

# 2010

## 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.

## CATHOLIC CEMETERIES: Our Visual Aids

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

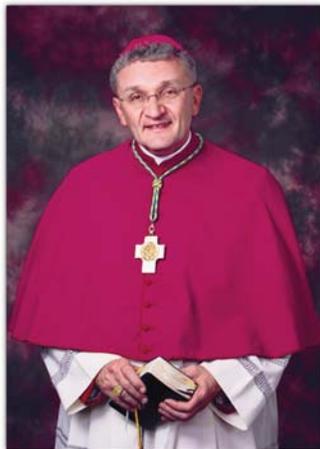
My dear friends in Christ,

Remember the term “visual aid” from your school days? It referred to a poster, a filmstrip or flash card (remember those?), or a movie, perhaps, that served as a reinforcement for whatever lesson was being taught. Since we all learn in different ways, some learn better by seeing a concept than by hearing about it. So for many of us, visual aids were valuable tools in the teaching and learning process. They still are.

Visual aids also have a place in our spiritual life. They help us to “see” what we believe, to conceptualize the truths of our Faith. It is the reason the Church uses statuary, stained glass windows, crucifixes, stations of the cross, and countless other “visual aids.” Those symbols point to the profound realities that they represent and they help to inform and inspire us.

Throughout our Catholic cemeteries, you will see many such visual aids—monuments, statues, stained glass windows, crosses, etc.—that remind us of what we believe in this life, and what our dear departed loved ones also believed. Those convictions are stated clearly in our Apostles’ Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son,



our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day, He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Everywhere you look in our Catholic cemeteries, you will see visual aids that remind you of these truths. It is one of the many things that set our Catholic cemeteries apart from all others. Take a minute to pause and reflect on those powerful symbols of our faith. Prayerfully recite the Apostles’ Creed. And feel the loving arms of our God embrace you, the same loving arms into which our deceased loved ones were welcomed at the hour of their death.

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

Your brother in Christ,

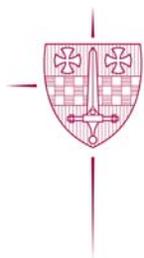
+ *David A. Zubik*

Most Reverend David A. Zubik

Bishop of Pittsburgh

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- + Memorial Day 2010, page 2
- + The Catholic Funeral Plan™, page 3
- + The Winter Storm of 2010, page 4
- + The Catholic Legacy Advantage<sup>SM</sup>, page 5
- + Mausoleum Project Updates, pages 4 & 6



2010 MEMORIAL DAY

# Flags, Faith, Family and Friends

## Press Release

For Immediate Release

April 14, 2010



CATHOLIC  
CEMETERY  
CONFERENCE

Memorial Day is about flags, faith, family, and friends. There is something awesome about seeing American flags fluttering over the graves of members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives in service of our country. With two wars being fought in Afghanistan and Iraq, there is not a day that goes by without our remembering the cost of our freedoms and our values. Men and women serving in the war zones deserve our respect, our support, and our prayers.

Each day at Mass, I cannot pray for the many needs that describe our lives in our communities, in our cities, in our nation, and around the world, until I have voiced a prayer for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. Praying for their safety and safe return is part of being a person of faith in times of great difficulty.

Memorial Day has evolved into a weekend for family and friends to gather together to enjoy the transition from spring into summer. The gatherings that weekend are times to share the sadness of illness and loss, and to share the joys of achievements for school children, couples planning weddings, and aging, that brings about anniversaries and birthdays.

Celebrating Memorial Day at a Catholic cemetery is truly a mixture of flags and wreaths and tributes and taps. Honoring all those buried in the cemetery is the focus of our Eucharistic celebrations and our voiced intercessions. Taking a little time from our lives to visit the cemetery and to remember the dead is what brings value and meaning to our gatherings with family and friends.

As we celebrate Memorial Day, 2010, may we experience the joy and peace that comes to all who believe in the lessons that those who have gone before us share with us, in life and in death.

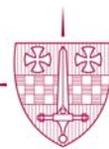
Memorial Day blessings!

Reverend Patrick J. Pollard, CCCE, is President of the Catholic Cemetery Conference, nationally based in Hillside, Illinois. He is the Director of Catholic Cemeteries, Archdiocese of Chicago, and serves as Pastor of Notre Dame de Chicago. Father Pollard also serves as a Board Member of the Priest's Retirement and Mutual Aid Association for retired priests, Archdiocese of Chicago.

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





# THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL PLAN™

## Safe, Sensible Funeral Planning

More than 10 years ago, the Diocese of Pittsburgh approved the use of the Catholic Funeral Plan™ to help Catholic families ensure that their funeral and burial arrangements are carried out in the Catholic tradition at the time of death. The Plan has been very successful in accomplishing this objective, and has also proven to be a safe and secure alternative for families wishing to plan their funerals in advance.

Recent local and national news coverage, including articles by the AARP have pointed out some of the pitfalls of the traditional funeral planning options now available to the consumer in the market place. In this article we discuss a few of these pitfalls and how the Catholic Funeral Plan™ protects them.

