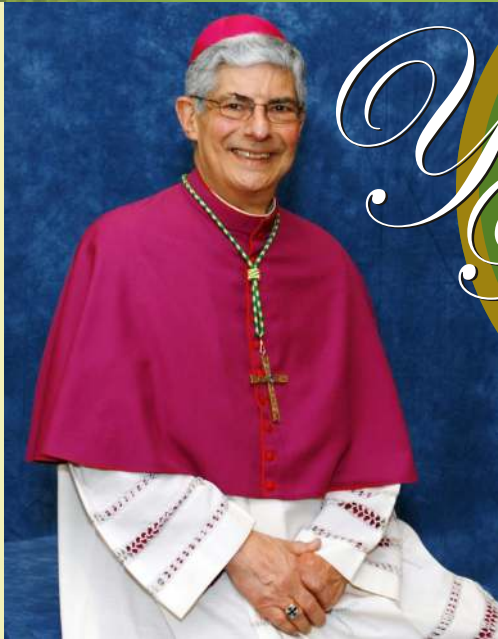


# RESTING PLACE

SPRING 2009

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON



## A YEAR IN REVIEW 2008/2009

### MESSAGE *From the Bishop*

Our faith is built on both shared beliefs and shared practices that provide structure for how we live our lives. And when our earthly life comes to an end, Catholics have a long-standing tradition of burial in a Catholic cemetery in the hope of Resurrection on the last day.

For 135 years, The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton has maintained and strengthened this tradition, and also seeks new ways to serve the growing needs and preferences of our community. In recent years, many online services have been made available at [www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca](http://www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca). We also recognize that it is necessary to reach out and welcome the non-Catholic family members of those interred in our cemeteries and mausolea. Our guiding principle is to encourage families to be together in death as they were in life.

I encourage you to take advantage of the unique services of our Catholic cemeteries. Only Catholic cemeteries are consecrated for burial or entombment and set aside for Catholics and their family members.

Asking God's blessing upon you, I am  
Yours sincerely in Christ,

**Most Reverend A. F. Tonnos**  
**Bishop of Hamilton**

### *Reaching Out*

- An e-newsletter was launched in fall 2008 for Hamilton-area and Burlington funeral directors. The e-newsletter is published twice annually and has been warmly received by funeral home staff. Two new flyers for funeral directors to use with families have also been produced, "Frequently Asked Questions About Cremation," and "Frequently Asked Questions About Catholic Cemeteries."
- Research conducted in early 2008 by The Catholic Cemeteries suggests there is still some confusion about whether cremation is allowed for Catholics. A brochure called "Answering Your Questions About Catholics and Cremation" was produced and is available in all cemetery offices.
- Life Stories, a new online feature, was launched in spring 2008. Families are invited to submit a brief personal essay about a loved one who is interred in one of the Catholic cemeteries. See Life Stories on our web site.
- An advertising campaign in The Hamilton Spectator, Hamilton Community News and Corriere Canadese took place in fall 2008 and is being repeated this spring.
- A preliminary meeting was held at Bishop Tonnos High School in fall 2008 to explore a potential learning partnership between The Catholic Cemeteries and the school. This partnership will be explored further in 2009.



# MEMORIAL MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses begin at 11 a.m.

## ● MAY

**Saturday, May 9**  
St. Joseph Cemetery,  
Brantford

**Saturday, May 16**  
Cambridge Cemetery

**Saturday, May 23**  
Resurrection Cemetery,  
Ancaster

**Saturday, May 30**  
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery,  
Burlington

## ● JUNE

**Saturday, June 13**  
Gate of Heaven Cemetery,  
Burlington

**Saturday, June 13**  
Marymount Cemetery,  
Guelph

**Saturday, June 20**  
Our Lady of the Angels,  
Stoney Creek

## WREATH REMINDER

- Please note that families are responsible for removing all wreaths from graves by April 1 to allow for spring maintenance.



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CEMETERIAN: ALICE PIMENTEL

It's not possible to miss Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Cemetery on Mud Street East in rural Hamilton. Amidst the snowy fields, a striking statue of "Mary, Queen of the World" stands sentinel at the road's edge. Behind the curving entranceway wall, the granite monuments are still visible above the drifts, with colourful wreaths adding a bright note to the wintry landscape on this former dairy farm.

