs involved. Thanks to those who have already let us know that they will be coming. DV.**