



Sacred Places

Vol. 10 No. 2
Fall 1999

Lives Remembered

In each one of our three diocesan cemeteries, computerized kiosks have been installed to list the names of those interred in the cemeteries, provide locations of the gravesites and directions to the place of burial or entombment. These past few months have been spent bringing the information up-to-date. As with any technology, we are still striving to work the "bugs" out of the system to provide an easy, current interment directory system for all to use.

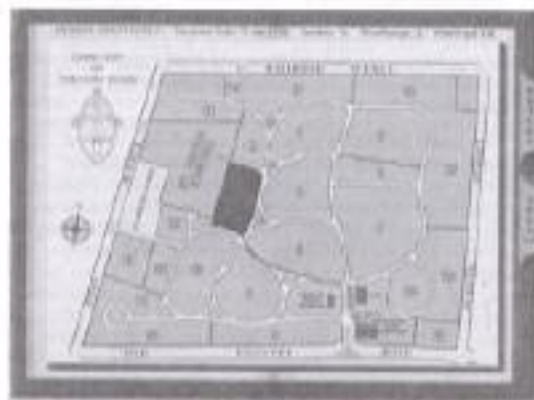
We are now ready to enter the second phase of information technology that the memorial kiosks provide. Besides being a place to visit and remember those who have gone before us, a cemetery is a place to memorialize their lives. A memorial celebrates life! It announces to the world that a life has been lived, and provides future generations with a permanent record of a family's heritage. The use of the computer enables us to provide an attractive format for so much more information than can be placed on a crypt cover or monument: places of birth, education, marriage dates, interests and hobbies, and even family trees and photographs. This information will be available any time the name is accessed on the computer screen. It will also automatically display the memorial on the anniversary of birth and death. The flexibility of multimedia technology provides your family with the opportunity to create a uniquely personal memorial.

There is a one-time setup and maintenance charge for the entering of the information into the memorial database. Once it is entered, it will remain for 10 years, at which time it can be renewed. A duplicate diskette, which may be viewed on your home computer, will also be provided at no additional cost.

Please call the cemetery office for information and price details. An information package will be mailed to you for your consideration.



A STANDARD MULTIMEDIA MEMORIAL INCLUDES ONE PHOTOGRAPH AND ONE PAGE OF TEXT SO THE MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE WILL BE REFLECTED WITH ELEGANCE.



THE KIOSK ALSO DISPLAYS A MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE BURIAL SITE.

The Lord will gather you in His arms and gently carry you.

From The Director's Desk

Recently I had occasion to be at the beach on a beautiful warm summer's day when swimming was restricted due to the force of the ocean currents. As I stood there, totally frustrated, listening to the pounding of the surf on the shore, my thoughts turned to God. I suddenly realized how minuscule my frustration was when compared to that which God must experience with humanity and the path so many have taken in defiance of His teachings. Consider the anger He must feel with just a few of today's happenings - the daily loss of what could be fruitful lives to the horror of abortion, to the ravages of unjust wars, to the senseless killing of the innocent on our streets and more recently even in our schools! And then there is the racism which is still so evident in our society, the immorality of many of our leaders and so often our lack of concern for those less fortunate than ourselves. But, does He turn His back on us? Does He punish us for our shortcomings? No, instead He continues to show His mercy and love to all! What a truly kind and loving Father He is.

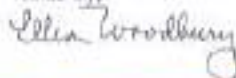
Almost 2000 years ago God sent His only son to live among us and show us the path to follow. As we enter the new millennium each of us has an opportunity to strive for a deeper understanding of the gospel message of Jesus and to live it more fully in our daily lives. We can stand up for what is right and just by making our voices heard, by helping our fellow man regardless of race or creed and, by the very example we set, encourage others to follow. In so doing, we will truly be walking along the path which Christ Himself prepared for us. Why not celebrate the new millennium and the wonderful opportunity it affords to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on each one of us and return some of the love He has so generously given!

With this in mind, I leave you to ponder the following:

Life is like a journey. We may be walking along a path with friends and then come upon a crossroad where we each must choose the road that is right for us individually. At times we may find ourselves walking a path alone, but somewhere along the road we find new friends to walk with, friends to love, friends to grow with, friends to share with.

The path of life has many crossroads, and at each one it's difficult to say goodbye and go our own separate ways, choosing the direction that is right for each of us. But the memory of being together will always remain, and there is always the chance that our paths will cross again as we follow in Christ's footsteps.

Sincerely,



Renew 2000 Prayer for the New Millennium

Gracious God, we are your people embraced by your love. We thank you for your presence with us throughout all time. As we celebrate the 2000 years since the birth of Jesus... Create us anew. Liberate us from that which keeps us from you. Enable us to recreate our world and restore justice. Heal us from every form of sin and violence. Transform us to live your Word more profoundly. Reconcile us so enemies become friends. Awaken us to the sacred; nurture our relationships; enliven our parishes; reunite our families. Fill us with joy to celebrate the fullness of life. Empower us to be a community of love growing in your likeness. Amen.

