

# 2012

## OUR MISSION

To perform the Corporal Work of Mercy of burying the dead and to care for their resting places; to preserve, promote and protect the Church's teachings on death and resurrection; and to console the bereaved.

## OUR CATHOLIC CEMETERIES: Reliquaries of Saints

by Most Reverend David A. Zubik, D.D.

My dear friends in Christ,

Living in a world where open persecution in Rome could erupt at an emperor's whim, their parishes were not spacious church buildings. We are told that the first Christians—our spiritual brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ—gathered instead in the safety and the quiet of the catacombs, the city's underground labyrinth of tombs.

It was in those tombs, where their loved ones rested in peace, that the Christians came together to celebrate the Eucharist, to celebrate those who had gone before them, to celebrate the faith they shared. In the days of martyrdom, the relics of those who died for their faith in Jesus were preserved and revered for the inspiration they provided to those yet alive. The Church has continued to use relics as poignant reminders of the sanctity of life to which we are all called.

From the Apostolic Age, the Church has nurtured a deep spiritual intimacy with those who came before us in faith. We not only remember the dead, but we honor and pray for them; and beg their prayers for us as they intercede before God.

That is why from its earliest foundation the Church has designated sacred places to receive the bodies of our dead. These cemeteries inspire our own faith, lift us up in hope, and encourage us to fight the good fight, to run the race to the finish as Saint Paul asked (II Timothy 4:7). Catholic cemeteries are, indeed,



“Reliquaries of the Saints.” They hold the precious earthly remains of “those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith”—our parents, grandparents and other ancestors. Those who are buried in our cemeteries lived their lives in faith, strove to be faithful to the promises of their baptism, knew the forgiveness of God in Confession, encountered the living Christ in the Eucharist, and lived out their days as confirmed, committed Christians. Today, our Catholic cemeteries give public witness to their lives of faith, the faith we share, and to our collective belief in the resurrection of the body and eternal life. If you have ever seen a small reliquary, holding a tiny piece of bone or clothing or other possession of a saint, magnify that image in your mind to contain the entire area of a Catholic cemetery. That is the reality of which I speak.

There is a prayer of Blessed John Henry Newman. It was actually written as an evening prayer, but I think it speaks well of our Catholic cemeteries:

“May He support you all day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest and peace at last.”

That describes a Catholic cemetery perfectly: a safe lodging, a place of peace, and a holy rest—a reliquary of saints.

God bless you!

+ David A. Zubik

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- + Our Creed, page 2
- + What you need to know about what we do, page 3
- + Our products and services, page 4
- + Project updates, page 5
- + The Catholic Funeral Plan™, page 6



## 2012 WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE The Creed that We profess

It has long been the teaching of the Church that our Catholic cemeteries are sacred. We at The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh have the privilege of caring for these sacred places on a daily basis. As Catholic cemeterians we profess the following Creed.

We acknowledge that the Catholic cemetery is established to carry out the sacred religious function of the burial of the dead and care for their resting places.

We accept the responsibility of implementing this religious function under the direction and supervision of the local Church authority.

We believe in and are firmly committed to the teachings and rich tradition of the Catholic Church with regard to the deceased and the sacredness of the cemeteries in which their bodies rest.

### GUIDELINES FOR CREMATION

## Did You Know?

Although the Catholic Church has an expressed preference for the burial of the full body, the Church has officially allowed cremation since 1963. This change in church norms was incorporated into Canon Law in 1983, with the expectation that the body would be brought to church for the funeral liturgy, followed by cremation. More recently, the Holy See has authorized celebration of funeral liturgies in the United States with cremated remains present.

The Church also has long established norms for the handling and disposition of cremated remains. According to the Order of Christian Funerals, "The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in

We recognize the deep religious significance of the Corporal Work of Mercy involved in the burial of the dead and reverence for the deceased.

We are dedicated to the respectful care of the people of God who, even in death, remain a part of the whole Christian community.

We are committed to encouraging Catholic prayer and devotion for our deceased brothers and sisters especially in our cemeteries.

We will promote efforts to strengthen and enhance Catholic teachings that relate to death, burial and reverence for the faithful departed.

We will proclaim through our words, work and example the sacredness of the human body, belief in the Resurrection and the Christian virtue of hope.

a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires."

