

2008

## 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.*

## PLACES OF REST AND WORSHIP Our Catholic Cemeteries

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

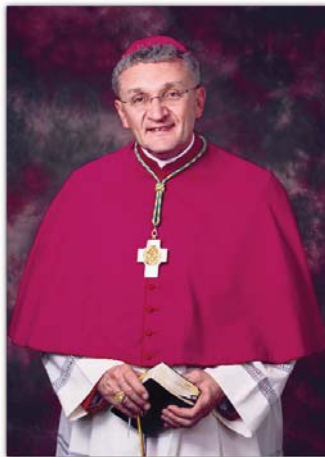
The  
**CATHOLIC  
CEMETERIES  
ASSOCIATION**  
DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

My dear friends in Christ,

If you are reading this newsletter, it is likely that you have benefitted from the ministry of The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh (CCA). Perhaps you have stopped in to the office of one of our 16 diocesan cemeteries to inquire about purchasing a plot or crypt for your future needs. Or maybe you are trying to find the resting place of a loved one who died many years ago. Or, sadly, you may have come into make final arrangements for a loved one who has died.

Whatever the reason might be that you have come across this newsletter, you are witnessing one of the great Corporal Works of Mercy carried out by our Church—the burial of the dead. But while the ministry of our Catholic Cemeteries Association includes that essential action of our faith, its mission is comprised of so much more.

Certainly the burial or entombment of the deceased is the central responsibility carried out by all who work for the CCA. They do so with great reverence and respect, both for the deceased and for the surviving family members. But the ministry of the CCA



extends long beyond the day of the funeral. It includes the perpetual care of our cemeteries, so that the resting places of our loved ones reflect the honor we give to their sacred remains. Just as our churches are the places where the faithful worship together in life, so our Catholic cemeteries are the places where the earthly remains of the faithful await together the return of Christ in glory on the last day. The

appearance of our cemeteries must always be a reflection of the sacred truths that they proclaim.

These places of rest, prayer and worship are such powerful symbols of our Church, of what it means to be Catholic. They proclaim our belief in Christ and our steadfast hope in His promises—His return in glory, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. All who work for The Catholic Cemeteries Association are caretakers of those profound truths of our faith. For that reason, the mission of the CCA also includes the preservation, promotion and defense of our Catholic burial traditions.

Throughout our diocesan cemeteries, there are many inspiring symbols of our faith—statuary of the Lord Jesus, His Blessed Mother and the saints; stunning

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Our Catholic Cemeteries (continued)

stained glass windows and mosaics in our mausolea; and reminders on every monument that this is a place where people of faith rest. Our Catholic cemeteries are holy ground, and one can't help but feel the loving presence of God when we pass through those gates. Each time I visit my mother's crypt at Holy Savior Catholic Cemetery, I feel not only her presence but the embrace of God as well, an eternal embrace that bridges the "veil" between this life and the next and enfolds both my mother and me.

Each time you come to one of our Catholic cemeteries, may it be for you a time of spiritual renewal, a time when we recognize the great truths of our faith and take comfort from the profound realization that, as Saint Paul says, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus"—not even death. God bless you.

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



“ Each time I visit my mother's crypt at Holy Savior Catholic Cemetery, I feel not only her presence but the embrace of God as well, an eternal embrace that bridges the “veil” between this life and the next and enfolds both my mother and me. ”

## A TRADITION OF MORE THAN 55 YEARS

### Did You Know?

The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh was incorporated in 1952 by then Bishop John Dearden to assist the diocesan bishop with his canonical responsibility to provide sacred resting places for the faithful. The Catholic Cemeteries Association is a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation that owns and operates the 16 diocesan cemetery properties. In our diocese we also have 116 parish cemeteries, which are owned and operated by the parish to which they are attached.

The combined activity of both the diocesan and parish cemeteries is approximately 7,500+ interments and entombments per year. We are one of the largest Catholic cemetery systems in the country serving the burial needs of the 750,000 Catholics in this region.

