

At the Graveside

As we commit Sister Helen's remains to the hallowed ground of Earth and to the keeping of Eternity, we do so with deep reverence for her as a creation of the Divine.

Blessing of Grave

Lord Jesus Christ,
by your own three days in the tomb,
you hallowed the graves of all
who believe in you,
and so, made this 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
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Irish Blessing

May the road rise up, my friend, to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face today,
and the rains fall soft upon your field.

And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of God's hand.
May God hold you in the hollow of God's hand.

Millie Rieth

Sister Helen O'Sullivan

Sister Mary Margaret
of the Sacred Heart

Born

November 11, 1927

Entered into Eternal Life

January 4, 2018

Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery

January 16, 2018

Presider

Eternal God,

We praise and thank you for those dear to us
whom we name in our hearts before you. *(Pause)*

We praise you for Sister Helen,

whom you have graciously received into your presence.
To all of beloved departed, grant your peace.

Let perpetual light shine upon them;

and help us to believe in what we have not seen,

that your presence may lead us through our years,
and bring us at last with them

into the joy of your home.

We ask this in the Names of Jesus and Mary.

AMEN

Reading *Finding You in Beauty*

The rays of light filtered through

The sentinels of trees this morning.

I sat in the garden and contemplated.

The serenity and beauty

Of my feelings and surroundings

Completely captivated me.

I thought of you.

I discovered you tucked away

In the shadows of the trees.

Then, rediscovered you

In the smiles of the flowers

As the sun penetrated their petals.



In the rhythm of the leaves
Falling in the garden.
In the freedom of the birds
As they fly searching as you do.
I'm very happy to have found you,
Now you will never leave me
For I will always find you in the beauty of life.

Walter Rinder

Sharing Remembrances of Sister Helen

A Litany of Gratitude to Our God and to Sister Helen

God of Infinite Love, we rejoice in the life of Sister Helen who lived the seasons of her life with hopeful enthusiasm. At the heart of her faithful prayer and active love were her beloved parents, her siblings and their families, her precious niece, nephews, and their beloved mother, Vera Sullivan. We pray.

Response: *We celebrate Helen with gratitude and joy.*

God of Infinite Beauty, at an early age Helen's parents and siblings filled her world with the melodious sounds of vocal and instrumental music, which in time deepened her aesthetic sense and appreciation for the beauty of the performing and visual arts. We pray.

Response: *We celebrate Helen with gratitude and joy.*

God of Imagination and Creativity, how often Helen's appreciation of the vast Pacific Ocean and its vibrant natural coastline, was reflected in her artistic projects which she created for the inspiration and enjoyment of those who would desire and experience the peaceful atmosphere of Villa Maria del Mar. We pray.

Response: *We celebrate Helen with gratitude and joy.*

God of All Creation, many of us experienced Helen's unique skill of driving the highways and byways of God's green earth. At a moment's notice one might find herself in the passenger seat as Helen took to the road with great abandon, freedom and joy... eager for a new and exciting adventure. And so we pray.

Response: *We celebrate Helen with gratitude and joy.*

God of Peace and Consolation, during these days of remembrance let us embrace the memories of laughter and good times that Helen shared with us. May her love of fun and humor always lift and refresh our spirits. We pray.

Response: *We celebrate Helen with gratitude and joy.*

God of Wonder and Delight, how often Helen sensed with wonder and awe the surprising and stunning expressions of your wondrous creation. May Helen's appreciation of its beauty be a source of inspiration for us, as we continue to live our own seasons of life, and always in the presence of your son, Jesus, and his mother, Mary. *Amen.*

Written by Sister Vera Ruotolo, SNJM

Blessing with Holy Water

We bless Sister Helen with Holy Water which she first received at her Baptism. We now use it to send her forth to our God.

Concluding Prayer

Let us pray together:

Loving God,
whose days are without end
and whose mercies beyond counting,
keep us mindful
that life is short and the hour of death unknown.
Let your Spirit guide our days on earth
in the ways of holiness and justice,
that we may serve you
in union with all the People of God,
sure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love.

When our earthly journey is ended,
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,
where you live for ever and ever.
Amen

