

2013

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: PLACES OF NEW EVANGELIZATION

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

Now I am going to tell you a mystery.

... all of us are to be changed
in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye,
at the sound of the last trumpet.

The trumpet will sound and the dead
will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

This corruptible body must be clothed
with incorruptibility,
this mortal body with immortality.

When the corruptible frame takes on
incorruptibility

and the mortal immortality,
then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled:

Death is swallowed up in victory.

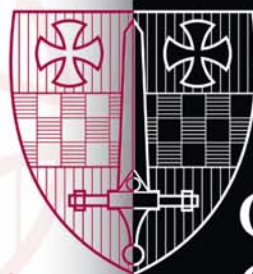
O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

Did you know that the very first place of Christian evangelization was a cemetery? The angel said to Mary Magdalene at the tomb, "He is not here. He has been raised from the dead." That is the first proclamation of the good news that Christ is victorious over sin and death.

Everywhere in the Church there is talk of the New Evangelization, of proclaiming the message of Jesus, the Good News of Jesus, with fresh ardor, methods and expression. The word "Evangelium" has a long history. The term appears in the second part of Isaiah (cf. Is. 40:9), as a voice that announces joy from God, a voice that makes it clear that God has not forgotten His people.



The CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION

DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

Isaiah reassures the Israelites—and us—that God is still here, is present, even if it may seem as if He is absent. Isaiah asserts that God has power, God gives joy. God opens the doors of exile. After the long night of exile, His light appears and provides to His people the possibility of returning home. He renews the story of good, the story of His love.

In the time of Caesar Augustus the word "Evangelium" was used for the emperor's message. The first Christians used the term Evangelium very intentionally. They wanted to say that Jesus Christ is THE message from the ruler of heaven and earth. Jesus Christ is God's Word, God's message of love to humanity. The first Christians in using the term Evangelium were announcing a victory over sin, over all that separates us from God and from one another. They were boldly proclaiming Christ's victory over the grave.

Our Catholic cemeteries are places of the New Evangelization. The words spoken at our cemeteries are comforting, reassuring us that in our loss, in our pain, God is with us. We no longer need grieve over death like those who have no hope. As Saint Paul teaches in his letter to the Thessalonians: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with Him those who have fallen asleep." Grateful for our belief that "Nothing Is Impossible with God," I am,

Your brother in Christ,

+ David A. Zubik

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2013

MASTER PLAN FOR ST. MARY REVEALED

Burial in a Former Church Site

The Catholic Cemeteries Association has completed the initial master plan for additional in-ground burial sites and garden niches for cremated remains which will be developed at St. Mary Diocesan Cemetery in Lawrenceville. The plan calls for beautiful landscaped gardens, stone walls, cremation gardens and premier estate lots available for purchase.

The center piece of this development project will be a 15' tall, full round, solid granite statue of Saint Francis of Assisi on a round base with arms outstretched blessing the city. The inspiring statue was donated to The Catholic Cemeteries Association by the Franciscan Sisters in Millvale (now known as the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities) when the former Saint Francis Hospital was closed. (Thank you, Sisters!) The statue stood on the hospital grounds for decades and has been in safekeeping waiting for its new location. It will stand just a short dis-

tance from its former location on the hospital grounds and will once again extend his blessing over the City of Pittsburgh and Saint Mary Cemetery.

In addition to the in-ground garden sections being added, the former St. Mary Church building will be converted into a chapel mausoleum and will provide the cemetery with approximately 600 crypts for above-ground entombment, which will be located inside this beautiful former church building. The new mausoleum will also serve as a committal chapel for all funerals received at the cemetery. We are not aware of any other location in the country where a former Catholic church has been converted into a chapel mausoleum – truly a one of a kind opportunity!

For more information on this one of a kind and beautiful project please call us at 412-421-9959.



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

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

WWW.CCAPGH.ORG
WWW.CFPPGH.COM

CCA PREPARES FOR A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Annabelle McGannon Announces Retirement

Annabelle McGannon, Executive Director of The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has announced her intention to retire from her position later this summer. Ms. McGannon has been with the Cemeteries Association since 1986 and was appointed executive director by then Bishop Donald Wuerl in 1993.

