

2009

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.

A PLACE OF WITNESS Our Catholic Cemeteries

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

The
**CATHOLIC
CEMETERIES
ASSOCIATION**
DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

My dear friends in Christ,

If you are reading this newsletter of The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, most likely you have recently visited one of our 16 diocesan cemeteries. Hopefully your visit was a comforting one, marked by fond memories and special prayers for your deceased loved ones.

Have you ever wondered why we have Catholic cemeteries? Certainly there are sufficient non-sectarian cemeteries in this region and throughout most of the developed world. With an adequate supply of public burial grounds, why does the Church develop and maintain her own?

The reason is really quite simple. The Catholic cemetery is but a stopping point on our journey of faith. If we hold the Church's teachings to be true, then we believe that Christ will raise our mortal bodies on the last day. Our journey of faith is not ended until all who were faithful in this life are gathered into His Kingdom for all eternity. The Catholic cemetery is where the remains of the faithful await together that glorious day.

Catholic cemeteries are places of witness, where all who are buried there attest to their belief in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting, even in death. Just as Catholics worship God together in life,



so too do we wait together in death for the fulfillment of His promises. That is the profound purpose of the Catholic cemetery—to proclaim Christ's promises and our sure and certain belief in the fulfillment of those promises.

The Catholic cemetery is a visible sign of the Communion of Saints, the spiritual union of all Christians, living and dead. We, the living, join in prayerful remembrance of those who have "gone before us marked with the sign of Faith" and ask their intercession before God on our

behalf. Catholic cemeteries are truly profound experiences of what it means to be Church!

May our Catholic cemeteries be a source of great comfort and hope to you on your own journey of faith.

Grateful for our belief that "Nothing Is Impossible with God," I am,

Your brother in Christ,

+ *David A. Zubik*

Most Reverend David A. Zubik

Bishop of Pittsburgh

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2009

NEW CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM DEDICATED Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum

On the Feast of All Souls, November 2, 2008 Bishop David A. Zubik dedicated the new Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum located in Queen of Heaven Diocesan Cemetery, McMurray, PA. An overflow crowd in excess of 500 people attended the dedication service resulting in standing room only! Following the service, Bishop Zubik remained and greeted everyone individually as they made their way to the light refreshments.



The building contains a beautiful chapel where funerals will be received and Final Committal Services will be celebrated. There is a total 3,550 new spaces for above-ground entombment including indoor chapel crypts, outdoor patio crypts, garden atrium crypts and niches for the inurnment of cremated remains. The new mausoleum took 18 months to build. It contains many beautiful religious works of art throughout, in addition to enclosed gardens, fountains and private areas for meditation and prayer.



THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL PLAN™

Celebrating Ten Years - Happy Anniversary!

February 2009 marked the tenth anniversary of the introduction of The Catholic Funeral Plan™ to the faithful of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The plan is offered through The Catholic Family Security Association (CFSA), a subsidiary of the Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The plan was instituted ten years ago to provide Catholic families with a faith-based alternative to prearranging their funerals. It has proven over these ten years to be very effective at overcoming the shortcomings inherent with typical funeral arrangements. Catholic families have the security of knowing that the funds they have set aside are secure and that their wishes for a Catholic Funeral will be carried out at the time of their death.

The Plan exists to preserve, promote and protect Catholic funeral and burial traditions. The Catholic Funeral Plan™ addresses concerns that are unique to Catholics which typically is not the focus of traditional funeral planning, including a person's preference to be buried in the Catholic tradition. The plan also provides consumers with protection from higher future funeral costs and allows them to make changes to their plan without any penalty should their funeral preferences or the city in which they live change. Under the plan, the family maintains complete control of the funds until such time as they are needed.

At the time of death, the CFSA claims department provides the family with assistance and guidance prior to their visit with the funeral home. Catholic families can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and speak with CFSA personnel to assist them whenever they experience a death. The family is fully informed about the wishes of the deceased, Catholic funeral and burial rites, and the funds available to pay for the funeral.

Unfortunately, in today's modern society funerals are big business and, typically, cash payment is required before services will be rendered. Most families would be financially unable to handle this unexpected and large expenditure. The out-of-reach cost of the funeral forces some families to select alterna-

tive services such as cremation, which, under normal circumstances, would not be their preference, and may not conform to the wishes of their deceased loved one.

