

## What determines integrity?

Integrity has to deal with honesty and trust. The most important thing in your memorial inscription selection is that you are in no way pressured into buying the service. Normally people purchase a memorial then return to the same firm for the memorial inscription work shortly after the death of a loved one and they can easily make the wrong decision under stress and emotion. Salespeople should be more like a teacher and advisor, providing you with the knowledge to make an intelligent decision. There should never be deception or false promises on the part of the salespeople. How can you tell integrity? Needless to say, it's not easy, but one of the best sources of information is past customers, guarantees, past company history, etc.

The purpose of the memorial inscription is to remember and honor the life of a Catholic person. Simply, a faith filled statement (epitaph) is a lasting way to say "I care" (a true term of endearment). Future generations should be able to tell something about the person's faith from their monument. Time, love and thought should be taken in deciding how to convey the person's life of faith with a memorial inscription. Yes, sometimes placing just the name and dates are most appropriate. Or a claim of "In God's care." **Having information on the design and layout work of the existing memorial is an excellent way to begin the process.** The memorial is a teachable moment for the church. It is placed in a cemetery – a sacred place. The memorial provides an opportunity to speak to family members and future generations on issues of the Catholic faith and belief in the resurrection.

*At the present time Catholic Cemeteries does not sell inscription services for granite memorials. We give equal service to all monument dealers, but cannot recommend any specific dealer. If a monument dealer says they are affiliated with Catholic Cemeteries, our best advice is to find another dealer. Catholic Cemeteries does inscriptions for bronze markers and also photo portraits for monuments. Our representatives will be happy to assist you.*

**AT PURCHASE, BRING THE  
ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE  
(CEMETERY DEED) WITH YOU!**

## Some Common Regrets . . .

1. A memorial inscription should represent each decedant, all the individuals buried in the cemetery lot. There's a tendency to "over load" the monument with inscription work dedicated to the burial of the first individual or the most recent burial in the lot. Often the regret comes after the next burial or at a later time when visiting.

2. An inscription should be a lasting gift. Contracting the service because it's time to or because it's something still not done may not be the best response. Trying to meet a holiday or death or birth date anniversary deadline places additional unnecessary pressure on you, your family, and the memorial inscription company. Use the holidays and family gathering time to talk with family members about the deceased, the existing family memorial as it represents the entire family, does the epitaph represent in terms of our Catholic faith and its teachings.

### 3. *Seeing or Buying Something inappropriate or not permitted...*

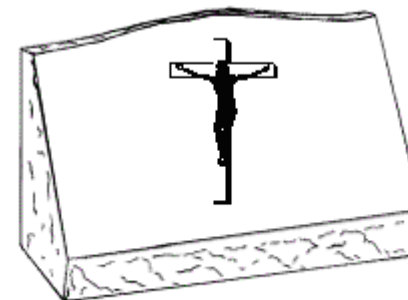
The monument company may be able to produce the work but it may not be allowed in the cemetery. Just because they have the means or just because they can make it does not mean it is permitted in a Catholic cemetery. The cemetery maintains memorial inscription rules and regulations. A summary is available at the cemetery counter. A complete set of rules are also on display at the counter and also can be found in a pdf format at [www.ccdrcinc.org](http://www.ccdrcinc.org) These resources can also provide you with a list of approved epitaphs for cemetery memorials.

4. Walk the cemetery grounds, specifically the area where the deceased is buried, to learn about the type of memorial inscriptions that are permitted. The monument size often determines the inscription and its size that is permitted. Here you can see memorial inscriptions in the environment they will be placed rather than a well lighted show room or glossy brochure. How will that final inscription look after it's done by the memorial company?

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Cemetery of the Holy Rood	516-334-7990
Queen of All Saints Cemetery	631-234-8297
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery	631-732-3460

## *Catholic Cemeteries of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre, Inc.*



## *Informational Guide to Inscriptions for A Memorial*

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**Catholic Cemeteries  
of the Roman Catholic Diocese  
of Rockville Centre, Inc.**

PO Box 182  
Westbury NY 11590

### How do I purchase a memorial inscription?

This brochure is intended to help you understand what is involved in contracting for an inscription for an existing memorial. Naturally, when you and I make a decision to buy something, we don't like doing it when we don't know what we are buying. Often the first question we ask is "How much is it?" We do this because we can at least compare prices.

### How much will it cost?

The price of your memorial inscription can vary:

- **Font Size - Type -**
- **Carving Process -**
- **Amount of Lettering -**

It should be noted that these are the common items that determine price. Specific dealers may offer pricing structures differently. Many companies have better prices for prior customers while others offer better prices to attract new customers. Some other factors to consider in addition to these such as installation date at the cemetery, additional carving design, or custom piece work etc.

**Font Size - Type** – Size of lettering and the font type or style used is the main factor in the cost of the production. Naturally the larger the inscription in size and length the more time it takes to produce. The cost increases with more depth and fancy styles whereas the surface area of granite lettering that has to be cut, polished or contoured.

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### How do you determine quality?

Quality naturally describes workmanship and care taken in carving process. There are four easy ways to compare quality of a memorial inscription:

#### Lettering Quality

#### Carving Quality - Design Quality

#### Installation Quality

1. **Lettering Quality** - Lettering quality is determined mainly on how deep the lettering is cut into the granite. Also, there are many different types of lettering styles available: some work well on certain colors, while others do not. Durability and contrast are key elements of lettering quality.

2. **Carving Quality** - Carving quality differs greatly between granite companies. Almost all companies do two-dimensional carving (commonly called flat carving), whereas very few do three-dimensional carving. Naturally, three-dimensional carvings vary depending on the skill and experience of the craftsman.

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***Taking a clear photo or detailed sketch of the existing monument (and a burial layout chart for larger plots) to the inscription service provider will help them in assisting you. Sometimes it is necessary for that firm to visit the lot and take measurements before pricing or completing the service.***

3. **Design Quality** - Design quality deals primarily with artistic appearance of a memorial. Is there balance between space and design? Have you used space efficiently and planned for future burials. Does the new work match the old work (are the date formats the same)? Shouldn't the inscription be reflective of the actual burial layout?

4. **Installation Quality** - Installation quality is determined by how straight and level an inscription appears on the memorial as it is set in the cemetery. Is the monument and lot cleaned up and left in good shape? These are just a few things that you need to be aware of with regard to the inscription work for your family memorial.

### What determines service?

Service naturally deals with how much time it takes from the time you buy your memorial inscription to the time it is installed. Normal inscription work ranges from 6 to 8 weeks. However, service entails much more than time. Service deals with selection from a large range of colors and designs, personal consultation, servicing problems in the future, adding final inscriptions on the memorials when needed, etc. *Delivery time is longer for custom order work.*

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