The diocesan cemetery properties located throughout Allegheny and Washington counties consists of 800 developed acres and approximately 300 acres available for future development.



## THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL PLAN™ ADVANTAGE

# Protecting Families & Their Traditions

For nearly ten years Catholic families in the Diocese of Pittsburgh have utilized the Catholic Funeral Plan™ as a way to provide for a funeral in the traditions of our faith. The plan provides those who are enrolled with 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 Catholic Funeral Plan™ plan was developed as a practical funeral planning alternative, intended to preserve, promote and protect Catholic funeral and burial traditions. In addition to accomplishing these objectives it has also proven very effective at overcoming the shortcomings inherent with traditional funeral pre-arrangements.

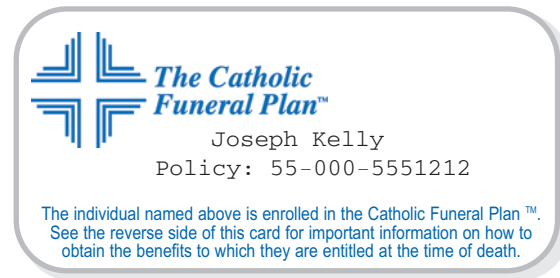
An article appearing in the January/February 2008 issue of *AARP The Magazine* highlighted the potential problems and disadvantages of traditional funeral planning and it also provided some recommendations to its readers on how to avoid these shortcomings.<sup>1</sup>

For example, AARP advises against entering into pre-need contracts. With a pre-need contract there may be prohibitions against or penalties assessed for switching funeral homes or for making other plan changes. Families enrolled in the Catholic Funeral Plan™ are under no contractual obligation to use any particular funeral home and they are free to change any of their preferences, including the funeral home, at any time with no penalty. Traditional pre-arrangement plans do not afford this flexibility.

Another area of concern that AARP raises deals with the financial component of funeral pre-arrangements. With traditional pre-arrangements, the family's funds are turned over to the control of the funeral home. In most cases, families do not know if the funds they have turned over to the funeral home have been properly placed in trust. They do not know where or how they have been invested. They do not know how they have grown or what their precise value is at the time of death.

If a funeral home uses life insurance for their funding approach the funeral home will often be named as the owner and/or assignee of the policy, and then has complete control over all the funds at the time of death.

With the Catholic Funeral Plan™ the family is in complete control of their funds at all times. Those who enroll themselves or their loved ones in the Catholic Funeral Plan™ are the owners of the policies they have purchased through the plan. They also name the beneficiary of the policy, who is usually a family member or other loved one. If needed, the owner of the policy can also irrevocably assign the policy in order to qualify for coverage under Medicaid.



The policy owner can verify the policy value at any time and the named beneficiary will also know the full value of the policy at the time of death. When death occurs the Catholic Funeral Plan™ serves the family as an independent third-party and oversees the distribution of the death benefits. The funeral home is paid only for the services and merchandise that have been provided according to the wishes of the deceased, and any excess death benefit is always paid to the named beneficiary. This is not always the case with traditional pre-arrangements, where fund values that exceed the cost of the funeral can often be retained by the provider in whole or in part, rather than being distributed back to the family.

The Catholic Funeral Plan™ provides Catholic families with an excellent alternative to traditional funeral home pre-arrangements. With this plan Catholic families have more control and flexibility over the arrangements and they avoid the pit falls identified by AARP.

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.

Reference:1. Yeoman, B 2008 'R.I.P. Off, A Funeral Industry Scandal That's Fleecing Thousands of Americans', *AARP The Magazine*, January/February 2008, pp. 44-47, 84, 86-87





## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS We're Growing!

The Catholic Cemeteries Association is responsible for insuring that there is adequate in-ground and above ground (mausoleum) inventory available in our diocesan cemeteries to meet the needs of Catholic families all over the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This past year many new projects were underway which significantly enhance the options available.

