

RESTING PLACE

FALL 2009

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

OUR LADY OF PEACE MAUSOLEUM NOW OPEN

A special Mass of Blessing and Dedication was held late last month to celebrate the opening of the new mausoleum at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Burlington.

Officiated by Bishop Anthony Tonnos, the Saturday gathering was attended by some 350 people.

Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum provides 423 crypts and 482 cremation niche spaces, as well as a chapel for committal services. The completion of the mausoleum has been long-awaited, and makes Gate of Heaven a full-service cemetery, says cemetery director John O'Brien.

"Gate of Heaven is becoming one of our most popular cemeteries because of its



Our new mausoleum opened Sept. 26th at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Burlington.

natural setting," he says. "Having a mausoleum there allows us to give families more options for interment."

The mausoleum features stained glass windows and a marble interior, and its architectural design is in keeping with the rural character of the cemetery.

For more information about Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum, or to make pre-need arrangements, please contact Ross Hutchison, manager, at 905-690-7547.

(See Ross Hutchison's profile on page 2.)



New Statue Planned: A bronze statue of St. Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-1962) has been commissioned for the interior of Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum. Dr. Gianna Beretta Molla was canonized in Rome on May 16, 2004, and is considered a model of virtue, holiness, motherhood, professionalism, and devotion. The life-size statue will depict St. Gianna holding one of her infant children.



PROFILE

MEET ROSS HUTCHISON

It's a busy fall at the new Gate of Heaven mausoleum, where district cemeterian Ross Hutchison is settling into his new role.

His first step is contacting the dozens of people who pre-registered to purchase crypt space while the mausoleum was under construction. "No actual sales could take place until the building was complete, but there is always a list of people who are interested in purchasing, and they are my first contacts," he explains.

Ross has been with The Catholic Cemeteries since 2003, managing the Holy Cross Catholic Cremation Centre in Brantford and assisting with the mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery. "I'm pleased to come over to Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum because it's always enjoyable to be part of something new," he says. "It's a pleasure to show people the beautiful space here."

And families benefit too when a mausoleum has just opened. "It's an excellent time to make pre-need purchases because so much is available. Often extended families are interested in purchasing space as close to each other as possible, and when a mausoleum first opens, there's a unique opportunity to do that."

Ross notes that The Catholic Cemeteries offers no-interest payment plans for people who don't want to incur the entire cost of purchasing crypt space all at once. "You can put down a deposit and pay it off over three years if you prefer."



All Souls' Day Mass Schedule

- **Saturday, October 31, 2009, at 11 a.m.**
Marymount Cemetery, Guelph
Celebrant: Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Matthew Ustrzycki, V.G., D.D.
- **Sunday, November 1, 2009, at 2 p.m.**
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Burlington
Celebrant: Most Reverend Anthony F. Tonnos, D.D., Bishop of Hamilton
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tell a Life Story

A number of new Life Stories have been submitted to our web site. Read about Vi Whalen of Hamilton; Dominic Montani of Hamilton; Margaret Baldassaro, originally of Hamilton; and Felix Deagan of Guelph. Remember, everyone is welcome to submit a Life Story about a family member or friend interred in one of our Catholic cemeteries.

Wreath Reminder

Wreaths are now available and may be placed on gravesites from October 1 to April 1, 2010. For your convenience, wreaths can be purchased through the Online Services section of our web site, or by calling the main office at 905-522-7727. Credit card orders can be taken over the phone at any of our cemetery offices. Families are responsible for removing wreaths by April 1 for spring cleanup.

- **Mausoleum Planned for Resurrection:** *Before Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum at Gate of Heaven was even finished, planning was already underway for the next mausoleum, which will be located at Resurrection Cemetery in Ancaster. "Families have been asking for this," says cemetery director John O'Brien. "Plans have been drawn up and we hope to begin construction in spring 2010."*

"Green" Funerals and Burials

A recent article in the Hamilton Spectator highlighted the growing interest in "green funerals/burials," including the "certification" of two funeral homes within the Diocese by the Green Burial Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to environmentally-friendly funeral and cemetery practices.

Family counsellor Dwayne Cahill, who recently attended a "green burial" seminar on behalf of The Catholic Cemeteries staff, says the term can mean different things to different people. "For some it may mean seeking the type of cemetery where there are no headstones and people are buried without caskets," he explains. "Other people perceive cremation as a more environmentally-friendly burial option. Some people are interested in biodegradable caskets with no metal parts and plant-based embalming fluid, but still prefer a traditional cemetery."

John O'Brien, cemetery director, says they are watching the trend with interest, but for now the "green" focus for The Catholic Cemeteries is on responsible land stewardship, including minimal use of fertilizers, and an emphasis on native plants.

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