## YOU COULD BE A WINNER! Your opinion is important

Congratulations to Martha Sayut of Pittsburgh who was the 2011 winner of the 46 inch HDTV raffled off by The Catholic Cemeteries Association. Martha was chosen from thousands of surveys completed between May 6, 2011 and June 21, 2011. This year, because of the high cost of gasoline, the grand prize will be \$500 in gas with an additional \$100 gas card winner at each location. So complete the survey card you received as you enter one of our diocesan cemeteries between Mother's Day and Father's Day, 2012. You may be our next lucky winner!

718 Hazelwood Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2807  
412-521-9133

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

WWW.CCAPGH.ORG  
WWW.CFPPGH.COM

## FULL SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR ALL YOUR BURIAL NEEDS

# What you need to know about what we do

## THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION

of the Diocese of Pittsburgh

The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh offers Catholic families a full range of pre-need and at-need services at 16 Diocesan cemeteries, designed for individual preferences, convenience, ethnic and family traditions, and budget. We are a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh with a mission to administer the Corporal Work of Mercy of burying the dead and to care for their resting places. In the provision of this special ministry, the Association seeks to console the bereaved and to preserve, promote and protect the Church's teachings on death and resurrection, as well as prayer, liturgy and devotions for the dead.

The Catholic Cemeteries Association was established in 1952 by then Bishop John Dearden to assist the diocesan bishop with his responsibility to provide sacred resting places for the faithful. The Association began with four founding cemeteries: Braddock Catholic, Braddock Hills; St. Mary Cemetery, Penn Avenue; Calvary Cemetery, Hazelwood; and North Side Catholic Cemetery, Ross Township. The Association has expanded over the years to 16 cemeteries from the original four properties.

In addition to the 16 Diocesan cemetery properties that are owned and operated by The Catholic Cemeteries Association, we have 116 parish cemeteries in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The parish cemeteries are owned and operated by the parishes to which they are attached. All 16 properties owned by The Catholic Cemeteries Association are designated as "diocesan cemeteries," meaning that they are usually larger than most parish cemeteries and designed to serve the needs of multiple parishes rather than just one parish community.

Combined together with the parish cemeteries, we are the second largest Catholic cemetery system in the country.

One important part of our mission is to provide burial space for the use of the faithful. Frequently we are asked: "How much is a grave?" or "How much is a crypt?" There are too many variables, based on your preferences, to answer these questions with one price. For instance, will there be a monument erected on the grave or a marker that is flush with the ground? Do you prefer a grave location that is closer to the roadside as opposed to having to walk to the middle or far side of the burial section? Our mausoleum prices are similarly varied depending on your preference for indoor chapel crypts, outdoor garden crypts, the location of the space on the garden crypt wall, the number of spaces you may need, etc.

Hopefully, this gives you a good understanding of some of the details involved in the choices that are available. ***We want you and your family to be forever satisfied with the choices you make.*** A brief listing of our products and services is listed on the following page. Please take a moment to review the many options available. It would be our pleasure to assist you with personalizing your needs and making the best choices for you and your family. Please contact the diocesan cemetery of your choice listed on the back of this newsletter. Our counselors are professionally trained to answer your questions and address your needs.

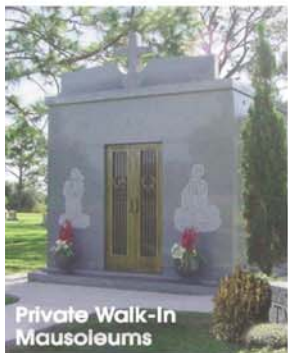
For information on The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh you may contact us at 1-877-866-7526 or complete the reply card that is attached to this newsletter.



