

## IN MEMORIAM



# Sr. Loretta Dauwe

(Sister Jane Mariel)

BORN: November 1946

ENTERED CONGREGATION: January 6, 1964

DIED: June 15, 2008

**T**ODAY we bring Sister Loretta Dauwe home, remembering her life, untimely death and her resurrection into new life.

We welcome all of you who are with us today, the sisters of our community and Lorey's family and friends, to our Eucharistic celebration. We extend our sympathy to her brother, Dan; her sister Joyce [Anderson] and her husband, David; and Lorey's nieces and nephews, Katie, Thomas, Claire and Daniel Jr.

In Cincinnati, Ohio, in November 1946, Jane and Clarence Dauwe welcomed their first child, Loretta Jean, the oldest of four children. Her Catholic life began at St. Margaret Mary Church with baptism and continued at the parish elementary school. After graduating from Mother of Mercy High School in 1964 she entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood. In Lorey's own words she said, "Factors which brought me to CPPS include my desire to teach, the devotion to the Precious Blood, the attraction to Eucharistic adoration and knowing the sisters from St. Margaret Mary, who seemed friendly and up-to-date."

After years of religious formation and after graduation from the University of Dayton, Lorey taught junior high school at Precious Blood, Dayton, and chemis-

try and physics at Regina High School in Cincinnati.

As many of us did, she studied in the summers, receiving her master of science degree from the University of Missouri-Rolla. While living with the sisters in Lafayette, Ind., she studied for her Ph.D in physics, which she received in 1980 from Purdue University. She then served as an associate professor for the University of Notre Dame as a researcher at the prestigious Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) in Batavia, Ill.

Her position at Fermilab brought national attention; she was one of the few women engaged in high energy physics research. The list of publications that she authored and co-authored speaks to the caliber of research in which she was engaged. In 1985, while continuing at Fermilab on a part-time basis, Lorey returned to her first love, teaching, at the University of Michigan in Flint. She continued there as a tenured professor and the chair of the Computer Science, Engineering, Science and Physics departments until she was diagnosed recently with pancreatic cancer.

Besides her many accomplishments, most of us know Lorey as a compassionate, faith-filled companion who loved nature, in which she found solace and

delight as she pondered the unity of the world. Some of us have gone backpacking with her; others have had engaging conversations. All of us have come to appreciate Lorey as a person of humility and integrity. In an article in *The Flint Journal* newspaper she said, "I see no conflict between my work as a scientist and my religion. They are both ways of exploring the wonder of God's world."

She believed she was making a difference for the future. At all times Lorey let it be known that she was a Sister of the Precious Blood. Lorey was amused at a conversation she overheard at the university where some students were wondering if they should call her "Sister Dr. Dauwe" or "Dr. Sister Dauwe."

During these last months Lorey opened herself up to a deeper intimacy with God that brought peace to her life. We are grateful for Lorey's 44 years of life with us as a Sister of the Precious Blood as we strive to bring peace to our lives at this difficult time.

Two years ago, Lorey said that to seek vision and wisdom was her commitment and her prayer. She relied on and believed in prayer. May her legacy continue as we too strive to be people of peace and prayer. Thank you, Lorey!

—Sister Marita Beumer