Those who enroll themselves or their loved ones in the Catholic Funeral Plan™ are the owners of a policy they have purchased through the plan. The policy includes a minimum guaranteed growth rate of 4% per year. In the past several years policyholders enrolled in the plan have experienced an actual average growth of 7% per year. Considering current investment returns and current market performance, it just makes good sense to invest in the plan to pay for this inevitable need. Your family will benefit greatly from your thoughtfulness, and you will be assured that your funeral and burial will be carried out in the Catholic tradition.

For more information on Catholic funeral and burial rites and the benefits of the Catholic Funeral Plan™ call 1-877-866-7526. You will be very glad you did.



Administrative Offices

The Catholic Funeral Plan™

2201 Babcock Boulevard, Suite 1
Pittsburgh, PA 15237



**For more information on this important topic
call any of our cemetery offices or call us,
toll free, at 1-800-281-0980.**



MAUSOLEUM ENTOMBMENT Very popular and an affordable option

The history of mausoleum entombment is a very long one. In fact, as far back as recorded history allows, we can find references to the practice of burying the deceased in above ground burial chambers. Some of the most notable mausoleums are the pyramids of ancient Egypt; the Taj Mahal in Agra, India; Grant's Tomb in Riverside Park, N.Y.; and the Tomb of Peter believed to be located beneath the high altar in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome; and, of course, the most revered burial site in all of Christianity – the tomb of Christ Himself.

Like those who have gone before us, above-ground entombment continues to be a preferred option for many of the Catholic families served by The Catholic Cemeteries Association. For this reason, the Board of Trustees has directed that mausoleum entombment be made available as an option in all diocesan cemeteries. The addition of a mausoleum to a cemetery property also helps to extend the useful life of the cemetery because a mausoleum can accommodate three or four times the number of in-ground burial spaces on the same amount of acreage.

Following is an update on the many mausoleum buildings either currently in place or "on the drawing board" for construction in the near future. Not included in the photo spread is a chapel mausoleum project under consideration for Holy Souls Diocesan Cemetery located on the Parkway West in Robinson Township.



Holy Angels Chapel Mausoleum

Holy Angels Chapel Mausoleum located in Resurrection Cemetery, Moon Township, serves the Catholic communities in western Allegheny and Beaver counties. The mausoleum consists of 2,607 spaces including both indoor chapel crypts and outdoor patio crypts. A beautiful stained glass window featuring the risen Christ surrounded by angels completes the chapel.



St. Matthew Garden Mausoleum



Holy Savior Chapel Mausoleum



Holy Family Chapel Mausoleum



Mary, Mother of Christ Chapel Mausoleum



Blessed Virgin Mary Garden Mausoleum

St. Matthew Garden Mausoleum is the latest building in a lovely garden complex located in Good Shepherd Cemetery, Monroeville. The cemetery serves Catholic families in the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh. The mausoleum includes 384 garden crypts and 96 niches for cremated remains.

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Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum

Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum is now completed. The building consists of approximately 3,550 crypt spaces including indoor chapel crypts, outdoor patio crypts and new outdoor atrium crypts. Dedication was held November 2, 2008 - the Feast of All Souls, by Bishop David A. Zubik.

This inspirational chapel mausoleum building was completed in October of 2005 and dedicated by Bishop David Zubik. The mausoleum is located in Holy Savior Catholic Cemetery in Pine and Richland Townships serving the Catholic communities in the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh. A new Veterans Memorial was dedicated here in 2008.

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Our Lady of Hope Chapel Mausoleum

Our Lady of Hope Chapel Mausoleum is currently in its pre-construction phase. This mausoleum will feature a beautiful chapel for Committal services along with indoor chapel crypts and outdoor patio spaces. It will be situated in Frazier Township and serves the needs of Catholic families in both Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties.

Holy Family Chapel Mausoleum, located in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Shaler Township, provides a beautiful setting for committal services at the cemetery. It consists of 690 indoor chapel and outdoor patio crypts. An inspiring stained glass window depicts scenes from the life of the Holy Family and it fills the chapel with its light.