# What do you need?



Community Mausoleums - can cost less than ground burial



Private Walk-In Mausoleums



Private Family Estates Graves or Mausoleums



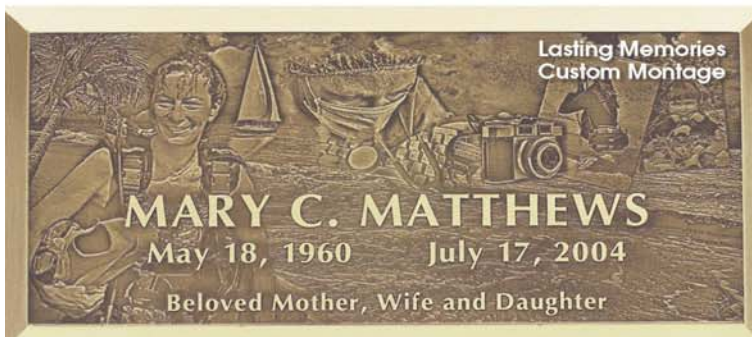
Custom Granite Designs and Colors



Columbariums for Cremation



Private Above Ground Mausoleums



Lasting Memories Custom Montage

**MARY C. MATTHEWS**  
 May 18, 1960 July 17, 2004  
 Beloved Mother, Wife and Daughter

## Bronze Memorials

- With custom portraits
- Veterans spouse matching
- Refinishing

## Burial fee prepayment

- Guaranteed inflation protection

## Catholic Funeral Plan™

- Complete funeral preplanning at any funeral home of your choice

## Cremation options

- Cremation gravesites
- Mausoleum niches

## Crypts

- Crypt-front emblems and personalization
- Names and dates
- Color photoceramics
- Vases and vase/light combinations

## Family Protection

- Children family protection
- Grandchildren family protection

## Financing

- Interest free financing programs
- Job loss protection

## Granite Memorials

- Cleaning services and restoration
- Incising / lettering
- Upright and flush custom memorial design
- Memorial benches where available
- Premium shaped designs

## Gravesites

- Flush memorial areas
- Upright Memorial areas
- Private estate and family lots
- Single and double depth burials as available

## Mausoleum entombment

- Private family mausoleums
- Community mausoleums

## Memorial Benches

## Monument insurance programs

- Damage protection policies

## Preplanning discounts

## Removal and transfer service

- Grave to crypt
- Crypt to grave

## Tree programs

- Memorial trees (some locations)

## Vaults

- Grave liners

## ANOTHER NEW CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM PROJECT

# Here we grow again to serve you better

2012



A brand new chapel mausoleum project has just been approved for Holy Souls Diocesan Cemetery in Robinson Township. The cemetery is very visible on the way to Pittsburgh International Airport. It sits high on a hill above the Parkway West at the Campbells Run Road Exit.

Holy Souls Cemetery was originally established as a parish cemetery of Holy Souls Parish in Carnegie in 1927. It was incorporated into The Catholic Cemeteries Association as a diocesan cemetery in 1983. The property consists of 46 total acres and serves the burial needs of numerous parishes in the western corridor including St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carnegie, St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Greentree, Holy Trinity Parish in Robinson, Ascension Parish in Ingram and St. Malachy Parish in Kennedy Township, among others.

The new chapel mausoleum will consist of 742 indoor chapel crypts and outdoor patio crypts and will also provide the cemetery with 326 niches for cremated remains. The natural stone façade blends perfectly with the site and will provide a fitting entry to the indoor chapel. This new mausoleum will give

## ANNUAL CLEANUP

### Safety First

An essential component of good cemetery management is a regular house cleaning of the cemetery property. Virtually all cemeteries have some kind of regular clean up policy. Over time, various objects are placed at many grave and crypt sites which, if allowed to accumulate indefinitely, become unsightly and unsafe. Recently, a small angel statue was accidentally picked up by a mowing tractor and hurled toward the road where it broke a car windshield. Such an object could cause serious harm to anyone hit by it.

Cemetery managers realize that these objects have special meaning to those who placed them there, and, while we want to be respectful of their feelings, the safety of visitors and employees must be our first priority.

A general cleanup of all of our diocesan cemetery properties takes place each year during the month of March. Please remember that any objects left at the gravesites during the March cleanup will be removed. Thanks very much for your cooperation.



**Holy Souls Chapel Mausoleum**  
**Holy Souls Cemetery, Coraopolis, PA**

families at Holy Souls Cemetery an above ground entombment option for the first time and also provide a beautiful indoor chapel for Committal Services arriving at the cemetery.

The project has been met with great enthusiasm and pre-construction purchases have already begun. If you are interested in receiving information about this new chapel mausoleum, please call 1-877-886-7526.

## REPURPOSING A CHURCH

### A New Transformation

In what is being described as a first ever project of its kind, The Catholic Cemeteries Association is in the process of converting the former St. Mary Church building in Lawrenceville into a beautiful chapel mausoleum. The church was sold to the Cemeteries Association when the newly formed Our Lady of the Angels Parish no longer used the church as a worship site. Since both our Catholic cemeteries and our churches are specifically designated as sacred places in Canon Law, this former place of worship will remain a sacred place after it is transformed into the chapel mausoleum.

