

Rite of Committal at Cemetery

Before we begin this committal service, I want to share with you that at the end of a person's life, I look up the root meaning of the person's name to see if it relates to some aspect of the person's life. This is what I found: Maureen is a girl's name of Irish origin. It is an anglicized version of Máirín, a diminutive of Mary, which means "star of the sea." If you have Irish heritage or love the energy of the ocean, Maureen makes a great choice for a name. We now envision her as a star in the sea of all the saints with God in heaven.

Maureen, your community of School Sisters of St. Francis were with you when we gathered to celebrate your transfer into our community on our journey of loving God and others. Today we gather again, this time to celebrate the transfer of your cremains and to **commit your body to the earth.**

We read in sacred Scripture:

Ephesians 3:14-19 Paul prays...."that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

In the spirit of faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, let us offer our prayers for Maureen.

For our sister, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live even in death and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Maureen, and dry the tears of those who weep.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

You promised paradise to the repentant thief; bring Maureen to the joys of heaven.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Our sister was washed in baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; grant her fellowship with all your saints.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

She was nourished with your body and blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Comfort us in our reflecting on the death of Maureen; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,
by the three days you lay in the tomb
you made holy the graves of all who believe in you;
and even though their bodies, lie in the earth,
they trust that they, like you, will rise again.

Give our sister peaceful rest in this grave,
until that day when you,
the resurrection and the life,
will raise her up in glory.

Then may she see the light of your presence,
Lord Jesus,
in the kingdom where you live forever and ever.

Amen.

Lord God, through your mercy bless Maureen's grave and send your angel to watch over it. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Father.....

Hail Mary...

Glory be....

Blessing of St. Francis