

Catholic Cemeteries – Caretaker Notes

MONUMENTS

Maintaining Our Catholic Identity in Monuments

Summary

Catholic Cemeteries are sacred places that strive to create a religious environment conducive to prayer, reflection, and remembrance. To ensure that these beliefs and values are maintained, we must actively regulate cemetery monuments. All images, symbols, epitaphs, terms of endearment to be placed on cemetery memorials are subject to review and approval. It is our duty that every monument, marker, or inscription permitted reflects the individual in the confines of the Catholic Church's teaching on faith. Monuments should not only be spiritually appropriate but also affordable.

Monument Maintenance

In addition to the natural staining causes of memorials, today's industrialized economy with its airborne pollutants has increased the problem of dirty, grimy memorials at an increasing rate.

Catholic Cemeteries feels strongly that a clean monument not only enhances the natural qualities of the granite, but will add to the over-all beauty of a well-kept cemetery.

While it might be the intention of the Certificate-holder of the memorial to keep it clean, it is generally agreed that over the years this does not take place.

We therefore recommend to the Certificate-holder and their heirs to consider the Cemetery's Monument cleaning program.

The cemetery staff can help clean the following types of stains from your family monument:

Types of Stains

Moisture Stains

Oil and Grease Stains surrounding area

Organic Stains

*Rust or Years of
Accumulated Dirt*

Other stains

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Problems with the stains

- *Darker in color than the surrounding area.*
- *Grain of granite can be seen through stain.*
- *“New” moisture appears to be quite translucent.*

- *Darker or blacker in color than grain of granite can be seen through.*
- *Stain appears to be more translucent and glossy.*
- *Turns yellow in color after a period of time.*

- *Trees, Flowers, Birds, & Animals can all stain monuments.*
- *Dark in color.*

- *Yellowish or brown in color on the surface of the granite.*
- *Iron Deposits absorbed into granite’s finish.*

- *Adhesive -moisture trapped by glue from labels, tags, stickers.*
- *Food and Tobacco stains.*

- *Salt -white appearance, traces of crystals.*
- *Acid burns –lighter in appearance than surrounding areas.*
- *Paint - noticeable color change.*

Why have this service completed?

- Any cleaning process used on granite is time consuming.
- It is the type of work that should not be rushed.
- Knowledge of cleaning products is essential.
- The cleaning product itself can damage the granite’s finish.
- The strength of some cleaning products can be dangerous
- Certain acids used in cleaning are flammable, hazardous and can injure the user or damage plants and grass if improperly used.
- Proper tools and clean up procedures must be followed.

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Contact these offices with the Section, Range, and Lot numbers to schedule the cleaning of your family memorial.

Service is subject to weather conditions

Priced by monument sizes:

Single \$ (see price list)

Double \$(see price list)

Larger Lots \$(see price list)

Eight & larger – price quotation

Why it may take months to get a monument?

Like so many other business and service industries, the monument selection, drafting, review, modifications, approval, fabrication, delivery, installation, inspection and acceptance process can be lengthy. It's not uncommon to wait for a monument to be set from a period of eight (8) weeks extending up to and even beyond a period of six (6) months sometimes even one year after the order.

Several factors to consider:

- Choice of monument? Type, Color, size, style, symbols, epitaphs, terms of endearment, appearance of names all in accordance with regulations.
- Approvals? Cemetery Certificate (or duly executed affidavit), Cemetery fees (foundation and inscription), Monument dealer's terms and conditions.
- Season? Weather? Concrete work may or may not be completed year round. Monument dealers are prohibited from setting in inclement weather and when the temperature falls too low. Snow rain and icy conditions restrict work activities and permissions. Holidays? Many people want the same thing from the same people at the same time --- their monument set before a holiday visit. Often dealers are pressed to commit to several families for the same set date. Advance planning can make it easier for all concerned.
- Foundation cap work and foundation beam work can delay the installation of a monument for several weeks or months depending of the circumstances.

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