During her tenure, Ms. McGannon has solidified the Association as one of the premier Catholic cemetery organizations in the country. For her leadership she was recognized by the international Catholic Cemetery Conference with the first-ever "Reverend William P. Casey Catholic Cemeterian of the Year Award" in 2008. One of her many accomplishments was the introduction of the Catholic Funeral Plan™, which is a faith-based funeral planning alternative designed specifically for Catholic families who want to ensure that their funerals include all the essential elements of a Catholic funeral. The Plan, which began here in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, is now offered in numerous other dioceses across the country.



Annabelle McGannon
Executive Director

"My 27 years with The Catholic Cemeteries Association have been nothing but a great blessing to me. It is a privilege to work in the Catholic cemetery ministry, charged with performing the Corporal Work of Mercy of burying the dead and caring for their resting places on a daily basis. None of the work done by this diocesan corporation or its executive director could be accomplished without the extraordinary dedication and compassion of the people who work in our diocesan cemeteries. I am very proud to call them colleagues and friends, and I know that the corporation and its very important work are in the best of hands."

The Catholic Cemeteries Association was established in 1952 by Bishop John Dearden to assist the diocesan bishop with his responsibility to provide sacred resting places for the faithful. The Association owns and operates the sixteen diocesan cemetery properties located throughout Allegheny and Washington Counties.



STAYING INFORMED

We Provide Training

The Catholic Cemeteries Association provides ongoing training sessions for all of our field employees to enhance their operational skills, encourage good communication and promote excellent customer service. The training sessions may consist of individual training in the field or group training. Recently the trainings have focused on customer service, new products, procedures and health and wellness.

Here at The Catholic Cemeteries Association we have 51 experienced field employees working in our 15 active diocesan cemeteries. Many of those employees have been with The Catholic Cemeteries Association for over 25 years. Our workers are very dedicated to servicing the Catholic families who come to our cemeteries.



Whether it is completing a burial, dressing a gravesite or helping someone in the cemetery to locate a loved one, they provide excellent customer service and a willingness to assist when needed. We take pride in all of our employees and their willingness to go the extra mile for the families that we are privileged to serve.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES IS GOING GREEN!

Saint Francis of Assisi Green Burial Details

The Catholic Cemeteries Association announces the development of a Green Burial Section to be located in Holy Savior Diocesan Cemetery in Pine/Richland Townships. Demand for this new form of burial has increased somewhat in recent years and has prompted the Cemeteries Association to establish our first Green Burial location.

An organization by the name of the Green Burial Council (GBC) exists to promote this environmentally friendly form of disposition. The Council is an independent, tax-exempt, nonprofit organization working to encourage environmentally sustainable death care and the use of burial as a new means of protecting natural areas. With the involvement of environmentalists, scientists, lawyers, and representatives from the funeral service industry, the Council has set forth the world's first standards and eco-certification program for burial grounds, funeral homes and burial products. These specific standards must be met and maintained by the cemetery to retain the green designation of the burial ground.

The Green Burial Council certifies three categories of burial grounds:

1. Hybrid Burial Grounds (One Leaf Rating)
2. Natural Burial Grounds (Two Leaf Rating)
3. Conservation Burial Grounds (Three Leaf Rating)

The order in which these categories are listed reflects increasing requirements to meet the particular standard. Each level of certification is in addition to the previous level(s) requirements.

The new section in Holy Savior Cemetery will be designed as a level two "Natural Burial Ground."

"Natural Burial Grounds require the adoption of practices/protocols that are energy-conserving, minimize waste, and do not require the use of toxic chemicals. A Natural Burial Ground achieves GBC certification by prohibiting the use of vaults (partial, inverted or otherwise), vault lids, concrete boxes, slabs or partitioned liners, and by prohibiting the burial of decedents embalmed with toxic chemicals, as well as by banning burial containers not made from natural/plant derived materials. It must have in place a program of

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and be designed, operated and maintained to produce a naturalistic appearance, based on use of plants and materials native to the region, and patterns of landscape derived from and compatible with regional ecosystems."

