

**Sister Loretta Sigler, C.PP.S.**

**Born: August 20, 1949**

**Professed: June 4, 1978**

**Entered into Life: March 3, 2018**

Verse on her memorial card:

**“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”**



March 5, 2018

Dear Sisters,

On Saturday, March 3, our Sister Loretta Sigler lost her battle with cancer and won the pain-free life that was awaiting her in the fullness of God’s presence. Sister Loretta died peacefully at 6:45 a.m. with her sister, Mary, and her brother-in-law, Steve, by her side. They were her faithful companions over these past weeks and were graced to be with her to bid a final farewell.

Sister Loretta was born in Bloomington, Illinois on August 20, 1949, the oldest of seven children of Earl and Agnes (Bishoff) Sigler. Her sister Mary said Loretta was like a second mother to her siblings. She nurtured and cared for them to free her mother to be about the many household tasks required in the life of a large family.

Creativity and a caring, “home-making” spirit were among Loretta’s many endearing qualities. She excelled in creating beautiful crafts, in nurturing plants and flowers, and most of all, in helping to make the places where she lived a home in which all were welcome.

Sister Loretta entered our community in August 1976 and professed first vows on June 4, 1978. Loretta came to us with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and several years of teaching experience.

In her first year after professing vows Sister Loretta taught at St. Joseph School in Cottleville. She then moved into service as a pastoral minister and director of religious education (DRE). Her first parish assignment was at St. Edward in Mendon, Illinois, followed by serving simultaneously at three Illinois parishes: St. Joseph in Quincy, St. Brigid in Liberty and St. Thomas in Camp Point.

In 1983, Sister Loretta was missioned to Bolivia. There she served at Cristo Rey Parish in LaPaz in catechesis and in ministry to the poor. She was a member of the Diocesan

Catechetical Commission and adapted the manual for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) to the Bolivian culture and translated it to Spanish. That manual is still in use today. The people of LaPaz, particularly the poor, found a home in her heart. When she was suffering significant arthritic pain, she wrote, “My people keep me going—I can’t give up when I think of them.”

Upon returning to the States, Loretta attended Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis and subsequently was appointed as Directress of Postulants and Novices, a position she held for six years. She also worked part-time as RCIA coordinator at Holy Rosary Parish in Warrenton. Following her time in formation ministry, she served as Director of Religious Education for the South City Deanery, an extremely challenging position in coordinating the joint Parish School of Religion for twenty-one parishes. She then served as Parish Administrator at St. Mary Parish in Milan and St. Patrick Parish in Jonesburg, returning home to O’Fallon in 2015 after her diagnosis of cancer.

Sister Loretta was one who served quietly and unobtrusively, never calling attention to herself. She brought beauty into so many lives through her artistic talents and her green thumb. She served selflessly and with great dedication, even amid challenging situations and criticisms. When she wrote to request final vows in our community, she said, “If you asked me if I really know exactly what I have asked for, I would answer, ‘No.’ I only know I have a deep desire to say the ‘yes’ that demands other yeses.” Thank you, Loretta, for your “yes” to God through the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.

Sister Loretta’s body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 3:30 on Thursday, March 8, 2018, and her wake will be from 3:30 – 8:00 p.m., with a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m. Her wake will continue Friday, March 9, 2018, from 9 – 10:45 a.m. with her Funeral Mass at 11 a.m., all in St. Joseph Chapel.

Sister Loretta is survived by her two sisters, Mary Cable and Teresa Dickson, and her four brothers, Francis, John, Anthony, and Crispin. Let us hold them close in prayer as they mourn the loss of Loretta’s earthly presence. Let us also pray that Loretta is now experiencing in abundance the beauty and the caring that she brought to so many.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Janice Bader". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Sr. Janice Bader