

2007

## 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.*

## REFLECTIONS ON A Journey of Faith

by Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley, D.D.



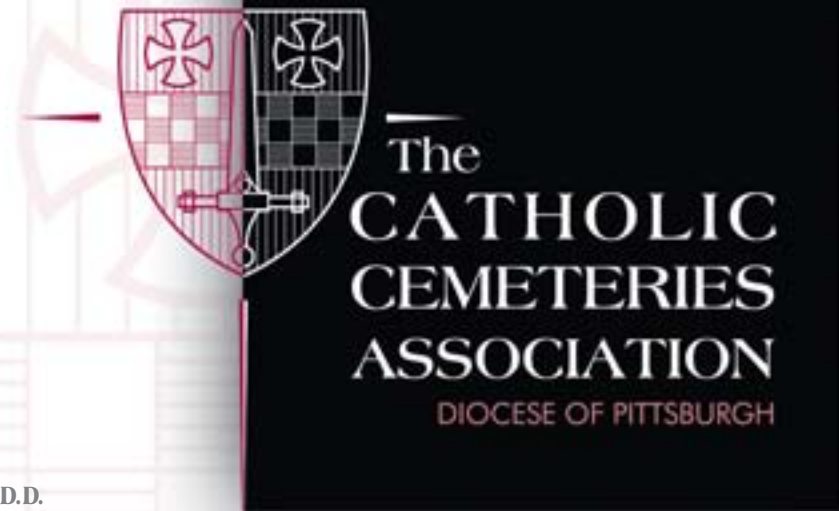
A few months ago, I had the privilege of accompanying my oldest sister, Sister Roberta Bradley, C.D.P., a Sister of Divine Providence, on her final journey from this life to eternal life—the result of a malignant and inoperable/untreatable brain tumor that ravaged her body in the 26 days from diagnosis to death. There is truly a void that has been created by her death, and I've come to realize that it will not be filled, for she, like each of us, held a unique place in God's eternal plan. And yet, the hearts of all who knew her are filled to the brim with gratitude that she was a part of our lives.

When illness, suffering and death come into our lives, human nature tends to rail and rage against them. In our humanness we tend to cling to an irrational conviction that we should be spared such experiences when, in fact, they are sure to come to us all in one way or another. The frailty and finiteness of our mortal bodies are an inescapable dimension of our humanness. However the power and wonder of our faith in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ, and our share in the effects of His suffering, death and resurrection, assure all believers that it is through our suffering and even our dying that we will share in the rising that brings us into the fullness of God's presence.

While the reality of our mortal nature looms in the distance throughout our lives, it is a profound experience when we must confront its nearness. When Sr. Roberta received her grim diagnosis on December 4th, she was shocked and shaken, as all of us were. Yet she accepted it as she had accepted everything else in her 66 years of life, with absolute trust in God. While she never questioned, "Why me?" or in any way expressed anger or resentment, she did struggle to grasp the immensity of what this all meant.

It had been just a little over three months before that Sr. Roberta, along with her nine "classmates," celebrated her Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession. In the very same Motherhouse chapel where we celebrated her Funeral Liturgy, Sr. Roberta's family came together with other family and community members to celebrate 50 years of religious life. In doing so, we all collectively looked back to 1956 when those young, teenage girls, made their initial commitment to live their lives as vowed, committed, and professed religious women, willingly taking upon themselves the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and to live the rest of their lives with absolute trust in the Love of our Provident God.

