

Resting Place



Fall/Winter 2015

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

A generous gift to the Guelph mausoleum

A terrible disease has inspired an act of devotion and generosity from a 92-year-old Guelph woman. Cancer has been a common affliction in Bruna Girardi's family. She lost her husband Valentino to cancer 19 years ago, and the disease also claimed three brothers, one sister and other members of her extended family.

It is for this reason that Bruna decided to commission a statue of St. Peregrine, the patron saint of cancer patients, to be installed at Our Lady Immaculate Mausoleum at Guelph's Marymount Catholic Cemetery, where her husband and other family members are entombed.

Each week Bruna drives her 25-year-old Buick to the mausoleum to visit her husband and other family members. When Valentino was first diagnosed with colon cancer, a secretary at the Church of Our Lady Immaculate gave Bruna a book about St. Peregrine. He was a priest who was cured of a cancerous ulcer in his leg in 1325, after receiving a vision of Christ. St. Peregrine was canonized in 1726.



Bruna Girardi and the St. Peregrine statue.

Bruna found great comfort in her prayers to the saint during and after the illnesses of her husband and other family members with cancer.

"After my sister died of cancer two years ago, I said 'I want to buy this statue'," Bruna says of a conversation she had with cemetery manager Dominic Tersigni. She wanted a memorial to her loved ones, and to other visitors to the mausoleum who have lost family members and friends to cancer.

Dominic searched out Italian foundries that could cast the bronze statue and placed the order. The statue was delivered to the mausoleum last year and will soon be installed in an alcove in the new phase of the building.

"It helps me to pray to the statue and it also helps other people here," Bruna says, pointing out as an example a man she knows who regularly visits the mausoleum, and stops by the statue in prayer for his son, who also died of cancer.

Expansion of Our Lady Immaculate Mausoleum finished

The expansion of Our Lady Immaculate Mausoleum in Guelph is complete. The mausoleum offers additional space for single, double and quadruple family crypts, as well as single and double cremation niches.

The expansion includes a reception area, providing family and friends with a setting for post-interment gatherings. Donations are also being accepted for a statue of St. George that will be placed in the new expansion.

Bishop Douglas Crosby will perform a blessing and dedication of the new expansion at a Mass held at 11 a.m. on October 31 in the new phase of the mausoleum.



The new phase of Our Lady Immaculate Mausoleum.

Wreath Reminder: Wreaths can be placed on graves from November 1 to April 1. Families are responsible for removing wreaths to allow for spring cleanup. Please note that wreaths are no longer available for purchase through the cemetery.

A Place of Prayer, Hope and Consolation

Highlights of the homily delivered by Bishop Daniel Miehme at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Brantford, May 23, 2015

A cemetery is a place of prayer, of hope and of consolation. By calling it a place of prayer, we say that it is a holy place: a place where we can reflect, ponder, be in silence with the Lord, and share with God our deepest thoughts and feelings. It is a place of individual and communal prayer: we often come together in such places to pray with others. When the mortal remains of someone are committed here, people unite and pray together. A Catholic cemetery always beckons us to prayer.

A cemetery is also a place of hope. It expresses our belief in eternal life won for us by Jesus. Paul says that just as we have been baptized into the death of Jesus, so we will be joined to him in his resurrection. In a Catholic cemetery we affirm that we are a people of hope and that our hopes rest on what Jesus did for us in his death and resurrection. So even as we tend with care the graves of our loved ones, we know that the grave is not the end.

A cemetery is a place of consolation. When we come here we may

be grief stricken; we may be burdened by the weight of sorrow – and that is actually a good thing, because grief is the flip side of love. No wonder Jesus told us blessed are those who mourn: for to mourn is a sign of having loved and having been loved. If we believe in God and the life of eternity then even when we mourn, we do so secure in the knowledge of God's goodness and love. Grief is lightened when we can share it with others; whether that happens informally or formally, we are stronger when we pull together. So when our faith in the Lord is strong, we will be ready to turn our grief over to him. He doesn't promise to remove it but he does promise that he can lighten our load.

A cemetery is not simply a lovely park or a manicured garden. For us, it is always a place of prayer, hope and consolation. It is holy ground. It is a place of blessing and of God's presence.

For the complete text of Bishop Miehme's homily, visit <http://www.thecatholiccemetries.ca/burial-arrangements.php>

News and updates

- **Construction is underway on an extension to Our Lady of the Assumption Mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery in Paris.** The extension will add approximately 460 crypts and 308 niches to the mausoleum.
- **The site plan for the new Holy Family Cemetery in Milton is being submitted to the Town of Milton for review and approval.**
- **The St. Gabriel the Archangel Section in Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery in Stoney Creek is now open, offering both single and double cremation lots.** An upright columbarium is planned for the future.
- **A new retaining wall and landscaping has been completed at the Our Lady of Knock Columbarium at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Cambridge.**
- **A new entrance gate is being constructed at Holy Redeemer and Devereaux Cemetery in Georgetown.** Natural stone has been installed on the walls and columns, with ornamental fencing and gates to be added later this fall.



Construction is ongoing on an expansion of Our Lady of the Assumption Mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery in Paris.

Memorial Masses

Saturday, October 31 • 11 a.m.
Our Lady Immaculate Mausoleum, Guelph

Sunday, November 1 • 2 p.m.
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Burlington



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