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Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel Mausoleum

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel Mausoleum was completed in 2007 and was officially blessed and dedicated last spring by Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, former Bishop of Pittsburgh. This is the largest mausoleum in the diocesan cemetery system containing 6,300 entombment spaces, beautiful stained glass and mosaics.

Mary, Mother of Christ Chapel Mausoleum is the newest mausoleum project in the diocesan cemetery system. It is currently under construction at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in North Versailles. St. Joseph Cemetery, located on Route 30 serves Catholic families in eastern Allegheny County and western Westmoreland County.

apel Mausoleum



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel Mausoleum

This chapel mausoleum is located in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Penn Hills. Completed only a few years ago, this mausoleum has been so well received by Catholic families that sales in Phase II have already begun. The beautiful chapel promotes an environment for prayer for the deceased entombed there.

These beautiful garden crypts are located in All Saints Braddock Catholic Cemetery in Braddock Hills. The twin buildings flank the receiving chapel and provide the cemetery with approximately 800 above-ground entombment spaces. The mausoleums have been so well received that a new project has been designed and space is currently being sold prior to the start of construction.

n Mausoleum



Sacred Heart Chapel Mausoleum

Sacred Heart Chapel Mausoleum is located in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Monongahela, PA. The mausoleum contains 684 chapel and patio crypts. Due to the demand for the entombment option, a second phase for the project is under consideration.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE TWIN OPERATIONS

Our Lady of Hope and Holy Savior Cemeteries

Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, located on Bakerstown Road in Tarentum, was consecrated on October 6, 1957 when Most Reverend John F. Dearden was Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The cemetery has 40 developed acres, a chapel/office building that was built in 1986 and a garden mausoleum that was dedicated in 1994. Nearly 4,000 funerals have been received since the cemetery was opened. Future plans include construction of a chapel mausoleum near the cemetery entrance along Bakerstown Road.

Holy Savior Cemetery, with 21 developed acres, is the newest of our diocesan cemeteries and is located on Bakerstown-Valencia Road in Pine and Richland Townships. Bishop David A. Zubik presided at the consecration on June 8, 1997, and also at the dedication of the chapel mausoleum on November 26, 2005. The cemetery has received 400 funerals since opening.

Two experienced men staff the operations side of these twin cemeteries – Fran Geier and Dave Sadecky who, incidentally, are not twins! Mr. Geier is a long time employee. After high school Fran spent three years in the Marine Corps, after which he worked in several jobs as a landscaper, cab driver and truck driver. Fran joined The Catholic Cemeteries Association in 1978 as an extra employee, and attained full-time status in 1984. From 1984 until 1996 he worked at Calvary Cemetery as a truck driver and backhoe operator. In 1997 he was appointed Foreman, Resurrection Cemetery, and in 2005 became Foreman for Our Lady of Hope and Holy Savior cemeteries.

Fran's interests include motorcycles, camping and fishing with his family, dining out with his wife Darlene, and enjoying their 5 grandchildren. He finds working at Catholic Cemeteries complements his interests because of the physical nature of his responsibilities; i.e., working with his hands, being outdoors, and having the opportunity to operate heavy equipment. He is one of our select employees with a Commercial Drivers License who is called upon to drive the 10-ton Mack truck/trailer combina-



From left to right, Dave Sadecky and Fran Geier

tion to haul heavy equipment. Fran enjoys the everyday challenges as well as unique high visibility demands, such as preparing for the dedications of the chapel mausoleums at Resurrection Cemetery in 1999 and Holy Savior Cemetery in 2006.

Mr. Sadecky's career included working as a mechanic for an automobile dealer and other independent service shops, a position in a manufacturing plant building railroad cars, and as a pharmacist technician. In 1994 he began working as a seasonal employee at Our Lady of Hope and became an extra employee in 1996, achieving full time status in 1998.

His interests are well suited to working at Catholic Cemeteries: the outdoors (hunting and fishing), gardening with his grandchildren, working at home with his hands (home remodeling, auto body and mechanical repairs). His major hobby in recent years has been the restoration of a 1963 Buick Riviera – work that is often interrupted by requests to work on family members' vehicles.

Dave often tells the anecdote concerning Wendy, a fellow employee during his tenure as a pharmacist technician. As he was leaving that position to join Catholic Cemeteries, Wendy offered him some heartfelt encouragement as she said, "Treat everyone as if they were your family." The Catholic Cemeteries Association is very fortunate to have Fran and Dave as cemetery workers who live that motto in their daily work serving Catholic families.



