

# Resting Place



Spring 2011

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2010-2011

**Every industry has its trends and cemeteries are no exception. In this Year in Review, we report on two notable trends: pre-planning and cremation.**

**More people are making advance arrangements than ever before.**

Where did Mom want to be buried? Didn't Dad say he favoured cremation?

These are the kinds of conversations that families can get into when a loved one dies and no arrangements have been made. The Family Counselling team at The Catholic Cemeteries have all witnessed family members at the cemeteries office, calling siblings on cell phones and struggling with scanty or conflicting instructions.

The fact that these discussions take place during a time of grief and loss adds to the emotional turmoil, says John Foster, manager of Family Services. "When a death occurs you have three or four days at the most to make several arrangements. It's much less stressful for family members if some of these things are done ahead of time."

The good news is that the number of people making their burial arrangements in advance has increased significantly in recent years. "In 2008 it was about 50/50; today the number of people pre-planning has risen to approximately 60 per cent of the families we work with," Mr. Foster says.

Making it emotionally easier for surviving family members is a common motivator for pre-planning, but financial benefits are also a big incentive. Surviving family members can find themselves out-of-pocket for funeral and burial expenses because those costs must be paid long before the estate is settled.

"The advantage to pre-planning is that you can pre-arrange at today's prices and spread the payments out over a period of time instead of one immediate lump sum," says family counsellor Nanda Cozzi. "The price is locked in.

"Not only that," adds Ms. Cozzi, "but pre-purchasing means you are more likely to get the exact space you want, which for many people is nearby family or friends. Families and friends sometimes like to pre-purchase as a group so that their final resting places will be close together."

*Photo: Family counsellors – back row: Leanne Fischl, Dwayne Cahill. Front row: John Foster, manager, and Nanda Cozzi.*



**See inside for a message from Bishop Crosby.**

Photos at top and bottom: Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Burlington.



## Message from the Bishop

My Dear Friends:

We have a rich tradition in the Diocese of Hamilton of burial in cemeteries owned and operated by the Church. Our Catholic cemeteries are places of prayer and reflection, where we come to celebrate the lives of our deceased family members, and to express our hope that they have been reunited with Christ in heaven.

It gives me a feeling of great contentment and pride knowing that the deceased faithful of our Diocese are cared for in such beautiful places. It is our hope and intent that the appearance of our cemeteries is a reflection of the faith of the people buried in them.

As we approach the great feast of Easter and the Resurrection of Our Lord, I pray that we may be brought into a life of greater holiness through our own good efforts and the intercession of the Saints of heaven. I encourage you to visit our Catholic cemeteries to pray for those who have gone before us, so that they too, might also pray for us on our earthly pilgrimage.

May God bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,  
**Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.,  
Bishop of Hamilton**

# Start with the Family Records Guide

**W**ithin hours of a death, a variety of information is needed for the preparation of the death certificate, burial permit and newspaper announcement, for planning the funeral and more.

The Catholic Cemeteries provides a complementary Family Records Guide to enable all pertinent records and written preferences to be kept in one place. Ideally, the guide is used as part of pre-planning one's funeral and burial, but even people who don't purchase cemetery space in advance can benefit from filling out the guide.

Cemeterian Bill Templeton, of Holy Cross Cemetery in Brant County, says having an easily accessible place to record burial preferences and any arrangements is critical. At a recent community presentation that Bill made, an audience member broke down crying when the topic arose of knowing your family members' preferences. "This man's wife died unexpectedly and he had her cremated," Bill recalls. "Then he later found paperwork indicating that she wanted a full casket burial. He was devastated. Families need to talk to each other and make sure each person knows where information is stored."

To receive your copy of the Family Records Guide, please call 905-522-7727, or 1-800-661-5985. It can also be downloaded from our web site under the Planning Ahead link:  
[www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca](http://www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca).



