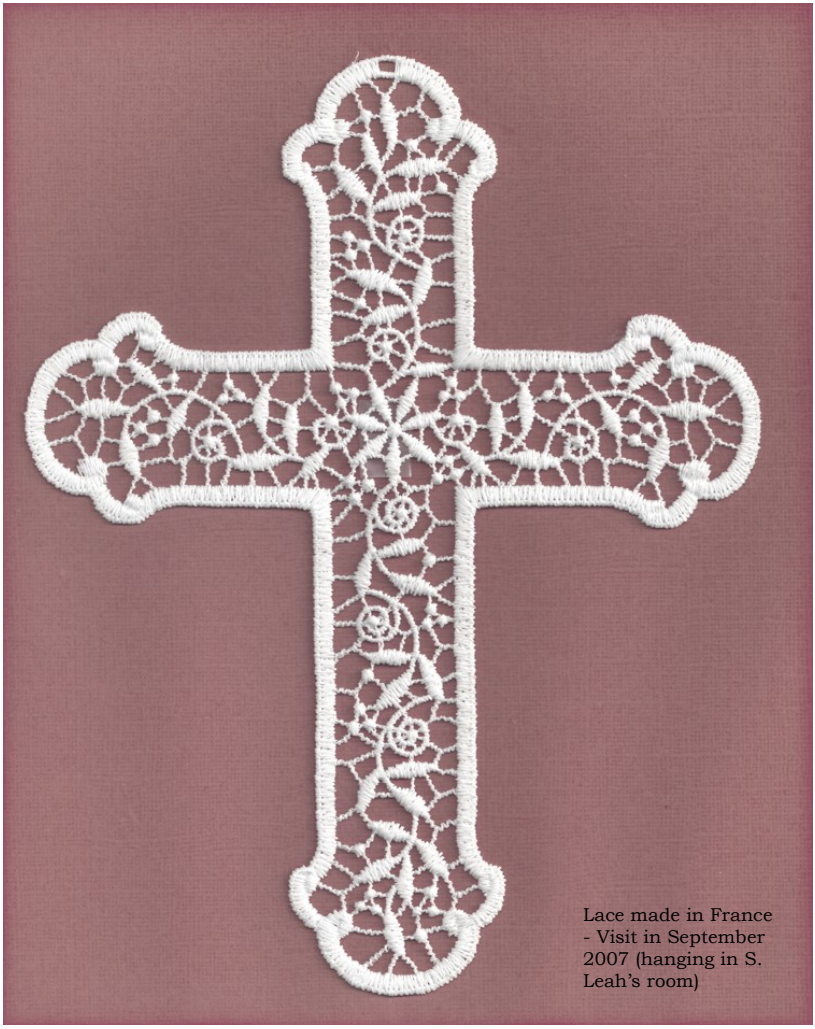
Prayer Vigil



Lace made in France - Visit in September 2007 (hanging in S. Leah's room)

Sister Leah Gauthier
(Sister M. Ida)

April 14, 1929
to December 30, 2022

I am who I am before God,
no more and no less

St. Francis of Assisi

Welcome: Sister Bonnie MacLellan
General Superior

Sign of the Cross
Leader: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

We gather this afternoon to pray for and to celebrate our sister Leah, who served her God lovingly and faithfully for 93 years. Bring our sister Leah to your kingdom where there are no more shattered hopes or broken dreams.

Let us be still and reflect on these words as together we pray...

All: God of everlasting life, Leah is united with you. Hold tenderly all those who feel the sadness and loss of her departure. Risen Christ, ever available to us, sustain each one gathered here. Comfort us as we experience Leah's loss. Draw us to your heart. May we have the strength we need to move through our loss, keeping hope in our hearts. Amen

(Adapted, *Prayer Seeds*, Joyce Rupp)

HYMN: *Holy Ground*
Christopher Beatty

Sing each verse 2 times

This is Holy Ground,
we're standing on Holy Ground
for the Lord is present
and where God is, is Holy

These are Holy hands,
God's given us Holy hands,
God works through these hands,
and so these hands are Holy.

Scripture Reading: **John 8:12; 12:35.46-47**
Sister Dianne Bottos

Those who follow Christ will never walk in darkness.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in darkness, you do not know where you are going."

"I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness. I came not to judge the world but to save the world."

The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Sharing of Memories

Prayers of Intercession: Sister Diane Guertin
Sister Rita Godon

Response: *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray in gratitude for Leah, a woman blest with many gifts and the desire to share her gifts with others. May the witness of her ministry encourage us in our response to God's call to love without distinction, ***we pray...***

We pray Leah's reunion with her deceased parents Leon and Amanda Marie and her siblings Palema, Homer, Paul, Roland, Lena, Ida, Eileen, Jean, and her relatives, friends and community members is one of great joy, ***we pray***...

We remember in gratitude Leah's many nieces, nephews, cousins, and her congregational classmate, Sister Frances Gavin, all those who knew of Leah's love and care for each one of them, ***we pray***...

We remember and pray for our Good Shepherd Pope Francis, Msgr. Dennis Murphy and all clergy with whom Leah served especially Archbishop Pinder of the Bahamas. We give thanks for their witness, pastoral presence and service, and we pray in gratitude for Pope Emeritus Benedict XV1 – may he rest in Eternal Peace, ***we pray***...

We remember in gratitude our Motherhouse staff, especially those who interacted and celebrated day to day life with Leah, ***we pray...***

For all of us, God's people, yearning for fresh hope this new year, may we continue to seek Light and God's Mercy, ***we pray...***

The Lord's Prayer

We now pray to God with confidence as Jesus, our brother taught us: **Our Father**

Closing Prayer: (together we pray)

The stillness of God is ours this night that we may sleep in peace. The awareness of the angels is ours this night that we may be alert to unseen mysteries. The company of the saints is ours this night that we may dream of the river of love. The love of Christ is ours this night that we may be truly alive to the morning; that we may be truly alive.
Amen

(adapted from *Celtic Benediction* J. Philip Newell)

Closing Hymn: ***Earthen Vessels*** CBW III #445
John B. Foley SJ

Refrain: We hold a treasure not made of gold
in earthen vessels, wealth untold
one treasure only, the Lord, the Christ
in earthen vessels

Light has shown in our darkness
God has shown in our heart
with the light of the glory
of Jesus the Lord. Refrain

God has chosen the lowly
Who are small in this world
In his weakness is glory
in Jesus the Lord Refrain

Led by God
April 2016

BAHAMAS

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