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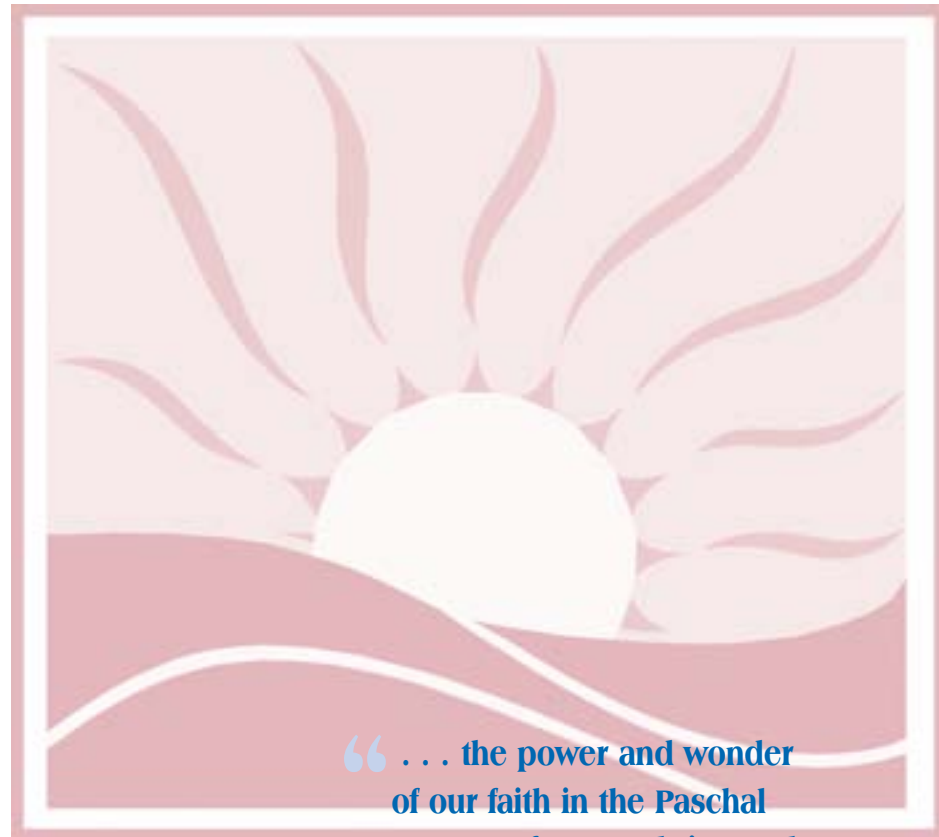
Journey of Faith (continued)

Through every moment of those 50 years, Sr. Roberta lived her vows not only faithfully, but with great joy and in a spirit of generous and gracious love for every person she met. From her days as a teacher in a number of our Catholic schools, to her days as a principal, to her service in administration with her community, to her final ministry of co-directing the Motherhouse and caring for the infirm and retired Sisters, she did everything with a genuine love for Christ.

As Sr. Roberta adjusted to the shock of the devastating diagnosis, she quickly demonstrated what it means to be a person of faith. She took up her cross and allowed God to transform and strengthen her throughout her 26-day "Way of the Cross." And in the process, all of Sr. Roberta's close family members and dear friends, including her Sisters in community life, who walked that Way of the Cross with her, were also transformed and strengthened.

As both her blood family and her religious community family spoke with Sr. Roberta in those final weeks about what was unfolding, her typical response was, "We'll have to see what the plan is"—God's Plan, to which she was willing to submit her will and intellect, her very life. Her most frequent statement was, "It will be OK," powerfully reminiscent of our Blessed Mother's fiat, "Let it be done to me as you say."

All who shared Sr. Roberta's final weeks were immersed in the Paschal Mystery, the journey through death to life. It is a journey we all must make. But because we are people of faith, we know that death is not merely a sad departure with a crushing finality. It is a portal, a doorway, to eternal life, and (as St. Bonaventure writes so beautifully), Jesus Christ IS the doorway. As challenging as the journey may be, we are confident, as Sr. Roberta was, that everything "will be OK," that we will arrive safely at our destination to experience God face to face, an experience beyond our imagination, an encounter that is, I'm convinced, the reason why at the very



**“ . . . the power and wonder of our faith in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ, and our share in the effects of His suffering, death and resurrection, assure all believers that it is through our suffering and even our dying that we will share in the rising that brings us into the fullness of God's presence. ”**

moment that Sr. Roberta breathed her last, she smiled radiantly as she allowed herself to enter into the loving embrace of her Lord Jesus, "as a bride adorned to meet her husband" (Revelation 21: 3) Who came to take her to be with Him forever. Faith fulfilled. The Paschal Mystery in its fullness.

