



THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

of the Diocese of Hamilton



Learn about the new statue at Holy Sepulchre

This new section feature at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery bridges both traditional and contemporary statuary. The beautiful bronze statues were generously donated by Mr. Bernard Osbaldeston in memory of his family. Made decades ago in France using the “lost wax” method, the figures were restored by The Catholic Cemeteries at Artcast Foundry in Milton.

The concept for the figural statues with the soaring granite monoliths behind them came from renowned local stone sculptor Nicholas Neu. “He came up with the concept based on the gospel of John,” says John O’Brien, director of The Catholic Cemeteries. “It represents Christ, speaking in the last moments before His death and entrusting the care of His blessed mother to His beloved disciple, John. There is no actual body of Christ, or corpus, on the cross, yet the cross – the image most closely associated with him – is clearly there. This is symbolic of our faith: we cannot see Christ except through the eyes of faith.”

The statue also recalls the words of St. Thomas and his need to put his fingers into the side of the risen Christ before he would believe. Mr. O’Brien notes, “Interestingly, one can literally go through this cross, as one would in a journey from life to death, from death to resurrection and new life, foreshadowing the empty tomb and the words of Mary Magdalene to Simon Peter and the other disciple, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.’” John 20.1-18