



# Policy Regarding The Extra-ordinary Use Of Catholic Cemeteries

PLEASE ALSO SEE THE DIOCESAN HANDBOOK FOR CEMETERIES

[ Owner: Chief Operations Officer ]

Our Catholic cemeteries are the private property of the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Houma--Thibodaux and are privately owned cemeteries. These Catholic cemeteries are subject to the same *Code of Canon Law* as are all other diocesan owned properties. The *Code of Canon Law* no. 1243 requires that the sacred character of all Catholic cemeteries be fostered and protected.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* no. 958 teaches that it is a noble and good thing to pray for the dead. Praying in cemeteries is certainly a reflection of this invitation of the Catholic Church. As the 'ordinary' use of a Catholic cemetery refers specifically to the Rite of Christian Burial, the Rite of Committal, the following will be required of all formal requests regarding the formal 'extra-ordinary' use of Catholic cemeteries by all other non--church groups or entities.

1. The focus and nature of any gathering shall be that of reverent prayer for the dead. Any prayer service or formal gathering shall respect the sacred character of the cemetery and all whose bodies rest there until the day of resurrection, as well the entire body of teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.
2. Written details of any formal gathering, including a written detailed description of the service, who and how many persons will be expected, etc., must be provided to the Office of the Vicar General no less than two weeks prior to the date of the event;
3. Again, the Catholic Church teaches that it is a noble and good thing to pray for the dead. Any prayer service or formal gathering shall respect the sacred character of the cemetery. As you have requested permission for a formal prayer service, the focus should remain on prayer. Therefore, there are to be no military honors undertaken. In addition, there shall be no manner of 'reenactment' in any regard. Specifically we require that all objects for re-enactment or military honors, such as flags (with the exception of the United States Flag, or the Flag of Louisiana or the Vatican Flag), guns or re-enactment uniforms not be utilized during your time in the cemetery;
4. Any non-diocesan entity requesting permission to host an event on diocesan owned property, in keeping with our normative diocesan policy must provide a certificate of adequate liability insurance and meet the necessary insurance requirements of the

Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. This certificate of adequate liability insurance must be provided no less than two weeks prior to the date of the event;

5. Finally, there is to be no media, cameras, or filming.

Prior to granting final permission for use of any Catholic cemetery, it is necessary that requesting parties agree in writing to the conditions stated above and provide the necessary information.



THE DIOCESE OF  
HOUMA THIBODAUX  
Statement of Agreement

## Regarding the Extra-ordinary Use Of Catholic Cemeteries

The following requirements include the initials of the authorized representative requesting use.

\_\_\_\_\_ The focus and nature of any gathering shall be that of reverent prayer for the dead. Any prayer service or formal gathering shall respect the sacred character of the cemetery and all whose bodies rest there until the day of resurrection, as well the entire body of teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ Written details of any formal gathering, including a written detailed description of the service, who and how many persons will be expected, etc., have been provided with this form;

\_\_\_\_\_ Any prayer service or formal gathering shall respect the sacred character of the cemetery. Regarding specific gatherings of entities of a more historical nature, it must be remembered that cemeteries are places for prayer and reflective remembrance.

\_\_\_\_\_ There are to be no military honors undertaken. (For example, 21-gun salute)

\_\_\_\_\_ There shall be no manner of 'reenactment' in any regard.

\_\_\_\_\_ There shall be no objects for re-enactment, such as flags (with the exception of the United States Flag, or the Flag of Louisiana or the Vatican Flag), guns or re-enactment uniforms not be utilized during a gathering or time in the cemetery;

\_\_\_\_\_ A certificate of adequate liability insurance satisfying the necessary insurance requirements of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux has been provided with this form;

\_\_\_\_\_ There is to be no media, cameras, or filming.

With signature below we/I agree in writing to the conditions stated above and have provided all necessary information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of authorized representative requesting use*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*