



NEWS RELEASE

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Opening of Crematorium Signals Growing Acceptance of Cremation

BRANT COUNTY - The Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton has opened its first crematorium - Holy Cross Catholic Cremation Centre – located at Holy Cross Cemetery near Paris, Ontario.

The centre will open officially on Saturday, November 15, 2003, with a mass celebrated by The Most Reverend Anthony F. Tonnos, Bishop of Hamilton, at 11 a.m. Tours of the new facility and refreshments will take place at 12 noon.

“We are seeing an increasing interest among Catholic families in cremation and having our own facility will allow us to better serve that growing need,” says John O’Brien, managing director of The Catholic Cemeteries.

Mr. O’Brien noted that in 1963 the Catholic Church lifted its prohibition against cremation. Over the last 20 years, The Catholic Cemeteries has seen a steady increase in cremation burial or entombment, now representing 24 per cent of interments.

“We are asked virtually every day if we have cremation lots or niches available, and all of our major cemeteries do,” Mr. O’Brien says. “With our own crematorium we will be better able to help families coordinate cremation and burial.”

The Holy Cross Catholic Cremation Centre is available to Catholics as well as the general public, regardless of faith or culture.

The 5,700 square foot facility includes a spacious chapel area where committal services can be held. There is a comfortably furnished waiting area for families who choose to be present during the cremation, with a viewing window so that the casket may be seen entering the “retort,” or cremation chamber.

Mr. O’Brien said Holy Cross Cemetery was selected as the site for the cremation centre due to its central location within the Diocese of Hamilton, which extends from Winona through to Tobermory. “We expect the cremation centre to be used by people from many different communities,” he said.

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Members of the media are invited to attend the opening. There will be an opportunity for interviews with Mr. O’Brien and to take photos of the facility.

For more information please contact Cynthia Janzen, Hellingman Communications Inc., (905) 527-2985, extension 16.