

RESTING PLACE

FALL 2006

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON



MESSAGE From the Director

Every day, callers and visitors to The Catholic Cemeteries ask us questions about the services we provide. This issue of *Resting Place* covers the 10 most frequently asked questions received by our Family Counselling team. We hope you will find it informative, and also suggest visiting our web site (www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca) for additional information. We also continue to welcome your calls and visits to any of our cemetery offices!

John O'Brien

All Souls' Day Masses

Everyone is welcome to attend our annual All Souls' Day Masses:

- **Saturday, October 28, 11 a.m.**
– Marymount Cemetery, Guelph
- **Sunday, October 29, 2 p.m.**
– Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Burlington

YOUR MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Q: *What services are offered by The Catholic Cemeteries?*

- A:**
- Spiritual support (bereavement counselling referral, monthly Memorial Mass, All Souls' Day Mass)
 - Pre-need/immediate-need purchase of a lot, crypt or niche
 - Cremation services
 - Memorials, upright monuments or flat markers
 - Vigil lights, wreaths and artificial floral arrangements for purchase
 - Memorial trees and benches
 - Memorial cleaning
 - Inscription services for monuments and crypts
 - Urn purchases

If you have questions about the above services, please call our main office at 905-522-7727 or 1-800-661-5985.

2. Q: *Where are the Catholic cemeteries (in addition to Holy Sepulchre)?*

- A:** There are 14 Catholic cemeteries operated by The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton:
- Holy Sepulchre, Plains Road, Burlington, 905-522-7727
 - Resurrection, Garner Road West (Highway 53), Ancaster, 905-304-9138
 - Gate of Heaven, Old York Road, Burlington, 905-522-7727
 - St. Joseph, at Regional Road 12 and Dublin Line, Acton, 905-522-7727
 - Our Lady of the Angels, Mud Street, Stoney Creek, 905-643-0189
 - Marymount, Highway 6 North, Guelph, 519-836-8814
 - Holy Cross Cemetery and Cremation Centre, Governor's Road, Brantford, 519-442-2608
 - St. Joseph, at King George and St. Paul Avenue, Brantford, 519-752-5525
 - St. Augustine, East Street, Dundas, 905-522-7727
 - St. Mary Immaculate and St. Joseph, Elora Road, Elora, 519-836-8814
 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Freelon Road, Freelon, 905-522-7727
 - St. Joseph, Westmount Road, Guelph, 519-836-8814
 - Sacred Heart, Rest Acres Road, Paris, 519-442-2608
 - St. Thomas, Highway 5, Waterdown, 905-522-7727

For more information, please visit the Directory of Cemeteries at www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca

3. Q: *What should I do first when my loved one passes away?*

- A:** When a death has occurred, please contact your parish priest who will assist you in making the appropriate liturgical arrangements. You may also wish to call the funeral home of your choice. We suggest that you next call the cemetery where you intend for your loved one to be buried. If, at one of our smaller cemeteries, you do not reach someone immediately please call 905-522-7727 or 1-800-661-5985.

One of our family counsellors will meet with you in a cemetery office to help you make arrangements for burial or entombment. In cases of immediacy, a counsellor can meet with families as soon as the same day. The counsellor's role is to explain the options available and provide costs and other information.

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● **Wreath Reminder**

Wreaths are now available from The Catholic Cemeteries office and may be placed at gravesites from October 1 to April 1. For your convenience, wreaths can now be purchased through our web site at www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca, or by calling the main office at 905-522-7727. Credit card orders can be taken over the phone at any cemetery office. Please note that families are responsible for removing wreaths by April 1 to allow for spring cleanup.

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4. Q: How soon can a grave marker or monument be placed?

A: An upright monument can usually be placed at a gravesite within eight to 10 weeks, although that timeframe can change depending on the kind of monument ordered. Sculptures or other more detailed memorials may take longer. A ground-level marker can usually be installed within six to eight weeks. Families can purchase a temporary grave marker, which is placed within five working days of the interment.

For more information about the process of placing a grave marker or monument, please call the main administration office, 905-522-7727 or 1-800-661-5985.

5. Q: How many burials can take place in a single lot?

A: Subject to existing soil conditions, a maximum of three people can be buried in a single grave. The options are:

- two casket burials and one cremation interment
- one casket and two cremation interments
- three cremation interments

For more information about options at a specific cemetery, please call the appropriate office (see reverse for phone numbers).

6. Q: Can Catholics be cremated?

A: Although burial of the body is preferred, cremation has been an acceptable option for Catholics since 1963. The Catholic Cemeteries now has its own crematorium in Brant County. Options for cremated remains include:

- burial in a grave
- entombment in an outdoor columbarium
- entombment in a niche inside a mausoleum

In accordance with Catholic teachings, the scattering of cremated remains is not permissible.

7. Q: Can non-Catholics be buried in a Catholic cemetery?

A: The Diocese of Hamilton welcomes all Catholics to choose a Catholic cemetery for themselves and members of their families whether or not those family members are Catholic.

8. Q: Is it more or less expensive to be buried in a Catholic cemetery?

A: The prices of The Catholic Cemeteries are very comparable to those of municipal cemeteries. They're often less expensive than private, or for-profit cemeteries. When necessary, assistance is provided in cases of financial hardship.

Under the Cemeteries Act of Ontario, a fixed portion of the price of a grave is used for the care and maintenance of the cemeteries, the income from which is used to maintain the grave in perpetuity. The Catholic Cemeteries is a not-for-profit and charitable organization.

9. Q: How do I find my relative's grave?

A: The fastest way is to contact the main administrative office on Spring Gardens Road in Burlington (at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery) at 905-522-7727. A cemetery map can be faxed to you or picked up during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

10. Q: What's the difference between a Catholic cemetery and the Catholic section of a secular cemetery?

A: Only Catholic cemeteries are consecrated by the bishop and set aside for the burial or entombment of Catholics and their family members. In recognition of our 2000-year-old tradition of faith, our cemeteries are designed as places of prayer and reflection. In addition, our counsellors are trained to assist families in completing arrangements best suited for their individual situations, as the Catholic cemetery is an important ministry of the Church.



A new bronze statue was installed at the entrance of Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery in late June. Mary, Queen of the World, measures approximately 20 feet. Its concrete foundation was added last month to complete the installation.

CONTACT US



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