Candle Lighting Service

It has been said that a cemetery is for the living. Although it's true that a Catholic Cemetery is the final resting place of the mortal bodies that were temples of the Holy Spirit until the Lord comes in Glory, it is also a place where we, the living, come to remember those we love who have gone before us. It is a place where we come soon after the funeral, filled with sadness and loneliness. In time, however, we come to the cemetery as a place of comfort; we understand that those we love are safe and secure in a far better place, and find refuge in this understanding. We are also comforted in the simple act of remembering our loved ones, as the visit to the cemetery renews a bond we know can never be broken. The author Thornton Wilder expressed this feeling when he wrote:

"There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning."

On **Sunday, October 31st**, we will have an opportunity to remember, in a special way, those we love who have been interred in our Catholic Cemeteries. **Beginning at 1:00 P.M. at Holy Rood Cemetery**, the Diocesan Choir under the direction of Monsignor Ronald Hayde will preside over a ceremony of prayer, song and remembrance. All will participate in a candle lighting ceremony at which time those who died between **November 1, 1998**, and **October, 1999**, will be remembered by name. Last year we included all those buried in our Diocesan Cemeteries. This year, we will remember those who have died between November 1, 1998 and the month of October, 1999.

We invite all to attend... to *pray*... to *sing*... to *remember*.

(If you plan to attend, please contact the cemetery office [334-7990] no later than **Monday, October 25th**, with the name of the deceased who was interred after November 1, 1998, whom you wish to have remembered.)

Catholic Cemeteries on the Web

As technology advances, so must the world. The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre is no exception. More and more people are logging on to the Internet each and every day, affording many opportunities never before available. We are in the process of developing a website for our three Diocesan Cemeteries. Using your web browser, you can type in any of the following:

holyroodcemetery.org
holysepulchrecemetery.org
queenofallsaints.org

You will be directed to the Home Page of the Catholic Cemeteries. There, you will find information common to all three cemeteries (such as visiting hours) and general information about Catholic burial. By following the links to Holy Rood, Holy Sepulchre or Queen of All Saints, you can find information specific to those cemeteries (such as the schedule of Masses). We have decided that in order to quickly establish a presence on the Internet our site will be informational at first. As usage grows and time permits, we will offer our visitors access to more and more features. Please visit us at any of the above-listed sites, and send us an e-mail with your comments and suggestions.

Christmas Ornament Memorial Program

The Christmas Holiday season is not a happy one for everyone. If you are in the midst of grief, you may feel overwhelmed not only by your loss, but also by the expectations of others. There is an inherent need to remember those we have loved in a special way and, hopefully, we can provide you with such an opportunity.

At Holy Rood, Holy Sepulchre and Queen of All Saints Cemeteries, during the Saturday Mass on December 4th, family members will be invited to place an ornament on our Christmas tree in memory of their loved ones. You are invited to bring an ornament with you to be placed there during the offertory procession. Please remember that our Chapels are public places, so we recommend one that can be easily replaced, if necessary. The ornaments will remain on the tree throughout the Christmas season and can be picked up any day from January 1st through January 10th.

Holiday Decoration Program

The Catholic Cemeteries will continue to offer a holiday decoration program. For those families who have gravesites, the Christmas program affords the opportunity to purchase an evergreen blanket or pillow, while the Easter program offers a palm cross for placement on individual graves.

We will once again decorate the chapels in our mausoleums with poinsettias at Christmas and lilies at Easter. All families, especially those who have entombments in our crypts, are invited to purchase a plant in memory of a loved one. The name of the deceased will be listed in a memorial book placed in each of the chapels.

If you placed an order for our Christmas or Easter decoration programs in 1998, you will receive notification of this year's program through the mail. If you did not purchase last year and are interested in ordering for the coming season, you may fill out the coupon below and return it with your check to the address listed on the coupon.

Catholic Cemeteries P.O. Box 182 • Westbury, NY 11590-0182	
# Christmas	
Blankets @ \$40 = \$ _____	
Pillows @ \$25 = \$ _____	
Poinsettias @ \$20 = \$ _____	
# Easter	
Palm Crosses @ \$15 = \$ _____	
Easter Lilies @ \$20 = \$ _____	
Total Enclosed \$ _____	
Name _____	
Address _____	
Town _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Cemetery/Mausoleum _____	
Section _____ Range _____ Plct _____	
Corridor _____ Tier _____ Crypt# _____	
Name of deceased _____	

Surviving the Holidays

My grandmother was like royalty to us. She had the stature of the "Queen Mum" and led us with her regal presence.

When word came from her doctor that he wanted to see her right away, we were all in a stunned silence. As it turned out, Gram had a mild heart irritation requiring medication and a diet change. The doctor advised her to eat a banana a day. Bad news?

When Gram came out of the doctor's office she announced, "The doctor said I should have a banana split every day. Let's go to the ice cream stand." Off we went.

Grief is a lot like that, sometimes choosing banana splits, but more like facing each moment, each desour, each stretching of our sanity and awareness, each feeling (even feelings scrippled raw to a level of pain never experienced before), by giving them meaning, value and purpose as we choose for ourselves. We certainly don't need (and shouldn't embrace) people telling us what to do, when to be "over this", but opting to embrace those willing to walk along side, to listen a lot, to speak when we ask, and, as we struggle to find some measure of meaning and a measure of hope, to struggle with and for us.

