

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE**

Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 1

Spring 1990

From the Bishop's Desk. . .

Our Catholic teaching has always presented the human body as the temple of the Holy Spirit and, accordingly, as an object of great reverence. Consequently, the Church has consistently concerned itself with regard for the body before and after death.

It is in this spirit that we believe it incumbent on us to provide cemeteries which best reflect that reverence both in their dignity and beauty. Our cemeteries must also provide our families with options for choosing the type of burial individuals would prefer such as upright or flush marker plots, columbarium and above ground facilities. We must reflect our religious nature not only by the statuary that is evident on our grounds but also by the services we offer to the living to help commemorate the dead.

We are ever mindful of the magnitude of our responsibility to care for the deceased members of the congregation interred in our cemeteries for perpetuity. Adequate trust funds have been established for this purpose. We also are very much aware of our responsibility to you, the families and friends of those who have died and are buried in our Catholic cemeteries. Masses are offered throughout the year in our cemetery chapels and field Masses are celebrated by the Bishops to honor those who have predeceased us on both Memorial Day and All Souls Day. Recently, the Stations of the Cross have been erected along the roadways in one of our Diocesan Cemeteries, not only to enhance the beauty and religious nature of these hallowed grounds, but also to provide our visitors with a peaceful atmosphere in which to contemplate.

We are now venturing into the world of communication with this, our first edition of a periodic newsletter. It is our hope to keep you informed about the new services we offer, the projects we plan, and respond to the many questions raised relating to burial rights.

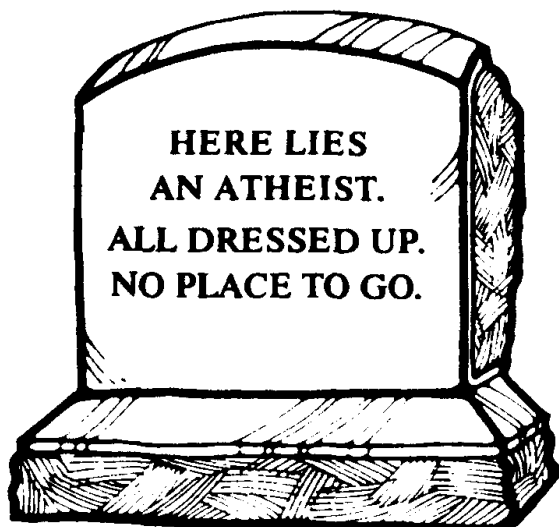
We welcome your comments.

Our Catholic Cemeteries

...have a history as old as the catacombs. Early in the development of our Catholic tradition, our forefathers in the Faith found the ministry of the dead to be most important. From the catacombs, where early Christians met secretly in prayer and entombed the mortal remains of the early martyrs, to today where the Diocesan Cemeteries serve the needs of the Catholics of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, our Catholic Cemeteries silently bear witness to the respect we give the human body, even in death, because of its status as Temple of the Holy Spirit. Our Catholic Cemeteries, with artistic expressions of our religious traditions, provide an environment of comfort in times of sorrow and are meant to continually remind us that Jesus Christ promised one day we would all be together in the Eternal Life of the Resurrection.

WHY CATHOLIC CEMETERIES?

Partly because of our heritage...
Partly because of our history...
Mostly because of our Faith...



Holy Rood Chapel Mausoleum Nears Completion

Visitors to Holy Rood Cemetery during the past two years could not have helped but notice the construction taking place immediately upon entering from Old Country Road. Happily, the last container loads of granite and marble have arrived from Italy, construction is winding down, and we're looking forward to completion in late spring.

This building is the largest project undertaken by the Catholic Cemetery office. This structure will contain 3200 crypts and a large chapel for the seating of 300 visitors. This will alleviate the overcrowding we presently experience at our Saturday morning Masses. As you enter the new chapel, you cannot help but notice the 25 foot high mosaic of the Cross and the Shroud. One of the largest mosaics of its kind, this feature reminds us both the suffering and redemption of the Cross and the hope for the Resurrection. There are also private chapels with mosaics dedicated to our Blessed Mother and to the Sacred Heart, and beautiful statuary, wood carvings and stained glass features throughout.