May all our loved ones who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, find eternal rest in the peace of Christ.



## THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL PLAN™ . . . Making a Difference

Thousands of Catholics have enrolled in the Catholic Funeral Plan™ (CFP) since it was first introduced more than eight years ago. One of the primary reasons the plan has been so well received is because of the peace of mind it brings to those who are protected by it. They are assured that not only will their preference for a funeral and burial in the Catholic tradition be permanently recorded, but also that these wishes will be communicated to their loved ones at the time of their death.

For many it is unimaginable that they would have anything but a Catholic funeral and burial. After all, the Church has always been an integral part of their lives. Certainly their funeral and burial will incorporate the rich traditions of the faith they have lived. Sadly, this is not always the case and it is becoming a more common trend.

Today families are often scattered across the country. Everyone is busier than ever and the demands on families are endless. As these demands continue to grow, the importance of the Church and the practices of the faith are often diminished. As a result it is becoming much more common that family members in these second, third and fourth generations are not providing a funeral that is consistent with the faith their loved ones have practiced throughout their lives.

Our parish priests are keenly aware of this unfortunate trend. At a recent meeting of a number of diocesan priests with representatives from the CFP, Father Jack Batykefer, pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Canonsburg, voiced his frustration with this growing trend.

*“So many times, the surviving family members do not know how to, or would rather not contact the parish of their loved ones; and the intended Rite of Christian Burial is not given. I believe that the issue is often times the lack of knowledge, or information, concerning the faithful departed's wishes and not an actual disrespect for them.”*

*“In a day and age when so many of our younger generation are not practicing their Catholic faith or have left the church completely, I feel it is important that there is some sort of 'safety net' that would help to*

*assure that the funeral arrangements made for their loved ones, who lived and practiced their faith, might be followed according to their wishes.*

*“The Catholic Funeral Plan may be the answer to this growing problem.”*

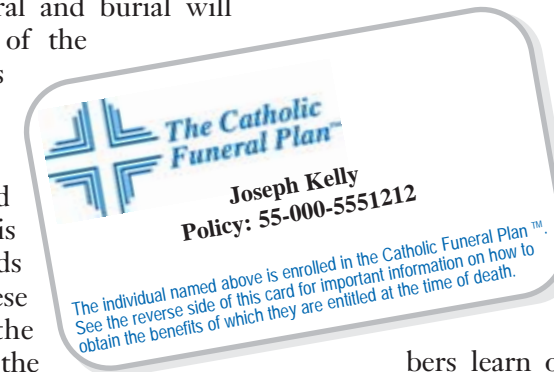
Fortunately the Catholic Funeral Plan™ provides a funeral planning alternative that has the traditions of the Church as its focus. The plan is able to counter these unfortunate trends by assuring those who are enrolled in the plan that their preference for a Catholic Funeral will be communicated to their surviving family members before they meet with the funeral director to finalize the funeral arrangements.

Everyone who is enrolled in the plan receives an ID card with instructions to call the CFP office as soon as a death has occurred. Extra copies of the ID card are also provided for distribution to the family members who will be handling the funeral arrangements at the time of death.

As soon as these family members learn of their loved one's death, they have immediate access to the information they need.

This approach has made a big difference. A recent independent market study performed by Campos Market Research polled the surviving families of those who had the CFP in place at the time of their death. This study found that nearly 90% of those with the CFP in place had a Funeral Mass, and all of the funerals for those enrolled in the CFP were carried out as planned with no significant changes. The Catholic Funeral Plan™ works because those who have enrolled have recorded their preference for a funeral in the Catholic tradition, and those wishes have also been communicated to the family members responsible for making their final arrangements.