MEMORIAL DAY RAFFLE Grand Prize Certificate

Each Memorial Day weekend, thousands of Catholic families travel from near and far to our diocesan cemeteries to visit the burial sites of their loved ones. Every visitor coming into the cemetery that weekend receives a customer service survey, which provides us with valuable feedback from you, our customers, about the condition of our cemeteries and how we might serve you better. The name of everyone who completes the survey is entered into a drawing for an in-ground burial package with a value of approximately \$7,800. Our 2008 Memorial Day winner was Mr. Larry Pyzola of Pittsburgh, PA. He completed the survey while visiting Resurrection Cemetery in Moon Township. In the photo above, Mr. Pyzola is pictured receiving his winners certificate from Annabelle McGannon, executive director of The Catholic Cemeteries Association, Mr. Joseph Huber, director of Family Service and Mr. Ron McHugh, sales manager at Resurrection Cemetery. Congratulations to Mr. Pyzola! Take a minute to complete this year's survey and give yourself a chance to be our next winner.



Left to Right: Ron McHugh, Joseph Huber,
Mr. Pyzola, Annabelle McGannon

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL HONOR Cemeterian of the Year!

Annabelle McGannon, executive director of The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been awarded the first-ever Reverend William P. Casey Cemeterian of the Year Award presented by the international Catholic Cemetery Conference. The honor was announced at their international convention last fall. The Conference represents over 1,200 members from the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and Oceania.

The award recognizes a Catholic cemetery worker "who has demonstrated excellence in his/her profession; made contributions to the Catholic Cemetery Conference; developed and promoted leadership models for all



cemeterians; showed commitment to the Church in other capacities; and shown distinction to the diocese by his/her conduct and actions."

Ms. McGannon was nominated for the honor by Bishop David Zubik.

Here at The Catholic Cemeteries Association, she oversees the operation of our 16 diocesan cemetery properties in Allegheny and Washington counties, with 160 full-time and 65 seasonal employees. Ms. McGannon has been with Catholic Cemeteries since 1986 and was appointed executive director in 1993 by then Bishop Donald Wuerl.

Congratulations Annabelle!



MAUSOLEUM CONSTRUCTION RESUMES

A sure sign of Spring!

After the long winter break, construction has resumed at the new Mary, Mother of Christ Chapel Mausoleum located in St. Joseph Cemetery, North Versailles, PA. Workers returned the week of April 13th to pick up where they left off last fall. This new mausoleum will provide the cemetery with a beautiful receiving chapel where funerals can be received and committal services can be celebrated in an environment protected from the elements. The building will also contain 1,944 crypts for above-ground entombment. Dedication is expected to take place sometime in Spring 2010. To receive more information on this and other mausoleum projects, please call our toll-free number at 877-886-7526.



Mary, Mother of Christ Chapel Mausoleum
St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
North Versailles

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 (North Side Catholic)

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 15143
 724-625-3822

Holy Souls Catholic Cemetery

Campbell's Run Road
 Coraopolis, PA 15108
 724-695-2999

Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery

7601 Mount Carmel Road
 Verona, PA 15147
 412-241-1260

Our Lady of Hope Catholic Cemetery

1898 Bakerstown Road
 Tarentum, PA 15084
 724-224-2785

Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery

2900 Washington Road
 McMurray, PA 15317-3278
 412-831-3360

Resurrection Catholic Cemetery

100 Resurrection Road
 Coraopolis, PA 15108
 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 15225
 412-421-9959

St. Stanislaus Catholic Cemetery **St. Anthony Catholic Cemetery**

700 Soose Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15209-1544
 412-821-4324

ANOTHER TEN WINNERS

Gasoline Galore!

Over the 2008 Memorial Day weekend, 14 visiting families won a \$100 gift card for gasoline compliments of The Catholic Cemeteries Association. It is our way of saying "Thank you" for taking the time to complete our customer service survey given to you when you entered the cemetery. The survey takes only a minute to complete and it gives us important information about how we can serve you

better. So complete the survey and be sure to turn it in at the cemetery gate as you leave. *It could make you \$100 richer!*

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION

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Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2807
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