In the farmhouse-turned-cemetery office, cemeterian Alice Pimentel is planning her day. For the moment there is only one meeting booked but her 14 years experience tells her that can change at any moment. Her assistant, Leanne Fischl, has reviewed the day's death notices in The Hamilton Spectator and notes there's going to be a burial at Resurrection Catholic Cemetery later in the week. "I'm sure the family or funeral director will call, but we read the paper just to get a heads up," Alice explains.

Alice and Leanne tidy the office and waiting area where they meet with families to make immediate or pre-need arrangements. "Whatever is needed at this office, we do it, including snow shoveling," Alice says with a smile.

Then it's time to complete the paperwork for a man who is coming in to pay for his mother's burial and monument inscription. When he arrives, Alice reviews the costs with him and he provides a photo of his mother to be included on the monument. They discuss putting up a temporary marker, since inscription work must wait until warmer weather.

When he leaves, Alice reviews paperwork, makes preliminary arrangements for the annual memorial Mass, and follows up on some new statuary that has been ordered.

By noon she's putting on her coat for the half-hour drive to the Resurrection Cemetery office on Garner Road West in Ancaster, also a former farmhouse, where she spends every afternoon. Just as she's leaving, a man calls to make an early afternoon appointment in Ancaster to purchase a monument.

Alice plans to eat lunch when she arrives at Resurrection, but when she pulls up there's an elderly man waiting for her. He doesn't have an appointment, but has decided he'd like to make his burial arrangements. First they walk out into the snowy cemetery to look at different sections and monument styles. Back in the office, he explains to Alice in accented English that with few family members, there's no use selecting a grave marker with a built-in flower vase – there will be no one to put flowers on his grave. After a lengthy meeting, he goes away to mull over the options and prices Alice has given him.

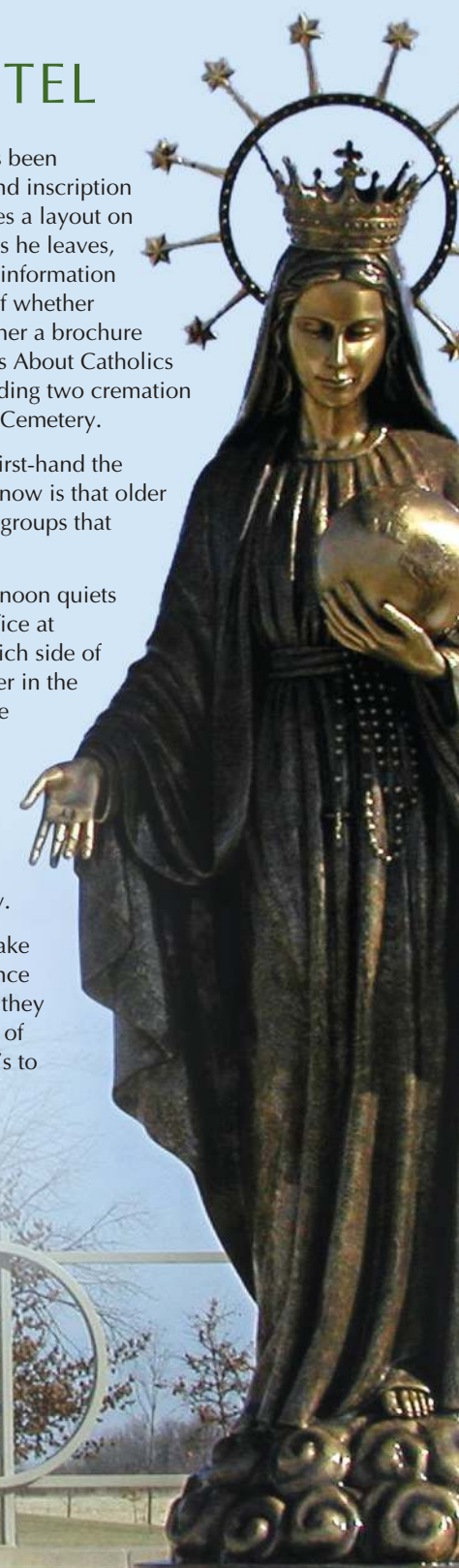
Meanwhile, the man who had an appointment has been waiting for her. He makes decisions on the style and inscription of the grave marker he's purchasing, and Alice does a layout on the computer to show him what it will look like. As he leaves, a middle-aged woman walks in to get preliminary information for her elderly parents. Her mother is still unsure of whether cremation is allowed for Catholics, so Alice gives her a brochure to take home with her, "Answering Your Questions About Catholics and Cremation." They discuss the possibility of adding two cremation urns to an existing family grave at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

In her years as a cemeterian, Alice has witnessed first-hand the increasing interest in cremation. "What's different now is that older people are choosing cremation, and even cultural groups that traditionally didn't support it."

At 2:30 Alice finally gets to eat lunch and the afternoon quiets down. She fields a call from the main cemetery office at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, asking her to check which side of a double grave needs to be opened for a burial later in the week. Later, she goes out into the cemetery to take photographs and measurements of two monument styles that a family is interested in, then e-mails them to a granite supplier to obtain a quote.

Late in the day she receives a call from a woman wanting to discuss a pre-need purchase for herself and her husband. They agree to meet the next day.

"Often a death in the family will spur people to make their own pre-need arrangements," Alice says. "Once people have experienced all the decision-making, they see the value in doing it beforehand. The best part of my job is knowing I've helped families, whether it's to make plans in advance, or at the time of death."



## SHARE YOUR LOVED ONE'S LIFE STORY ONLINE

Life Stories is a special feature of The Catholic Cemeteries' web site, allowing family members or friends to submit stories and photos of loved ones who are interred at one of the 14 Catholic cemeteries. Below is an excerpt of a Life Story submitted by a Brantford family.



### About Paul William McDonald

- Devoted father, son, brother and friend
- Born: February 25, 1943, Brantford, Ontario
- Died: March 8, 2008, Brantford, Ontario, while shoveling snow for an elderly neighbour
- Interred: Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Brantford

*"Dad worked at Canadian Blue Bird Coachlines for 43 years. He spent 26 years working in the factory building school buses and the remaining 17 years in the sales office, selling the school buses. It was throughout his many years of service at Blue Bird that special friendships were created.*

*"Dad died doing what he always did best, helping others. He was taken from us far too soon but has left us all with many special and happy memories that we will cherish for the rest of our lives."*

To read the full story, go to [www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca](http://www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca), click on Life Stories, and then choose the letter "M."

**LIFE STORIES**

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Cemetery.





## CEMETERIES AND MAUSOLEA CONTINUE TO EXPAND

- Close to 2,000 more crypt spaces and 1,000 additional niche spaces were added to Our Lady of Victory Mausoleum at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Burlington, in response to continuing demand. The 18,790 square foot addition was completed in July 2008 and includes a water feature and family quiet room (see photo, above).
- Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery on Mud Street, and Gate of Heaven Cemetery on Old York Road each have new entranceways for greater visibility.
- After many years of planning, the construction of a mausoleum at Gate of Heaven Cemetery got underway. The mausoleum will provide 423 crypts and 482 cremation niche spaces, and is set for completion in fall 2009. Follow the building progress at [www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca](http://www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca) (see photo, below).
- Also at Gate of Heaven, a new columbarium for cremated remains has been built. It is named in honour of St. Thérèse de Lisieux.
- A new, 10-acre section for upright monuments has been opened at Holy Cross Cemetery in Brant County.
- A Pieta statue, depicting the Virgin Mary holding the body of her son Jesus Christ after his death, has been installed at Marymount Cemetery in Guelph.
- Resurrection Cemetery in Ancaster has opened a new, premium lawn crypt section with concrete liners already installed in double-depth graves.



## TOURS PROVE POPULAR

Walking tours and bus tours at the Catholic cemeteries in Burlington and Brantford have proved extremely popular. The Burlington tour includes the history of Holy Sepulchre and the development of Gate of Heaven, and the Brantford tour includes the historic St. Joseph's and newer Holy Cross. In filling out an evaluation form, one participant noted, "While taking a cemetery tour would at first seem rather morbid, it was certainly not. It was a nice way to be introduced to the inevitable."

### *Don't Miss the Spring Cemetery Tours!*

The following tours will be held in June:

- **A trolley bus tour of Holy Sepulchre and Gate of Heaven cemeteries in Burlington**
- **A walking tour of St. Joseph and Holy Cross cemeteries in Brantford**

A light lunch is served after each tour.

For dates and times, please check the web site at [www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca](http://www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca).

## CONTACT US



THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES  
of the Diocese of Hamilton

600 Spring Gardens Road  
Burlington, ON L7T 1J1

T: 905-522-7727

F: 905-522-5742

Toll-free: 1-800-661-5985

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