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One of the earliest pioneers of the Kodály Method on the American scene is Sister Lorna Zemke. Over the course of her 45-year-long teaching career at Holy Family College (formerly known as Silver Lake College SLC), Sister Lorna established the first master's program at SLC and the first master's program in music education in the world that embraced the Kodály Method for its foundation. She directed the Kodály Summer Graduate Music Program at SLC from 1972-2014, was founding member of the International Kodály Society and the Organization for American Kodály Educators, cofounder of the Midwest Kodály Music Educators Association (MKMEA) and the Association of Wisconsin Area Kodály Educators (AWAKE). She helped create the American curriculum for Kodály education and pioneered programs that provide music education for toddlers and prenatal infants.

By Sister Lorna's account, she has "taught on 110 college [and] university campuses; appeared [or]presented at more than 200 music and education conferences; and been involved in international conferences as a presenter or participant in Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, Greece, Hungary, Japan and Russia." No one would have guessed that an unassuming Franciscan sister with a love for music would become an international force in the expansion and promotion of the Kodály Method and an inspiring mentor to generations of music educators.