**Lack of Flexibility** One of the shortcomings of the traditional funeral planning process can be the lack of flexibility. Most pre-need plans require the customer to enter into a pre-need contract. In some cases these contracts are irrevocable. They also often contain prohibitions against or penalties for switching funeral homes or making other changes to your plan down the road. Both AARP and the Funeral Consumers Alliance advise against entering into pre-need funeral contracts for this reason.

Families enrolled in the Catholic Funeral Plan™ maintain total flexibility. Those 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 anywhere in the United States.

**Control of the Funds** A second pitfall of traditional funeral planning is that the family is typically not in control of the funds they have paid. In most of the plans, control of the funds is turned over to the funeral home. The family has little or no idea as to whether or not the funds have been properly placed in trust, how they are invested, how they have grown, and what their precise value is at the time of death. This can sometimes lead to problems at the time of death.

Families enrolled in the Catholic Funeral Plan™ maintain complete control of the funds they have paid into their Catholic Funeral Plan™. The individual who enrolled or a designated family member is the owner of the policy used to fund the Plan. They can name a beneficiary, irrevocably assign the policy to qualify for Medicaid, verify the value at any time,

and know the precise amount available at the time of death.

**Transparency** A third pitfall of traditional funeral planning identified by recent media investigations is the lack of transparency. Some of the questions that often arise with these plans include: What is included or covered under the plan? If merchandise originally selected is no longer available can other merchandise be substituted? Who decides? What is the precise value of the funds available for the funeral? How are these funds being secured and distributed at the time of death? What happens if the funds in the plan exceed the cost of the funeral? Who receives the excess funds?

Families enrolled in the Catholic Funeral Plan™ have the advantage of knowing that all the details of their funeral, including the precise amount of the funds available, are communicated to the person in charge of their funeral arrangements. The surviving loved ones know the exact amount available in the Plan and the exact preferences expressed by the deceased for their funeral.

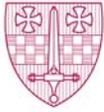
When a death occurs, the Catholic Funeral Plan™ serves the family as an independent advocate overseeing the claim process and the distribution of the death benefit. The funeral home is paid only for the services and merchandise provided in accordance with the wishes of the deceased. All excess death benefits are promptly paid to the beneficiary named by the person enrolled in the Plan.

Most families recognize the advantages of planning for their funeral in advance, but some have chosen not to do so because of the recent warnings. The Catholic Funeral Plan™ provides Catholic families with an alternative that addresses all of the concerns recently identified.

For more information about the Catholic Funeral Plan™ call 1-877-886-7526 or complete the attached reply card.



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



## 2010 WINTER SEASON WAS DIFFICULT FOR CEMETERIES

# Winter Storm Buries Diocesan Cemeteries!

On Saturday, February, 6, 2010, Pittsburgh and its surrounding communities experienced one of the largest snowfalls on record. The official snow accumulation for the weekend was 24 inches. The month of February totaled an accumulation of 48.7 inches. Since the temperatures stayed below freezing for most of the month this created great difficulty for The Catholic Cemeteries Association.



To respond to the crippling snowfall, we enacted an emergency plan on the morning of February 6th. All foreman and field employees were called into work immediately at their respective cemeteries to assist in snow removal. Every piece of equipment that could move snow was in use that weekend – backhoes, plow trucks, blowers, etc.

The snow was so heavy we were concerned that our snowplows may not be able to move, however, this did not deter our cemetery field employees who were determined to get the cemeteries opened for Monday morning funeral arrivals. As it happened, no funerals



als were able to get to the cemeteries on Monday due to the impassable conditions of the public roads, but the diocesan cemeteries were open. We also experienced power outages and interrupted phone service which added to the difficulties for our field and office staff. With very few exceptions, all of our employees made a heroic effort to get to work that Monday.

In-ground burials in 2 feet of snow presented extreme difficulties, but, except for a limited number of cases, we successfully completed all burials on the day they arrived or during that first week after the snow. Our foremen, field staff and administrative employees have many years of experience among them and they take their jobs very seriously. It was that experience and that dedication that allowed us to accomplish the near impossible that second week in February.

We want to publically thank all of our employees who went above and beyond the call during a most difficult time to ensure there was no break in service for the Catholic families we serve.

## ANOTHER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

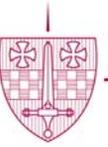
# Mary, Mother of Christ Chapel Mausoleum

Chapel mausoleum construction continues at Mary, Mother of Christ Chapel Mausoleum located in Saint Joseph Cemetery, North Versailles, PA. The project was under construction all winter and is proceeding on schedule. When completed, this beautiful building will contain a total of 2,070 crypts - both indoor chapel crypts and outdoor patio crypts and 320 niches for the inurnment of cremated remains. The chapel will feature a stunning stained glass window of Mary, Mother of Christ and the Christ Child. Bronze statues of the Blessed

Virgin will be installed in the two corridors adjacent to the chapel room. Two very large chandeliers will grace the front windows of the building. The chandeliers were originally installed in the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Bellevue, PA. They were removed and preserved when the church was recently renovated. We are fortunate to be able to preserve the rich heritage of our parish churches by recycling these beautiful fixtures and works of art whenever possible.