For more information about the Catholic Funeral Plan™ either call 1-877-886-7526 or ask one of the representatives in your local diocesan cemetery office.



*“ . . . I believe that the issue is often times the lack of knowledge, or information, concerning the faithful departed's wishes and not an actual disrespect for them.”*



## DEVELOPMENT Projects

This past year was a busy one for new development at The Catholic Cemeteries Association. Many new projects were in various stages of development within the diocesan cemetery properties, some of which are listed below.

- The new **Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel Mausoleum** located in Calvary Cemetery, Hazelwood, is nearing completion. Stop in the office and ask for a tour of this beautiful new chapel mausoleum!
- **Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum** located in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, McMurray, is ahead of the construction schedule thanks to warm weather through early winter.
- This past Veteran's Day, Bishop Paul Bradley dedicated the new Veteran's Section and beautiful Veteran's Memorial located in Queen of Heaven Cemetery in McMurray. The memorial is 40 feet long and is constructed of polished black granite surrounded by a promenade of granite pavers and benches. The theme is **Family, Faith and Country** and it honors veterans of all conflicts.
- Extensive upgrades to the landscaping in all diocesan cemetery properties goes on all summer long. Shrub and flower beds are installed where possible, and are expertly maintained throughout the growing season.

Following is an update on our current mausoleum projects.



Holy Angels Chapel Mausoleum

Located in Resurrection Cemetery, Moon Township, Holy Angels Chapel Mausoleum was completed in 2002 and dedicated by Bishop Donald W. Wuerl on August 20, 2002. There are 2,607 spaces, including indoor chapel crypts and outdoor patio crypts. A beautiful stained glass window graces the chapel.



Blessed Virgin Mary Garden Mausoleum

The Blessed Virgin Mary Garden Mausoleum in All Saints Cemetery, Braddock Hills, was blessed on April 6, 2003. Together with a twin building dedicated to the Sacred Heart, these projects provided 796 new crypts at this cemetery. A new garden mausoleum building has just recently been opened for sale.



St. Matthew Garden Mausoleum

Bishop William Winter blessed this newest mausoleum on October 2, 2004. The mausoleum includes 384 garden crypts and 96 niches for cremated remains. The building is located in a beautiful garden setting.



Holy Savior Chapel Mausoleum

Construction was completed in October 2005 on this new chapel mausoleum in Holy Savior Cemetery, Richland Township. Former Auxiliary Bishop David Zubik dedicated it on November 26, 2005 in honor of American saints. A beautiful stained glass window of Christ our Savior adorns the chapel.



Holy Family Chapel Mausoleum

Holy Family Chapel mausoleum, located in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Shaler Township, consists of 690 crypts. It was dedicated in March of 2003. A stained glass window has been installed depicting the life of the Holy Family. This beautiful space provides a fitting environment for committal services at the cemetery.



Mary, Mother of Christ Chapel Mausoleum

Mary, Mother of Christ Chapel Mausoleum, St. Joseph Cemetery, North Versailles, is currently being offered to Catholic families on a pre-construction basis. It will include a beautiful chapel and a total of 1,944 crypts.



Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum

Construction is well underway on the new Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum to be built at Queen of Heaven Diocesan Cemetery in Peters Township. The chapel mausoleum will consist of two phases providing 3,548 interior chapel crypts, exterior garden atriums and niches for cremated remains.



Our Lady of Hope Chapel Mausoleum

Our Lady of Hope Chapel Mausoleum will be located in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Tarentum. Currently in the pre-construction phase, the proposed design will contain an impressive chapel and 679 crypt spaces when completed.



