



Laura Jay
October 16, 1924 — December 1, 2008

Marjorie Emmaline Jay, daughter of John and Helen Pierce Jay was born on October 16, 1924 in Fort Worth, Texas. She had two siblings, Helen and John. Marjorie was educated at DeZavala School in Fort Worth and graduated from Loretto Academy in El Paso. She expressed an interest in becoming a Sister of Loretto but decided to wait a few years after high school graduation before she applied, telling Mother Edwarda Ashe that "I have been working and earning my way in the world for some time but my desire to be a Sister has never wavered. I have supported myself since I left high school and have visited Loretto in El Paso and kept in contact with the Sisters there whenever possible." Marjorie was received into the Community in August 1947 and received the name of Sister Laura. She graduated from Loretto Heights College with a Bachelor's degree in Education.

Laura taught elementary school classes from 1949 through 1979 in Bisbee, Arizona; South Pasadena, California; Denver and Colorado Springs, Colorado; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and in Highwood, Sterling and Zion, Illinois. Following a sabbatical in 1980, Laura managed two apartment buildings in Colorado Springs. In 1996 Laura moved to the Motherhouse where she was a driver and was willing to take on whatever needed to be done. Barbara Ann Barbato recalls that

she got to know Laura when Barbara Ann and Lucy Ruth Rawe came to Loretto and Lucy Ruth's wheelchair was "parked" next to Laura's pew in church and Barbara began sharing the pew with Laura.

Laura was described as a willing driver and a lover of her dog. She had a quick eye for what was needed and frequently provided assistance before others noticed it was needed. She was an easy companion and enjoyed a good laugh.

Laura died Monday, December 1 at Loretto Motherhouse. We are grateful for your life with us in Loretto, Laura, as well as your devotion to teaching others and your generous spirit as a community member.