The new section will be named Saint Francis of Assisi Green Burial Section, in honor of the saint's love of creation and all natural things.

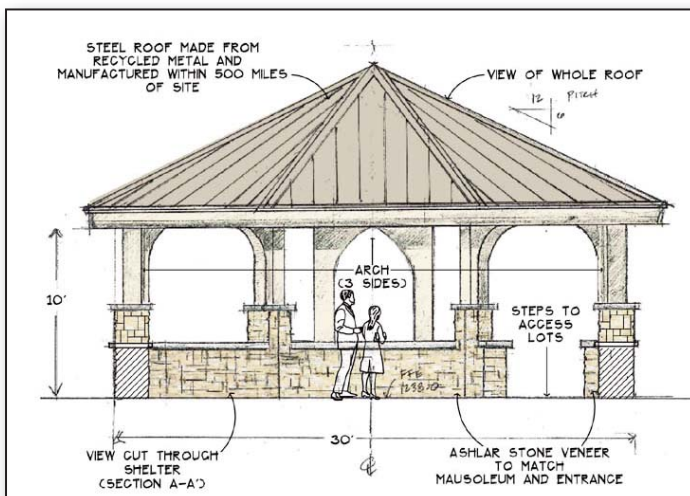
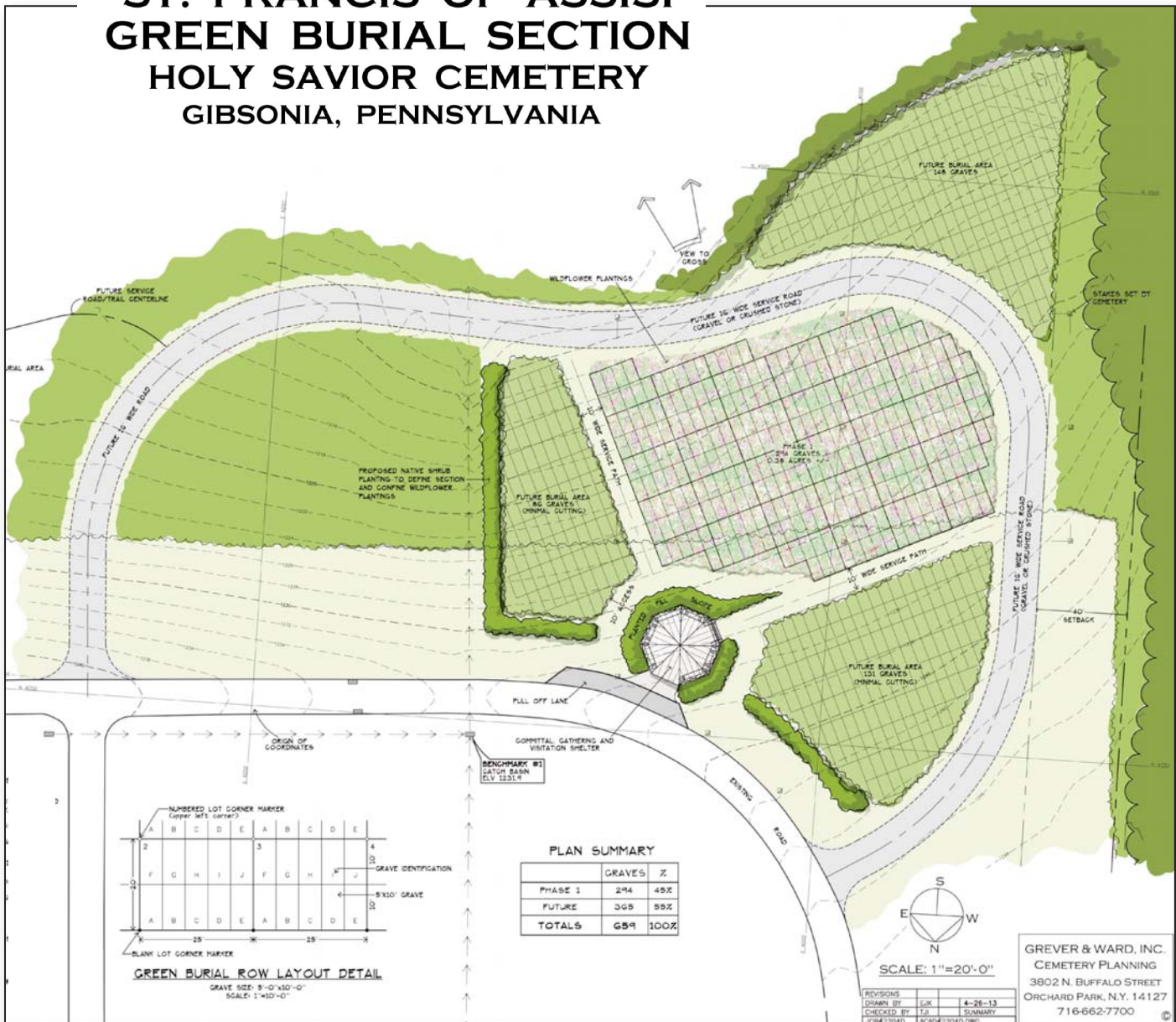
A beautiful pavilion has been designed which will be used for Committal Services for those being interred in the Saint Francis of Assisi section. The structure will accommodate approximately 50 people for services and also serve as a shelter for visitation. It has arched sides and Ashlar stone columns supporting an octagonal roof, which is clad with recycled metal manufactured within 500 miles of the site to keep with the "green" nature of the new section. An artist's rendering of the Committal Pavilion can be seen on the drawing on page five of this newsletter.