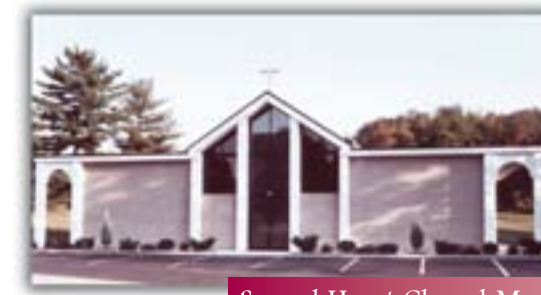
Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel Mausoleum

Construction on this beautiful mausoleum building located in Calvary Cemetery, Hazelwood is quickly nearing completion. Dedication is scheduled for the summer of 2007. There are 6,300 crypts in the three story building. A two story chapel with a soaring atrium is the centerpiece of this building.



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 chapel promotes an environment for prayer for the deceased entombed there.



Sacred Heart Chapel Mausoleum

This chapel mausoleum, is located just inside the entrance to Sacred Heart Diocesan Cemetery, Monongahela, and consists of a total of 684 chapel and garden crypts. Much of the inventory in this mausoleum has been selected. Phase II is scheduled to open for sale in the near future.



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT Customer Service — No Small Task

Pictured on your right are the Customer Service Coordinators for Calvary Cemetery, Carolyn Baker and Marg Granata.

Marg Granata has been working for The Catholic Cemeteries Association for 19 years. Marg will be celebrating 20 years with us on August 13. She began working as an Office Administrator at our Mt. Carmel Catholic Cemetery for the first year and a half, then she was transferred to Calvary Cemetery.

Carolyn Baker has been an employee of The Catholic Cemeteries Association since 1997. Carolyn also began her employment with us at Mt. Carmel Catholic Cemetery as an Office Administrator for 5 years and then was transferred to Calvary Cemetery.

The Customer Service Coordinators have very important responsibilities at The Catholic Cemeteries Association. The ladies administer multiple tasks daily — they ensure that all members of the cemetery staff are in constant communication

about the daily activities of the cemetery, and they also process all of the paperwork that flows through the office and ensure that it is accurate.



Carolyn Baker and Marg Granata

Additional daily tasks include processing memorial orders for families, foundation orders for the field staff, sales agreements, payroll, vouchering bills to Accounting and maintaining inventories for various items at the cemetery.

In a cemetery as large and as active as Calvary Cemetery, this is no small task! Calvary Cemetery services 900 interments and entombments annually and

is the largest of the diocesan cemeteries. Our Customer Service Coordinators really do hold it all together!

*Thank you ladies!*

## CUSTOMER SERVICE Personified!

CCA employee Ann Traeger poses with a beautiful bouquet of flowers sent to thank her for the special help she gave to a family who wanted to design a very unique and personalized memorial for the gravesite of the son they lost to cancer. Counselor Joe Gazarek met with the family to select the type of memorial they wanted, and Ann, after many exchanges of photos and e-mails with the family, helped them complete the custom design. After seeing the completed memorial, they sent the beautiful flowers as a thank you.



CCA employee, Ann Traeger

*"... seeing the completed memorial, they sent the beautiful flowers as a thank you."*



## MEMORIAL DAY RAFFLE Grand Prize Certificate

Standing in front of the Good Shepherd Cemetery sign are, from left to right, Daniel E. Gribble, Sales Manager for St. Joseph & Good Shepherd Cemeteries, Jim and Kathy Kapp, grand prize winners and Annabelle McGannon, Executive Director of The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The Kapp's are accepting the grand prize certificate that they won as part of the Memorial Day raffle. The Kapp's had picked up the raffle form at St Joseph Cemetery, North Versailles, on memorial day weekend while visiting the plots of Jim's deceased parents and paternal grandparents. The grand prize consists of two burial plots, two vaults and an engraved marker at any one of the 15 diocesan cemetery locations. The current market value of the award is valued at \$7,075.00. The Kapps chose Good Shepherd Cemetery because it is in Monroeville and they are Monroeville residents.

