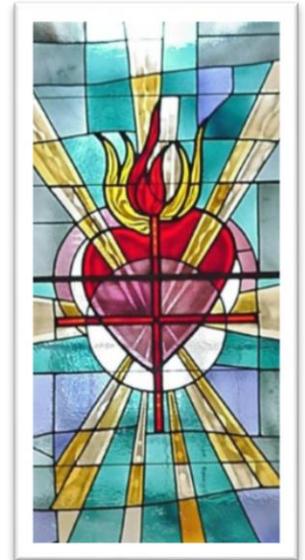


PRAYERS OF COMMITTAL AT THE CEMETERY
FOR SISTER HELEN MARTIN, GNSH



DENISE - INVITATION

As we gather to commend our sister, Helen Martin, to God, our Father, and to commit her body to the earth, in the spirit of faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, let us raise our voices to offer prayers for Helen.

DENISE - SCRIPTURE

A reading from the gospel of Matthew (Mt. 25:34)

Come you who are blessed by my Father, says the Lord, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

EILEEN - PRAYER OVER PLACE OF COMMITMENT

Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies.

Grant that our sister, Helen, may sleep here in peace until you awaken her to glory, for you are the resurrection and the life. Then she will see you face to face and in your light will see light and know the splendor of God, for you live and reign forever and ever. **AMEN.**

BARBARA - INVITATION TO PRAYER

Trusting in God, we have prayed together for our sister, Helen, and now we come to the last farewell. There is sorrow in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see her again and enjoy her friendship. Although we shall disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of God's kingdom. Therefore, let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

ANNE MARIE - SONG OF FAREWELL

Saints of God, come to her aid! Hasten to meet her, angels of the Lord!
Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High
May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
May angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.
Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her.
Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us: **Our Father**

BRIDGET - PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our sister, Helen, in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died with Christ, she will rise with him on the last day.

We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon Sister Helen in this life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our partnership with the saints in Christ.

Merciful God, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we meet in Christ and are with you and with our sister forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

DENISE - PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessing. Merciful Lord, you know the anguish of the sorrowful, you are attentive to the prayers of the humble. Hear your people who cry out to you in their need, and strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord *And let perpetual light shine upon her.* May she rest in peace. **Amen.**

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us go in the peace of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae: Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamamus, exsules, filii Hevae. Ad te Suspiramus, gementes et flentes in hac lacrimarum valle. Eia ergo, Advocata nostra, Illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte. Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis, post hoc exilium ostende. O clemens! O pia! O dulcis Virgo Maria!

Songs of the Angels

May songs of the angels welcome you and guide you along your way.

May the smiles of the martyrs greet your own as darkness turns into day

Every fear will be undone and death will be no more

as songs of the angels bring you home before the face of God.