Natural limestone and granite boulders will be placed inside the section near the religious feature of Saint Francis where all the deceased will be memorialized. No individual memorials are permitted in the section and nothing is permitted to be placed at any individual gravesite.

The Green Burial Section follows the same visitation schedule permitted for the rest of the cemetery property – dawn to dusk, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. If you are interested in exploring this type of burial option please contact Holy Savior Cemetery at 724-625-3822.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
GREEN BURIAL SECTION
HOLY SAVIOR CEMETERY
GIBSONIA, PENNSYLVANIA**



*“a beautiful pavilion has
been designed which
will be used for
committal services...”*

WE ARE ALWAYS SEEKING QUALITY INDIVIDUALS

You Could Be Our Next Employee

With 15 active diocesan cemeteries and approximately 3,500 burials each year, the task of servicing Catholic families from a sales and customer service perspective remains as one of the most important objectives of The Catholic Cemeteries Association (CCA). Our CCA cemetery offices range from communities such as Tarentum in the north, to Monongahela in the south, and from North Versailles in the east, to Moon Township in the west. Given this broad geographical spectrum, and to effectively serve our families, we are always engaged in the process of receiving, evaluating, and considering candidates for employment from markets throughout the greater Pittsburgh area.

Our recruiting process usually starts with a potential candidate responding to one of our employment advertisements found on the internet, on our website, in a local newspaper, or even as a result of someone being referred to CCA from a current customer or employee. Once we have identified a candidate, there is an extensive interview and review process before a candidate is offered a position as a counselor.

Once an individual is hired, they undergo a formal, comprehensive, professional training program. Depending on the particular background and skills of the employee, they are assigned to either the Family Service Division or the Memorial Counselor Division.

Family Service Counselors assist families who have just experienced the death of a loved one, inform the families of the various options available to them, and aid in coordinating and making final arrangements. Memorial Counselors assist Catholic families in pre-planning for their final arrangements so as to avoid the need for stressful decisions at the time of a death, as well as providing families with a helpful planning guide to get their affairs in order.

As we strive to better serve our Catholic families, we continue to seek qualified individuals who share our vision and this important ministry of the Church. To learn more about career opportunities within the Counseling/Customer Service Department at CCA, please call Denise at 1-877-886-7526 or email your resume' to jobs@ccapgh.org.

