

Poet

By **Jeanne Doriot, SP**

I find you in photos.
 You haunt my waking hours
 but never visit me in dreams.
 You still chant with monks in choir.
 You follow me around the retreat house.
 You sit across the table from me at meals,
 waiting patiently, sipping your coffee,
 watching my every move, checking out what I am eating,
 or, in the library, what I am reading.
 At Vespers you stand beside me,
 bowing low at appropriate times,
 at one with all of us.
 You know I know the way to your hermitage,
 and several others on the Abbey grounds.
 You wait in the cemetery for me,
 peeking in through a crypt window
 at us during Mass with the hermit celebrant.
 Smiling. Softly smiling. The poet peaceful now.



Jeanne Doriot

Jeanne Doriot, SP is a Sister of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN. Her collection of poetry submitted toward her MA degree in creative writing from Indiana University was titled “Diving After Flame,” in honor of Thomas Merton. Her poetry and reviews have appeared in several publications, including *The Merton Seasonal* and *Cistercian Studies Quarterly*.