Jim is employed by UPMC Presbyterian and Kathy by Bob Evans Farms, Inc. The Kapp's wish to thank Dan and Annabelle and all those involved for this wonderful prize.



L to R: Daniel E. Gribble, Jim & Kathy Kapp, Annabelle McGannon

## THE OWNER'S RIGHT OF BURIAL Did You Know?

One does not "own" graves or crypts in the same manner in which one owns real estate. Those who acquire grave or crypt spaces acquire an easement or right to use those spaces for the interment of human remains, but they do not actually acquire ownership of the physical property.

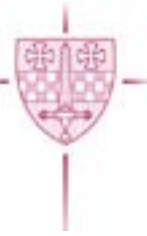
The one to whom the easement has been granted (the "owner") has the right to do a number of things related to the burial space(s):

- The owner of the easement can direct who may be buried in the space(s) and who may not. No one can use the space(s) without the easement owner's permission.
- The owner can allocate individual grave or crypt spaces to specific people. If the owner dies without making a specific assignment for all the spaces, it can create confusion and problems in the family for future burials.
- The owner can transfer their right of burial to another family member or to any other person as long as they are eligible to be buried in a Catholic cemetery.

It is important to keep in mind that cemetery easements do not pass automatically as part of a deceased person's estate. Owners must specifically bequeath the right of burial to another person by "specific devise" in the Will, that is, in writing, specifically identifying the location of the cemetery property to be bequeathed. If no such specific devise is mentioned, then all blood heirs of the deceased owner have an equal right to use the cemetery property in order of need. The spouses of these heirs, however, do not have an inherent right of burial; they must receive written permission for burial either from the owner during his or her lifetime, or from the blood heirs of the owner after the original owner's death.

If you own multiple spaces for in-ground burial or crypts for above ground entombment, we strongly encourage you to file a written assignment for the use of those spaces with the cemetery office.

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



## CONVERSION OF FORMER WORSHIP SITE A First

In what might be a one-of-a-kind project anywhere in the country, The Catholic Cemeteries Association will convert the former St. Mary Church building, located in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh, into a chapel mausoleum. The church building became part of the newly established Our Lady of the Angels Parish in October of 1993. The newly formed parish ceased using the church building as a worship site in 2004. The building is directly next to St. Mary Diocesan Cemetery, next to the former St. Francis Hospital site, and the new Children's Hospital location.

Under Canon Law, both a place of worship (our churches) and a place where the faithful are buried (our cemeteries and/or mausoleums) are designated as "sacred." Because the former church building will be converted into a place for the burial of the faithful, it remains a sacred place.

The exterior of the building will remain very much the same, but the interior will undergo major renovations in its conversion to a chapel mausoleum. Many of the existing features within the former church building will be saved, such as the beautiful stained glass windows, the former sanctuary and a side chapel.

Parishioners of Our Lady of the Angels Parish will have a unique opportunity to be laid to rest within the same beautiful structure in which many were baptized, received Holy Communion, Confirmation



**Former St. Mary Church, Lawrenceville  
to become a chapel mausoleum**

and were married. We are not aware of another unique opportunity like this anywhere. Many other families, not members of the local parish, but who have family buried in St. Mary Cemetery, also look forward to the opportunity to be owners in the new mausoleum. *To receive more information on this unique mausoleum project, call our toll-free number at 877-886-7526.*



the diocesan cemeteries. Don't forget to fill out your survey this year — *you never know what good things could come your way!*

## TEN WINNERS "Fill Up" Courtesy of CCA

Over the 2006 Memorial Day weekend ten families who visited our diocesan cemeteries won a \$100 gift card for gasoline compliments of The Catholic Cemeteries Association.

The cards were our way of saying "Thank you!" for coming and for participating in our annual survey, which gives us important feedback about our programs and the condition of

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION**

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