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Media Release

New Mausoleum Answers Growing Trend

A new mausoleum to serve the Hamilton and Burlington communities has opened at Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery on Old York Road in Burlington.

Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum will be officially opened by Bishop Anthony Tonnos at a Mass of Blessing and Dedication at 3 pm on Saturday, September 26. The mausoleum provides more than 400 crypts and close to 500 cremation niche spaces, as well as a chapel for committal services.

“The completion of the mausoleum here has been long-awaited and makes Gate of Heaven a full-service cemetery,” says John O’Brien, director of The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton. “Gate of Heaven is becoming one of our most popular cemeteries because of its natural setting. Having a mausoleum here allows us to give families more options for interment.”

Mr. O’Brien says the trend to mausoleum entombment has been a striking change in the last 25 years. “There are strong cultural traditions in many parts of the world towards entombment versus ground burial. As various immigrant groups have made Hamilton their home, they bring that tradition with them and we are meeting that need,” he says. “In addition, cremation is increasingly popular and our mausolea always include niches for cremated remains. Today, we assume that every new cemetery we open will eventually include a mausoleum.”

The Catholic Cemeteries also operates mausolea at Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery in Burlington, Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Cemetery in upper Stoney Creek and in rural Brantford at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. A mausoleum is planned for Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Ancaster.

Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery was developed in 1982 and features natural landscaping incorporating native trees, plants and shrubs.

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Contact: John O’Brien, Director, The Catholic Cemeteries, 905 528-7988,
or job@hamiltondiocese.com.