A NATIONWIDE DIOCESAN SALUTE!

A Memorial Day Salute to Our Heros

In 2013, Catholic Cemeteries across the United States will participate in a national Memorial Day program to honor those men and women who died while serving in the armed forces, as well as military veterans, and those active military who are still serving our country, it was announced by the Catholic Cemetery Conference.

"Serving God and Country: A Memorial Day Salute to Our Heroes" will invite participation by thousands of both active military and veterans during Memorial Day Mass, as well as a host of other Cemetery-related activities. Many cemeteries are expected to conduct a ceremonial wreath laying and special blessing. The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, JCD, Archbishop for the Archdiocese of the Military Services USA will serve as National Spokesperson for the Catholic Cemetery Conference National Memorial Day program.



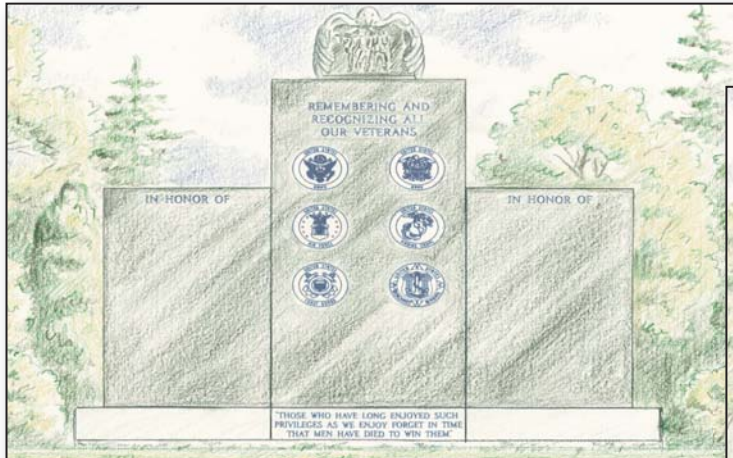
"Cemeteries, both large and small, are invited to participate in the Memorial Day program in support of those loved ones who have made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as our active military and veterans," said Carol

Giambalvo, President, Catholic Cemetery Conference. "There is no greater sacrifice a man or woman can make for their country," added Giambalvo. "While our loved ones are always in our hearts, Memorial Day allows us the opportunity to recognize and honor their service to our country."

The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh is participating in this nationwide salute to our veterans with prayer services in our diocesan cemeteries over the Memorial Day weekend. Please check the schedule of activities on our website at www.ccapgh.org

New Veteran's Memorial to be Erected

The Catholic Cemeteries Association recently announced the expansion of the Veterans' Section at Good Shepherd Catholic Cemetery. This new section is named Saint Michael the Archangel, the patron Saint of Soldiers. Honorably discharged veterans will be entitled to a free space in this new section. Their spouse and other family members may be buried in this section as well.

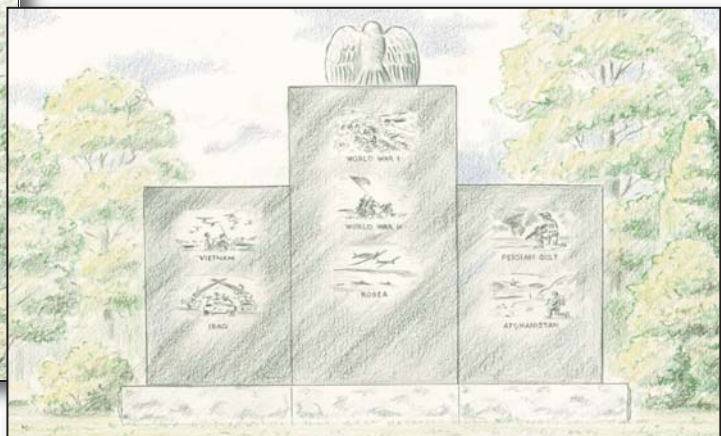


The center piece of the section will be a black granite memorial spanning 10 feet in width by 10 feet high. The memorial will have etched scenes of various wars fought by our troops. On the top of the memorial will be a two foot sculptured eagle with its wings folded over our soldiers protecting them from harm.