The holidays and special days are much like that summoning that Gram experienced with her doctor. The holidays take what had been our pattern for coping, the points of meaning and hope where we can hang the "bits" (and ornaments) of our feelings and meanderings for at least a moment of peace and quiet.

These days can take anything that hints of sanity and good order, and leave us feeling like we are spinning aimlessly and hopelessly out of control.

Holidays like Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's, and special days like birthdays, seasonal days and anniversaries share common threads.

They remind us of the way things WERE, and, at least for now, that may resolve in more pain, more reminders of loss rather than memories, the pressures to choose what to do (if anything) with these holidays, increasing fatigue and sadness, and the sense that we are slipping deeper into the hole of loss. It takes work to begin to grab a new pathway, the way we would like things to be, and the rituals and traditions often seem to be complicating factors rather than gifts.

Holidays and special days often present decisions, tasks and expectations that we feel too weak to tackle. When we are exhausted, why would we want to take on more work? Holidays can be gifts, they can be glimpses of peace, and they can be the chance to select new rituals, new customs, new ways to remember less and less about a death and more and more about a life.

Planning, organizing and living in chaos are how most of us spend the holidays. These holidays may be just the measure of hysteria to "put us over the top" or deeper into the valley of despair. Still we have the privilege of choice, choosing what will or will not be part of our journey of grief, including the holidays and special days. You can decide (and in your own time frame) which of the holiday customs you want to hold on to, what you want to set aside (at least for this year) and what new territory you want to explore. Seek guidance. Shop wisely. Rest often. Spend cautiously. Think healthy thoughts. Commit to your need for healing and take the time to reach your chosen goals.

Holidays usually include some expression of giving and receiving...cards, cookies, homemade fudge, gifts, greetings, visits...healing can come when we risk giving. Don't buy your way to healing, but give something special as a remembrance. Be open to the deeper gifts and meanings of these special days. There could be a rare jewel in there somewhere, and a glimpse of some new door, a new pathway that will lead you out of the valley of your loss.

Most of all, commit to survival. You will move closer to healing and hope, to remembering and living.

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THE WORLD PASTORAL CARE CENTER
Rev. Richard B. Gilbert

Sacred Places Masses in the Chapel at 9:30 AM

Holy Rood Cemetery
P.O. Box 182
111 Old Country Road
Westbury, NY 11590-0182
Tel: (516) 334-7990

1999	2000		
Oct. 2	Jan. 8	Apr. 1	Jul. 8
Oct. 16	Jan. 22	Apr. 15	Jul. 22
Nov. 6	Feb. 5	May 6	Aug. 5
Nov. 20	Feb. 26	May 20	Aug. 19
Dec. 4	Mar. 11	Jun. 3	Sep. 9
Dec. 18	Mar. 25	Jun. 17	Sep. 23

Holy Sepulchre 3442 Route 112 Coram, NY 11727 Tel: (516) 731-3460	Queen of All Saints 115 Wheeler Road Central Islip, NY 11722 Tel: (516) 234-8297
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Oct. 2	Jan. 8	Apr. 1	Jul. 8
Nov. 6	Feb. 5	May 6	Aug. 5
Dec. 4	Mar. 11	Jun. 3	Sep. 9

Offices are closed on Sundays and the following holidays:

Columbus Day	October 11, 1999
Election Day	November 2, 1999
Veteran's Day	November 11, 1999
Thanksgiving Day	November 25, 1999
Christmas Eve	December 24 (12:30 PM), 1999
Christmas Day	December 25, 1999
New Year's Eve	December 31 (12:30 PM), 1999
New Year's Day	January 1, 2000
Martin L. King Day	January 17, 2000
President's Day	February 21, 2000
Holy Thursday	April 20 (12:30 PM), 2000
Good Friday	April 21 (12:30 PM), 2000
Memorial Day	May 29, 2000

Have You Moved?

It's important to keep your current address on file in case you have to be contacted for any reason, or to keep receiving your copy of *Sacred Places*.

Planting Regulations

As the cool weather approaches, we would like to remind you about the planting regulations. Artificial flowers are permitted during the winter months beginning November 1st. Holiday decorations in the form of a blanket or wreath may be placed on the grave sites. Christmas decorations will be removed beginning January 31, 2000, weather permitting.

Dates to Remember

Cemetery Sunday
Sunday, October 31, 1999
Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury
CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE AT 3:00 PM

All Souls Day Masses
Tuesday, November 2nd, 11:00 AM
Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury
Most Reverend John R. McGarr, D.D.
Queen of All Saints Cemetery, Central Islip
Most Reverend John C. Duxie
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Coram
Most Reverend Emil A. Woola, S.S.L.

All Three Diocesan Cemeteries
Saturday, December 4th, 9:30 AM
Christmas Ornament Memorial Program
(See Article in Newsletter)

Change of Address

Name _____

Old Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Plot Location:
Cemetery _____

Section _____ Range _____ Plot _____