We invite you to visit the chapel upon its completion for a moment of quiet prayer and meditation. Those who are interested in purchasing entombment rights may inquire at the Cemetery office for further details.

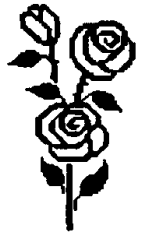
Many have asked...

Question: Who has the right to be buried in a Catholic Cemetery?

Answer: Since the family unit traditionally has been preserved even in death, non-Catholics may be buried in a Catholic Cemetery with Catholic family members.



What Spring Will Bring



Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury

Friday, April 13th

Visitors will gather in the chapel at 12 noon with Msgr. Daniel J. Potterton, as he prepares to bless and lead the prayers at each of the newly erected Stations of the Cross.

Friday, May 11th:

Projected completion for Holy Rood Chapel and Garden Mausoleum.

Monday, May 28th:

11 A.M. Memorial Day Field Mass to be celebrated by Bishop John R. McGann D.D.

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Coram

Monday, May 28th:

11 A.M. Memorial Day Field Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Emil A. Wcela S.S.L.

Queen of All Saints Cemetery, Central Islip

Monday, May 28th:

12 noon Memorial Day Field Mass to be celebrated by Bishop James J. Daly V.G., joined by the Priests of St. John of God Parish Cemetery.

Another winter is behind us, and although we were spared the heavy snow accumulations, a quick look around the cemetery grounds will soon make it obvious that winter is never kind to cemetery operations. The problem occurs when over a thousand winter burials take place, resulting in approximately 5000 individual gravesites in need of repair. Add to that the problems caused by the necessity of heavy equipment riding over the grounds during the spring thaw, and one can see why the field crew must work overtime to get the grounds back into shape.

The first job they tackle is to rake the entire cemetery to remove winter debris and remnants of Christmas decorations. Next the grounds are aerated and fertilized, and limestone, crabgrass and weed pre-emergents are applied as necessary. Then hundreds of yards of topsoil are added, and seeding begins. Once the very hot weather arrives, it is frequently necessary to use sod, although our preference is to seed. Years of experience has shown that seed provides us with a much healthier lawn than sod does.

With the number of acres that must be maintained, we apologize for any delay in repairing individual gravesites. We try to complete this task by Memorial Day, although that is not always possible. We ask you to bear with us during this difficult time of our year and to be assured of the staff's efforts to properly maintain the cemeteries and repair damage caused by the ravages of winter as quickly as possible.

Holy Rood Cemetery
Old Country Road & Post Avenue
Westbury, N.Y. 11590
Tel: (516) 334-7990

Saturday Masses in the Chapel:

April 7	July 7
April 21	July 21
May 5	Aug. 4
May 19	Aug. 18
June 2	Sept. 8
June 16	Sept. 22

All Masses begin at 9:30 A.M.

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
3442 Route 112
Coram, N.Y. 11727
Tel: (516) 732-3460

Saturday Masses in the Chapel:

April 7	July 7
May 5	Aug. 4
June 2	Sept. 8

All Masses begin at 9:30 A.M.

Queen of All Saints Cemetery
115 Wheeler Road
Central Islip, N.Y. 11722
Tel: (516) 234-8297

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
P.O. BOX 182
WESTBURY, N.Y. 11590

INVITATION. . .

We would like to invite you to join with Monsignor Daniel J. Potterton for the blessing and praying of the Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 13th, 1990 (Good Friday). Gathering in the chapel of the Assumption Mausoleum at Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury at 12 noon, we will begin the journey along the roadways through the suffering and death of Christ.

We do hope you will join us.