

Statue in Honor of Mother Aviat Dedicated, Memory of Miracle Perpetuated

A miracle is a powerful testimony of God's love. In 1992, the people of St. Bernadette Church prayed for and received a miracle through the intercession of St. Leonie Aviat, foundress of the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales. A 14-year-old girl, Bernadette McKenzie, was cured of a debilitating spinal cord condition on the fourth day of a novena for her intention. "I went from being a debilitated teenager to one full of hopes and dreams," Bernadette declared on May 14th, 2011, to an overflowing church. St. Bernadette Church was packed with parish members bearing witness to their love for Mother Aviat and for her Sisters, who have been at the heart of the parish and its school for over 25 years. Bernadette, now Kutufaris, has since married, has 3 young boys, and works as a 5th grade teacher in a Catholic school.

The parish community, led by Rev. John J. Kelly, wanted to immortalize this event, and as Cardinal Archbishop Rigali blessed a newly installed, life-size bronze statue of the humble foundress, the Lord fulfilled that desire.

Visit <http://www.oblatesisters.org/> to learn more about the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales' spirituality and ministry.

