

Sister Helen's Vocation



Sister Helen Prejean is

known around the world for her tireless work against the death penalty. In 1982, Sister Helen started corresponding with Patrick Sonnier, sentenced to die in the electric chair of Louisiana's Angola State Prison for the murder of two teenagers. Sonnier asked for her to be his spiritual advisor and she accepted. Before Sonnier's death, Sister Helen came to know the families of the victims and the men whose job it was to execute him—men who often harboured doubts about the rightness of what they were doing. In 1984, Elmo Patrick Sonnier was put to death in the electric chair, with Sister Helen as the witness of execution.

Sister Helen's vocation was to help those who have made mistakes and have been punished with more than they deserved. Helen thought the death penalty was wrong. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize three times and this links with Jesus because Jesus helped people who had done wrong, sacrificing his life.

— Olivia Wainwright