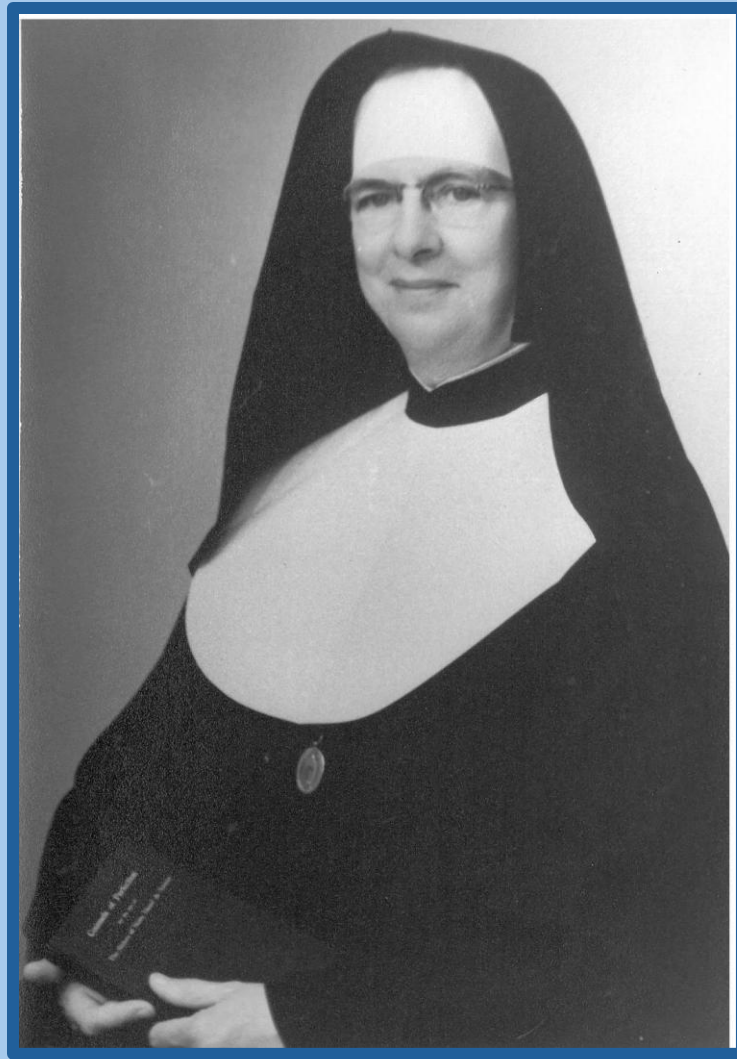




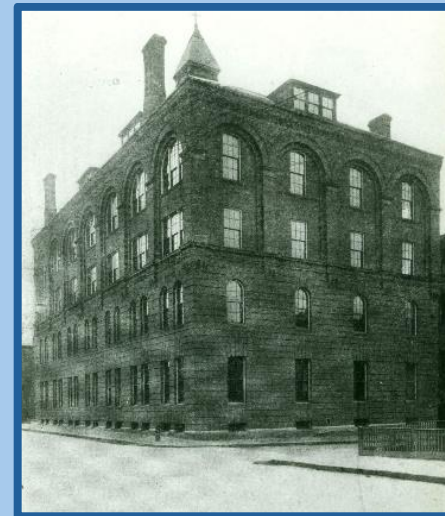
Sister Loretto Julia Carroll (1898-1975)

The first non-European Mother General for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Sister Loretto Julia was born Clare Carroll in Cambridge, Massachusetts on August 4, 1898, the daughter of Edward and Ellen (Barry) Carroll. She attended St. Mary's School in Cambridge, graduating in 1916.



Ellen Barry, Clare Carroll's mother,
circa 1900



St. Mary's High School, Cambridge, MA

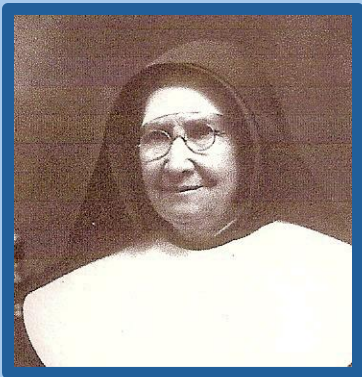
On February 2, 1917, Clare entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur's Novitiate in Waltham, MA.



Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Novitiate
Waltham, MA

During her novitiate, she was sent to Sts. Peter and Paul School in South Boston to teach. She was there only a short time when she became ill, with what was then thought to be a cold. Upon returning to the Novitiate to recover, she began to assist Sister Elizabeth Julie Crowley (1874-1943) with work on the grounds. It was hoped the fresh air would help Sister Loretto Julia heal. As the time for her First Vows approached, Sister Loretto Julia feared her health might prevent her from being able to continue as a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur.

During her interview with Sister Mary Borgia Ryan (1843-1920), however, she was gratified to discover how supportive the Massachusetts Provincial was.



Sister Mary Borgia Ryan, 1843-1920

While her health did not improve dramatically, Sister Loretto Julia was able to make her first vows on July 31, 1919. After her vows, she was sent to teach at St. Augustine's in Andover, at the Notre Dame Academy in Roxbury, and the Assumption School in East Boston. Each time, her fragile health forced a return to the Novitiate with the hope she could recover.

For some time, it was thought she had tuberculosis. With each return to the Novitiate, she once again assisted Sister Elizabeth Julie in the gardens, as well as in the treasurer's office.

After she made her Perpetual Vows on August 26, 1925, Sister Loretto Julia was examined by another physician, who identified the cause of her continued illness. It was not tuberculosis as feared, but an ulcer on one of her lungs, which mimicked the symptoms of TB. An operation was performed in which her lung was collapsed to allow it time to heal.