- A new in-ground burial section was designed and opened for sale at **Holy Savior Catholic Cemetery** – the newest diocesan cemetery located in Pine and Richland Townships. The section provides the cemetery with 320 new gravesites contained in a beautiful garden section.
- A new in-ground burial section is under development at **Christ Our Redeemer (North Side Catholic) Cemetery** in Ross Township. The final design will provide an additional 3000+ gravesites for selection by families.
- Our **Lady of the Rosary Chapel Mausoleum** located in Calvary Cemetery, Pittsburgh, was completed in 2007 and is now fully operational, providing the cemetery 6,300 new entombment spaces for use by the faithful.
- **Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum** is nearing completion at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in McMurray, PA. The new mausoleum is scheduled for dedication on the Feast of All Souls, November 2, 2008. Bishop David A. Zubik will preside over the dedication of this beautiful building.
- **Mary, Mother of Christ Chapel Mausoleum** is currently under construction at St. Joseph Cemetery, North Versailles. The site development is almost complete to be followed immediately by construction of the new building. The project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2010.

*Following is an update on our newest mausoleum projects.*



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.

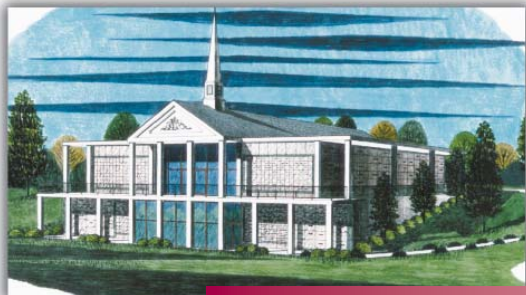


Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum

Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum is quickly nearing completion. The building consists of approximately 3,550 crypt spaces including indoor chapel crypts, outdoor patio crypts and new outdoor atrium crypts. Dedication is scheduled for November 2, 2008 - the Feast of All Souls. Bishop David A. Zubik will preside. Please see feature article on pg. 8.

leum

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 will be dedicated here in 2008.



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 is situated in Frazier Township and serves the needs of Catholic families in both Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties.

eum

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.



Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel Mausoleum

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel Mausoleum was completed during the past year 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.

leum

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.



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.

apel Mausoleum

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 is waiting for approval.



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.

n Mausoleum





## IN THE SPOTLIGHT Excellence in Customer Service

All Saints Cemetery was originally known as Saint Joseph and Saint Thomas parish cemeteries with the first interment occurring in 1883. The two cemeteries were later incorporated into Braddock Catholic Cemetery in 1911 and then eventually became part of the diocesan cemeteries system. The fifty eight acre cemetery was later renamed “All Saints” by former Bishop Donald Wuerl.

The present grounds crew has over 118 years of combined service and experience with The Catholic Cemeteries Association. In recognition of the outstanding team effort on the part of the field crew (right), the Customer Service Coordinator, Ann Moore and the counseling staff, the cemetery received the prestigious Excellence in Customer Service Award in 2007 which acknowledges extraordinary customer service, team work and pride in their cemetery location.

Congratulations to the entire service team at All Saints Braddock Catholic Cemetery!



From left to right, Larn Alexander 24 years service, Mike Yezovich (Foreman) 35 years service, Bernie O’Hanlon 29 years service and Richard Yezovich 30 years service.

## A LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY Catholic Funeral Rites

What makes a funeral “Catholic”? In the following paragraphs we identify the three essential elements of a “Catholic” funeral service. These are the three “stations” or “stops” on the journey between the death of a Catholic and burial.

**The Vigil** for the Deceased is “the principal rite celebrated by the Christian community in the time following death and before the funeral liturgy.” (OCF, 54)\* In this gathering, “the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ’s presence.” (OCF, 56)\* This pause (or “station”) in the journey of bereavement often gathers the community at the funeral home – though the celebration may also take place at the family home or even on the property of the parish church.