The interior of the former church will undergo extensive renovations in its conversion to the mausoleum, but most of the beautiful interior of the church building will be preserved. Parishioners of Our Lady of the Angels Parish who belonged to the former St. Mary Parish will have the unique privilege of being laid to rest in the same beautiful structure in which many were baptized, received the Eucharist, Confirmation and were married! Many other families, not members of the local parish but who have heritage in St. Mary Cemetery are also expressing great interest in this project. For more information on this project please call our cemetery office at 1-877-886-7526.



## THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL PLAN™

# The preferred planning tool for Catholic families

It has now been more than 15 years since The Catholic Funeral Plan™ was first made available to Catholics in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The plan was established in order to preserve, promote and protect Catholic funeral and burial traditions. The Catholic Funeral Plan™ addresses concerns that are unique to Catholics and not usually the focus of traditional funeral planning. The Plan also provides consumers with protection from higher future costs and allows them to make changes to their Plan without penalty in case any of their funeral preferences, or the city in which they live change. The flexibility of the Plan is evidenced by the fact that those receiving the benefits of the plan have arranged funerals with 125 different funeral homes around the Diocese of Pittsburgh at the time of death. Under the Plan the family maintains complete control of the funds until such time as the funeral services and merchandise have been provided. Only then is the funeral provider paid.

Since the Plan was introduced more than 19,000 Catholics have enrolled in it and nearly 3,000 families have received the benefits of the Plan at the time of the deaths of their loved ones. It has been at this time that the true value of the Plan has been demonstrated. Appreciative families regularly write notes of thanks to the Catholic Funeral Plan™. Recently a note was received from a man whose parents had both enrolled in the Plan. His mother passed this year and his father passed about three years ago. In his note he expressed his appreciation for the Catholic Funeral Plan™ and the people who assisted him. *"This Plan saved my life*

*twice! It took away the worry and fear of paying for the funeral and allowed me to grieve. I thank my parents for loving me so much that they bought this Plan."*

During the last several years the Catholic Funeral Plan™ has become a preferred planning tool by elder law attorneys for individuals who will be entering a nursing home and applying for Medicaid benefits. In general, Medicaid will only pay for the individual's nursing home care once all of their resources have been exhausted. At the time of death, this leaves the burden of paying for funeral and cemetery expenses with the family. Advanced planning using the Catholic Funeral Plan™ can assure that this does not happen to your family.

We encourage those families facing the possibility of putting a family member in a nursing home to seek out the services of a certified elder law attorney and to enroll in The Catholic Funeral Plan™. For more information on the Catholic Funeral Plan™ call 1-877-886-7526 or complete the attached reply card.



2201 Babcock Boulevard, Suite 1  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
Toll free 1-877-886-7526

## YES! WE HAVE A DIOCESAN CEMETERY NEAR YOU!

**All Saints Catholic Cemetery**  
1560 Brinton Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221-4899  
412-271-5950

**Calvary Catholic Cemetery**  
718 Hazelwood Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2807  
412-421-9959

**Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Cemetery**  
204 Cemetery Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2722  
412-931-2206

**Good Shepherd Catholic Cemetery**  
733 Patton Street  
Monroeville, PA 15146-4530  
412-824-0355

**Holy Savior Catholic Cemetery**  
4629 Bakerstown Road  
Gibsonia, PA 15044-8993  
724-625-3822

**Holy Souls Catholic Cemetery**  
100 Resurrection Road  
Moon Township, PA 15108-7759  
724-695-2999

**Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery**  
7601 Mount Carmel Road  
Verona, PA 15147-1518  
412-241-1260

**Our Lady of Hope Catholic Cemetery**  
1898 Bakerstown Road  
Tarentum, PA 15084-3213  
724-224-2785

**Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery**  
2900 Washington Road  
McMurray, PA 15317-3278  
724-941-7601

**Resurrection Catholic Cemetery**  
100 Resurrection Road  
Moon Township, PA 15108-7759  
724-695-2999

**Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery**  
97 Sacred Heart Road  
Monongahela, PA 15063-9605  
724-258-2885

**St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery**  
1443 Lincoln Road  
North Versailles, PA 15137-2448  
412-823-9111

**St. Mary Catholic Cemetery**  
Penn Avenue & 45th Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224  
412-421-9959

**St. Stanislaus Catholic Cemetery**  
**St. Anthony Catholic Cemetery**  
700 Soose Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15209-1544  
412-821-4324

### THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION

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Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2807  
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