In 1929, Sister Elizabeth Julie was sent on a mission to Washington DC. Now completely healed, Sister Loretto Julia was able to take over her work in the Novitiate's garden and infirmary.

On December 9, 1930, Villa Immaculata opened in Leominster, MA as a new rest home for older and ill sisters. Because of her experience with illness and no doubt, her years in the treasurer's office, Sister Loretto Julia was chosen as the first Superior of Villa Immaculata in Leominster.



Villa Immaculata, Leominster, MA

She remained there until August of 1932, when she was sent to the Academy in Tyngsboro for four months to replace Sister Teresa Patricia Jordan (1889-1947) who was going to Japan as a companion for the Massachusetts Provincial, Sister Rosalia of the Blessed Sacrament Lee (1882-1962).

After her return to Leominster in January 1933, Sister Loretto Julia remained the Superior of Villa Immaculata until September of 1934 when she returned to the Academy in Tyngsboro, once again as Superior.



Notre Dame Academy, Tyngsboro, MA

On September 28, 1940, her six-year term was finished, and the Tyngsboro Annals recounted her six-year term with these words— *Sister Loretto Julia's work will ever live at Tyngsboro. Whether it was the reduction of our big debt, the interest of the parents in the school, the steady upward count of the names on our role, or the health and happiness of each Sister of Notre Dame under her care — each had her far-seeing consideration and, most powerful of all, each had the assured blessing of her prayerful spirit. It was her happy lot to bring to fruition the 'mustard seed' planted and watered by others in earlier years.*

On September 3, 1940, Sister Loretto Julia was named the Superior of the Notre Dame Academy in Roxbury and remained the Academy's Superior for the next six years.



Notre Dame Academy, Roxbury, MA

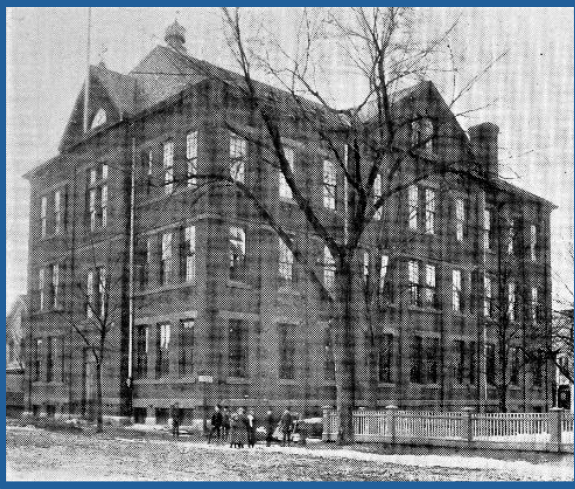
In 1946, a new convent opened on Dartmouth Street in Boston for the sisters teaching at St. Joseph's School in the West End, Sister Loretto Julia was named the Superior for that new community.



Dartmouth Street Convent, Boston

Until the new convent was ready, Sister Loretto Julia traveled back and forth daily from the Academy in Roxbury to Dartmouth Street in Boston. Finally, on October 17, 1946, the newly established convent for the Sisters on Dartmouth Street in Boston was ready.

Not long after, the congregation opened a new high school in the West End--Christopher Columbus High School. In 1950, the school was renamed Julie Billiart High School. In 1952, Sister Loretto Julia's six-year term at the West End convent on Dartmouth Street ended and she was named the Superior for the St. Joseph Convent in Somerville, MA.



St. Joseph's High School, Somerville, MA

She remained at St. Joseph's only a year when on September 1, 1953, she was elected the Provincial for the Waltham Province [later known as the Massachusetts Province]. During her years as the Provincial for the Massachusetts Province, the congregation bought the property in Fairfield, CT. In addition, a new retreat house in West Gloucester was established. The province also began the work to open a Juniorate to offer college courses to the sisters. The Juniorate opened in Wenham in 1961.

In May 1959, the sisters bought Saracen Farms in Ipswich for the construction of a new novitiate, which opened on July 4, 1962. During those vital years, the Massachusetts Province also began the steps to divide and establish the Connecticut Province. On August 25, 1959, Sister Loretto Julia was named the Provincial for this newly established Connecticut

province. During her time as Provincial for the Connecticut Province, the new Fairfield Novitiate opened, and she accompanied Mere Josepha de Ste. Francois Van Den Eede to Brazil to open a new mission there. Sister Loretto Julia's term as the Connecticut Provincial ended on May 20, 1963 when during the Chapter meeting in Rome she was elected the new Mother General for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the first ever non-European Mother General.

During her six years of leadership, she opened a mission in Kenya and led the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur through the changes implemented by Vatican II, reinvigorating the Congregation's mission throughout the entire world. Because of the enormous work ahead, The congregation divided the next Chapter meeting – originally scheduled for 1969 – into two meetings.



Sister Loretto Julia in Rome, 1969

The first meeting was held from December 1967 to March 1968. The second and final meeting was held from March to June of 1969. Everything – from the habit, to their daily schedule and the Congregation's Constitution – was reviewed. Sister Loretto Julia completed her term as Mother General in June 1969, just as the Congregation's founder, St. Julie Billiart was canonized.



Sister Loretto Julia Carroll speaking with Pope Paul VI during the Canonization of St. Julie Billiart.

Sister Loretto Julia returned to the Ipswich Provincial House for the remainder of her years.



Sister Loretto Julia with the sisters in Ipswich



Sister Loretto Julia in Ipswich, early 1970s

She died in Ipswich on February 19, 1975 and is buried in the Notre Dame cemetery in Ipswich, MA.