The Memorial is the inspiration of Margaret (Peg) Cavanaugh who approached Good Shepherd counselor

Lisa Miller with the idea. Margaret is contacting local veterans and veteran organizations seeking tax deductible donations to raise the funds to erect the memorial. Veterans who donate a minimum of \$250 will have their names inscribed in the Honor Roll on the front of the memorial.

Veterans who are interested in making a donation to the memorial fund or in the offer of a free space in the Veterans' Section may contact Good Shepherd Cemetery at 412-824-0355.



Annabelle McGannon, Executive Director of The Catholic Cemeteries Association stated: "We are proud to be part of this important project expanding our Veterans' Section at Good Shepherd Catholic Cemetery. This beautiful memorial will be a fitting tribute to all veterans who have served their country during times of peace and war."

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION Welcomes New Director

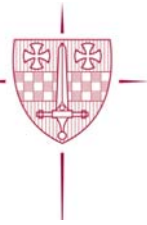
The Board of Trustees of The Catholic Cemeteries Association (CCA) of the Diocese of Pittsburgh has announced the selection of Mr. Michael Sinnott as the Assistant Executive Director of the CCA effective May 1, 2013. Mr. Sinnott will serve in the capacity of Assistant Director during a three-month orientation period, after which he will be appointed to succeed Ms. Annabelle McGannon as Executive Director. Ms. McGannon previously announced her intention to retire from her position late this summer. Mr. Sinnott is a graduate of St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA. He has worked in the cemetery and funeral industries for nearly 25 years, most recently as the Vice President of the historic Allegheny and Homewood Cemeteries in

Pittsburgh. Previously he had been with Matthews International holding various positions, including Director of Business Development, National Accounts Manager and Product Manager.

Mr. Sinnott lives with his wife and daughter in Aspinwall and is a lifelong member of Saint Scholastica Parish there.



Michael Sinnott
Assistant Executive Director



The Best Long Term Nursing Care Resource

An unfortunate reality today is that as many of us are living longer and the odds that we will enter a nursing home have increased dramatically. The cost of skilled nursing home care today is over \$8,000 per month. Many families are forced to spend their entire life savings, sell their homesteads and cash in their life insurance to pay for their care before they can qualify for Medicaid or Veterans' benefits. Many people are not aware that Medicaid will only pay for an individual's nursing home care once someone has exhausted all other resources.

With proper planning you can put in place a plan to protect and shelter some of your hard-earned assets. A certified Elder Law attorney can assist families with these issues and guide them through the process.

One of the planning techniques utilized by Elder Law attorneys is to have families preplan for their burial and funeral expenses using the Catholic Funeral Plan™. The Plan allows families to make decisions about their funeral and burial arrangements, and set aside money for these expenses without jeopardizing their eligibility for Medicaid. Not only will this shelter these funds from being used for nursing home care, but it will assure that their funeral and burial arrangements will be carried out according to their wishes, without creating a financial or emotional burden on their surviving family.

A major benefit of the Plan is the flexibility that it affords. Families enrolled are under no contractual obligation to use any particular funeral home, and they

are free to change any of their funeral preferences, including the funeral home, without penalty. The Plan can be used at any funeral home in the United States. Another important benefit of the Catholic Funeral Plan™ is that the family maintains control of the disposition of the funds at the time of death, not the funeral home. A designated family member is selected to be in charge, and the funeral home is paid only when the services are delivered as promised. All funds in excess of the funeral costs are returned to the family of the deceased.

The Catholic Funeral Plan™ was instituted over 15 years ago to provide Catholic families with a faith-based alternative for planning their funerals. It has proven to be not only an effective way of avoiding the short comings of a typical funeral arrangement process, but it is an effective planning tool for those entering a nursing home, and eventually applying for Medicaid and Veterans' benefits.

For more information on The Catholic Funeral Plan™, and a list of certified Elder Law attorneys call 1-877-866-7526 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
4772 Campbells Run Road
Robinson Township, PA 15108
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

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