## What is pre-planning?

**It begins with selecting and purchasing a cemetery lot, mausoleum crypt or cremation niche. Families can also pre-arrange all associated supplies and services including interment cost, outer container, monument or grave marker and even cremation service at Holy Cross Catholic Cremation Centre. For more information, please call 1-800-661-5985.**



# Almost one-third of families now choosing cremation

*Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Burlington.*

**C**emetery staff members still encounter some families who don't know cremation is now acceptable within the Catholic faith, but it's increasingly rare. The number of individuals choosing cremation increased to 32.44 per cent in 2010, from 25 per cent in 2005.

The official restriction against cremation for Catholics was lifted in the early 1960s. In 2003, interest in cremation had grown to the point that Holy Cross Catholic Cremation Centre was opened in Brant County, serving the Catholic community and the general public. Today, all Catholic cemeteries operated by the Diocese of Hamilton include both indoor and outdoor columbarium for the interment of cremated remains, as well as offering ground burial lots with flat markers.

"The biggest question we are asked today has to do with the order of things," says John Perotta, family counsellor. "People aren't sure whether a funeral Mass is still possible if they choose cremation, and if the Mass should take place before or after the cremation."

For the record, the Church prefers that the body is present at the funeral Mass, although families sometimes opt to have the cremation done in advance of the service.

## Liturgical sequence

If cremation is chosen, funeral home visitation and a traditional funeral can still take place. The process\* is usually as follows:

- A visitation/vigil is held at a funeral home for one or more days
- A funeral Mass is celebrated
- The body is taken to the crematorium by the funeral home while a post-funeral reception is held
- Cremation takes place a day or two after the funeral
- The Rite of Committal takes place when the cremated remains are buried or entombed

\*Variations to the process do take place. Please contact your parish priest, or call The Catholic Cemeteries for information and assistance.

## Memorial Mass Schedule

All Masses begin at 11:00 a.m.

- Saturday, May 14** ● Cambridge Catholic Cemetery – Bishop Ustrzycki
- Saturday, May 21** ● St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Brantford – Bishop Crosby
- Saturday, May 28** ● Resurrection Catholic Cemetery, Ancaster – Bishop Crosby
- Saturday, June 4** ● Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery, Burlington – Bishop Tonnos
- Saturday, June 11** ● Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, Burlington – Bishop Tonnos
- Saturday, June 11** ● Marymount Catholic Cemetery, Guelph – Bishop Ustrzycki
- Saturday, June 18** ● Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Cemetery, Stoney Creek – Bishop Crosby



**Remember! It's time to take down wreaths so lawn-cutting can begin at our cemeteries.**



# HIGHLIGHTS *of the* YEAR

## Mausoleum construction underway

Ground has been broken for the new Our Lady of Hope Mausoleum at **Resurrection Catholic Cemetery** in Ancaster on Garner Road (across from Bishop Tonnos High School). The first phase consists of 1,409 crypts and 758 niches, and will be completed by fall 2011.

Also at Resurrection, a new statue – Mary, Queen of Families - has been installed in the lawn crypt section.

## Our Lady of Peace marks first anniversary

Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum at **Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery** in Burlington marked its one-year anniversary late last fall. It has been welcomed by families, who now have a place to hold indoor services. Memorial masses are also held at the new mausoleum.

## New Catholic cemetery for Milton, Oakville and Burlington

Planning continues on the new Holy Family Cemetery located at Lower Base Line Road and Bronte Road at the border between Milton and Oakville. The cemetery will service the Halton area and is scheduled to open in 2012.

## New Catholic cemetery in Georgetown

Approvals have been filed with the Cemeteries Regulation Branch for **Holy Redeemer Catholic Cemetery** in Georgetown (Town of Halton Hills). The cemetery is expected to open in fall 2011.

## Veterans' section available soon at Marymount

A Field of Honour will open this spring at the historic **Marymount Catholic Cemetery** in Guelph, with lots available for Canadian veterans and their spouses. The section will feature a memorial wall, with a columbarium planned for the future.



Photos: *top: Springtime at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, centre: Construction at Resurrection Cemetery, bottom: Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Burlington.*



## CONTACT US



600 Spring Gardens Road, Burlington, ON L7T 1J1

T: 905-522-7727 • Toll-free: 1-800-661-5985

[www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca](http://www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca)