

Resting Place



Fall 2013 ■ 10th Anniversary Issue

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

Helping families remember

Visiting a loved one's final resting place is something from which many people derive comfort. Some make it part of special occasions, such as Christmas, the anniversary of the death, or other milestone events, while for others it's a weekly or even daily routine.

Staff members at The Catholic Cemeteries quickly come to recognize the individuals or families who are often seen sitting quietly at a gravesite or crypt. "We have our 'regulars,' says Angela Schon, assistant cemeterian at Our Lady of the Angels in upper Stoney Creek. "There is a group of women who visit their late family members in the mausoleum just about every day."

Patricia Viger visits her daughter, Amanda, at Our Lady of the Angels Mausoleum every other day. Amanda passed away at the age of 17½. Patricia and her husband, Bruce, draw comfort, strength and inspiration praying for their daughter while



Amanda Viger

sitting by her resting place. From a nearby window, they can see her memorial tree decorated with a plaque.

"Visiting our angel Amanda brings us closer to her in spirit and strengthens our hearts," Patricia says. "We find peace there remembering all the beautiful, precious memories shared together as a family."

Professor Massimo Marcone visits his mother's crypt at Our Lady Immaculate Mausoleum at Marymount Cemetery almost every day as he comes and goes from his work at the University of Guelph. "It's just a beautiful environment where I can grab a comfortable chair; I can sit there and talk to her and pray for her," Massimo says. "There are Masses held there three or four times a year and I can sit by my mother and watch it on the big screen, and it's like we're attending Mass together."

Cemeteries director John O'Brien says, "It's a point of pride for us to maintain our cemeteries and mausolea as beautiful and dignified places that will bring comfort to families when they are here. The ritual of remembering a loved one is very important and we do all we can to create an environment that supports that."

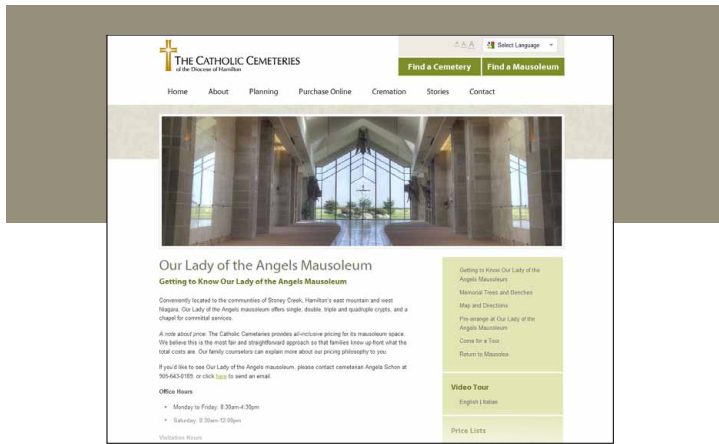
Memorial Masses are held monthly in Hamilton to recognize all the people who were interred in the previous month. A priest gives a brief homily and offers Communion, while a Catholic Cemeteries staff member reads every name out loud. "Remembering someone publicly helps with bereavement," John says. "The Memorial Mass demonstrates to families that the person who died is not forgotten."



Public cemetery partnership

The Catholic Cemeteries now owns and operates a public cemetery in Georgetown. Devereaux Cemetery (www.devereauxcemetery.ca) is located within Holy Redeemer Cemetery on 17th Side Road. Cemeteries staff member John Perrotta will manage both cemeteries. "The municipal cemeteries in the area were at capacity,

and we had excess land, so we were able to make an arrangement with the Town of Halton Hills to create a cemetery for the general public," John O'Brien explains. "This is a partnership that reflects our mutual commitment to strong, inter-faith relations and ecumenical outreach."



Welcoming two new members of the Family Counselling Team



Delma Longboat is a Business graduate from Mohawk College who is transferring her skills from a retail environment to working with families at Our Lady of Victory Mausoleum and Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery.

She is based at the main office at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, on Plains Road in Burlington.



Nicolaas Van Gemert, who has been part of the grounds crew for several years, is also working with families at the main office, including Our Lady of Victory Mausoleum and Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery.

Nicolaas is also a Business graduate from Mohawk College.

Tour mausolea online

Our web site now features video tours of the new **Our Lady of Hope Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery in Ancaster, Our Lady of the Angels Mausoleum on Mud Street in upper Stoney Creek, and Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Burlington.**

A video explaining cremation services, and featuring the Holy Cross Catholic Cremation Centre in Brant County, is also available at www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca.

The videos are available in both English and Italian. The Italian version was recorded by family counsellor Nanda Cozzi, who is one of several bilingual Catholic Cemeteries staff members. Our thanks go out to all the individuals and families who participated in the filming of the videos.

Don't miss *The Priests in Concert!*

The Catholic Cemeteries presents an internationally-acclaimed trio of Irish priests, performing at Hamilton Place, November 13, 7:30 p.m.

The concert is part of "The Year of Faith" celebration proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI, which began October 11, 2012, and ends November 23, 2013.

Tickets can be purchased at the Copps Coliseum Box Office, by telephone at 905-546-4040 or at www.ticketmaster.ca.

All Souls' Day Mass

All welcome to attend.

Saturday, November 2 • 11 a.m. • Marymount Cemetery, Guelph

Sunday, November 3 • 2 p.m. • Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Burlington

Wreaths can be placed beginning Nov. 1

Wreaths may be purchased through the Purchase Online section of our web site (www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca), or credit card orders can be arranged by phoning any cemetery office. Families are responsible for removing wreaths by April 1.



CONTACT US

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