## 2009 MEMORIAL DAY RAFFLE Grand Prize Certificate

2010



Each Memorial Day weekend The Catholic Cemeteries Association sponsors a drawing for a pre-need cemetery package which is awarded to a lucky visitor to one of our diocesan cemetery properties. The names of everyone who completes the customer service survey is entered into the drawing for this valuable gift.

In 2009 the grand prize package was valued at \$8,675 and consisted of 2 graves spaces, 2 burial vaults and a bronze memorial. The lucky winners were Guy and Deborah Kensek of Sarver, PA. They visited Our Lady of Hope Diocesan Cemetery in Frazier Township and completed the survey which paid off in a very big way! Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Kensek!



Left to Right: Annabelle McGannon, Executive Director of The Catholic Cemeteries Association, Mr. Guy Kensek, grand prize winner, Mr. Kevin Costello, CCA Counselor and Mr. Joseph Huber, Director of Family Service.

## CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSN. OFFERS NEW BENEFIT! The Catholic Legacy Advantage<sup>SM</sup>

The Catholic Cemeteries Association is offering a new benefit designed to appeal to younger Catholic families who can benefit from affordable protection for their growing family. The program is known as the CATHOLIC LEGACY ADVANTAGE<sup>SM</sup> and it was launched in January of this year. The new program offers free membership and very valuable benefits to all who enroll in the plan. Anyone baptized in the Catholic faith is eligible to participate at any age.

The Catholic Legacy Advantage<sup>SM</sup> provides those who are not yet interested in the selection of burial property with a very convenient way to protect themselves and their families in the event of an unexpected loss. The valuable benefits accrued under the plan can be transferred to anyone designated by the enrollee in the event of a need.

As a baptized Catholic, you are a member of the Body of Christ, the Church. By establishing your burial legacy in the Catholic tradition, you are ensuring that your final arrangements bear witness to that reality. Additionally, the Catholic Legacy Advantage<sup>SM</sup> program protects you from rapidly increasing costs associated with funerals and burial. You can provide immediate, convenient and affordable protection for your loved ones in the Catholic tradition, and in the privacy of your own home without having to attend to all of the many details associated with final arrangements at this time in your life.

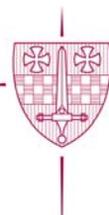
We all hope to live long and healthy lives, but we also live in an imperfect world, where serious illness or tragedy can occur without warning. You are performing a great act of love by making sure that your family has some protection for eventual needs.

It may not seem to matter very much right now, but in a time of need it will matter more than anything. The enrollment process is quick, easy and free! It can be an important way to reconnect with your Catholic roots. Whether you are currently a practicing Catholic or whether you have been away from the Church for a long time, the Catholic Legacy Advantage<sup>SM</sup> program ensures that a place is reserved for your use in a diocesan cemetery of your choice, and if, God forbid, you have an unexpected loss in your family, you will have protection to mitigate the financial and emotional trauma associated with such an event.

There is no need to meet with anyone or make any specific selections to start this protection. Simply visit our web site at [www.clapgh.org](http://www.clapgh.org), complete the enrollment form and the benefits and protection begin. One day you will be very glad you did.

**WWW.CLAPGH.ORG**  
**IT'S FREE & EASY!**

CATHOLIC  
Legacy Advantage<sup>SM</sup>



## OUR LADY OF HOPE SITE DEVELOPMENT

# Here we grow again!

The chapel mausoleum project at Our Lady of Hope Diocesan Cemetery in Frazier Township began in earnest as soon as the deep snow disappeared from the site. Groundbreaking took place last



fall and plan approvals and permitting took place over the winter months. Site development began in March and is nearly complete and the construction slab will follow in the near future. This new chapel mausoleum will contain 690 crypts and 256 niches for cremated remains. The front of the mausoleum

will be clad in natural fieldstone, in keeping with the rural setting of the cemetery. Skylights and a cathedral beam and deck ceiling complete the wedding of the building to its natural setting. The mausoleum will provide the cemetery with a much needed indoor receiving chapel for funerals arriving at the cemetery daily. Construction is expected to continue into next year with a dedication sometime in late fall or early winter of 2011.



**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 15044-8993  
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 15147-1518  
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  
412-831-3360

**Resurrection Catholic Cemetery**  
100 Resurrection Road  
Coraopolis, 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



## YOUR OPINION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US!

# May Madness Giveaway

In exchange for your participation in our very brief Spring Survey, your name will be entered into our drawing for a 40" flat screen LCD HD Television! \$100 gas cards will also be given away to 14 lucky winners!! The drawing will take place on June 23, 2010. The survey takes just a minute to complete and can pay off in a big way! Please return the completed survey in the large mail boxes at the cemetery gate or drop it in the mail. We will do the rest!

**THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION**

**718 Hazelwood Avenue  
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