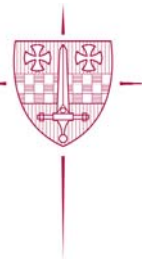
**The Funeral Liturgy** is “the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for



the deceased.” (OCF, 128)\* Whenever possible, this rite includes the celebration of the Mass. Sometimes, however, because of certain holy days or the particular circumstances of the family, the funeral will take the form of a liturgy of the Word outside of Mass. In either case, this gathering has a serious purpose, but it is also filled with the presence of Christ.

**The Rite of Committal** “is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member.” (OCF, 204)\* It is celebrated at the place of burial or entombment. With prayer and song and a brief scriptural reflection, the family and the community of faith let go of the earthly remains of the departed. The coffin (or the urn of cremated remains) is set with reverence in its final resting place – awaiting “the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” (*The Apostles Creed*)

(\*Order of Christian Funerals)



## MEMORIAL DAY RAFFLE Grand Prize Certificate

The employees of Sacred Heart Cemetery in Monongahela were proud to award local resident, Lawrence Serra, the grand prize certificate he won as part of The Catholic Cemeteries Association's Memorial Day drawing. While visiting the gravesites of family members during the Memorial Day weekend, Mr. Serra filled out the survey to enter the drawing. The grand prize consists of two burial plots, two vaults and a memorial, which can be used at any one of the 16 diocesan cemeteries. Mr. Serra is shown here accepting the certificate from, at left, Annabelle McGannon, executive director of The Catholic Cemeteries Association, along with Family Service Counselor Brenda Simon and Joseph Huber, director of family service for CCA.



L to R: Annabelle McGannon, Mr. Serra,  
Brenda Simon, Joseph Huber

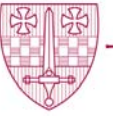
## CATHOLIC CEMETERIES A CUT "ABOVE" Did You Know?

Canon Law specifically identifies two places in this world as "sacred" – places where the faithful worship (our churches), and places where the faithful are buried (our Catholic cemeteries). (Canon 1205). Catholic cemeteries are specifically set aside by the Church for the burial of the faithful. They are places where the truths of our faith are reflected in the religious features and memorials, and in the solemn rituals that take place there.

Within the Catholic cemetery we find the resting places of those who expect to be raised up on the last day according to Christ's promise, and we find evidence everywhere of the same faith shared by those they have left behind. In a Catholic cemetery, those who worshipped together in life and participated in the sacramental life of the church now rest together awaiting the resurrection on the last day.

In a non-sectarian cemetery environment, we find only veiled references to the sacred and the promise of the life to come. Because people buried in a non-sectarian cemetery represent the beliefs of many different religious traditions, and also represent those with no religious beliefs at all, these cemetery operations must be careful not to offend the sensibilities of anyone. To the contrary, in the Catholic cemetery we see bold expressions of our belief in the resurrection of the body and eternal life. We go there to pray for those who have gone before us and to receive consolation from the signs of hope that surround us there.

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



## RISING ABOVE THE VETERANS SECTION Featured Project Update

Rising above the Veterans Section in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, McMurray, PA is the new *Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum* currently under construction. This is Phase I of a two phase project that, when complete, will add approximately 7,000 crypts to inventory at Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Phase I consists of 3,500 spaces including beautiful indoor chapel crypts, outdoor patio crypts, niches for cremated remains and outdoor atrium crypts complete with landscaped gardens and fountains. Above-ground entombment continues to be a very popular option throughout the diocesan cemetery system. *To receive more information on this and other mausoleum projects please call our toll-free number at 877-886-7526.*



**Mary, Mother of the Church Chapel Mausoleum  
Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery  
Peters Township**

**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 "FILL 'ER UP" Courtesy of CCA

In 2007, for the second Memorial Day weekend, ten families who visited our diocesan cemeteries won a \$100 gift card for gasoline, compliments of The Catholic Cemeteries Association.

The free gasoline is 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 the diocesan cemeter-

ies. Don't forget to fill out your survey this year. We have more gasoline to give away and — *you never know what good things could come your way!*

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION**

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