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College when she moved to Dyersville in 1984.
Originally from Chicago, she studied Food and Nutrition
at Iowa State University and built a career as a dietitian.
After meeting her husband, a native of Storm Lake,
Iowa, they eventually settled in Dubuque County,
where they were introduced to Divine Word College
through a local woman whose cousin was a Divine Word
Missionary Priest. Curious to learn more, they began
attending college events, including the annual Lunar New
Year celebration.

In 2000, the LeMays relocated to Ocean City, Maryland,
but their connection to Divine Word College remained
strong. Supporting the college became a meaningful
way for them to contribute to both education and their
faith. Mary Ann's husband passed away in 2012, but
she has continued their shared commitment to helping
future missionaries.

"I hope it will allow students to study and not worry
terribly about how they're going to pay for it," she said.
"I pray for them to embrace the jobs that they have
taken on."

Mary Ann recognizes the
increasingly global nature
of the Catholic Church.
While priests from the
United States serve in
missions abroad, priests
from other countries come
here to minister in local parishes, too. She understands
the challenges that international students may face when
adjusting to life in the U.S. In her own parish, a Nigerian
priest serves as associate pastor.

She believes there are many ways people can contribute
to the growth of the Church and support missionary
work. Encouraging those discerning a religious