Dear brothers and sisters,

Please accept a warm welcome to these gardens of the saints. These cemeteries have been respectfully developed for the burial needs of our Catholic families. Your visit to Catholic Cemeteries probably means that you have experienced the loss of a loved one who rests here within these sacred grounds. Or perhaps you are here to plan for your own burial when the Lord calls you to Himself. Either way, the reality of death always shakes us to the core, especially during challenging times.

Our Catholic belief in the salvation of the soul and the resurrection of the body continues to be a sign of contradiction for those in the culture who “consider death the definitive annihilation of the person or the moment of fusion with Mother Nature or the universe,” as acknowledged in the Church’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (“To Rise with Christ”).

The increasing practice of dividing and scattering human remains points to a cultural dehumanization of the body in death. Yet here at Catholic Cemeteries, the deceased never become some thing to be discarded, but always the cherished someone who will be resurrected in Christ on the last day.

This foundational tenet of our faith was beautifully articulated by the late Pope Benedict XVI:

“Resurrection “is the greatest ‘mutation’, absolutely the most crucial leap into a totally new dimension that there has ever been in the long history of life and its development,... a cosmic event, which includes heaven and earth and links them together.” (15 April 2006)

Brothers and sisters, we are the carriers of this good news about everlasting life within our families, neighborhoods and workplaces. Catholic Cemeteries are a tangible sign of our faith in these sacred mysteries!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Washington
What happened to my flowers?
Catholic Cemeteries welcomes the age-old tradition of bringing fresh flowers to the gravesite of a loved one year-round. In fact, this gesture helps contribute to the beauty of the cemetery. Since the sacred grounds are also visited by wildlife, the flowers can sometimes be eaten by deer. Other times, they are removed by the cemetery staff when they begin to wilt and lose their beauty. Artificial flowers are welcome before and after the grass mowing season, since wires in the flower stems pose a safety hazard to the mowers, maintenance staff and cemetery visitors.

If my parents purchased six sites and they are buried in two of them, who is entitled to the remaining four sites?
Catholic Cemeteries follow the inheritance laws of each local jurisdiction. In general, all the children inherit the remaining burial sites of a family grave purchased by their parents, unless otherwise specified in a will. If one child has a need to use one of the sites, the other children must all sign an authorization, as well.

What should I do if I am still holding the cremated remains of a loved one in my home?
Catholic Cemeteries seeks to serve families who are ready to lay their loved ones to rest. The Church asks that cremated remains be kept in a respectful vessel and always be treated with the same reverence as full body burial. The cemeteries of the Archdiocese have prepared for the interment of cremated remains in ground burial sections, columbariums or mausoleum niches, with varying options for memorialization. Kindly contact the cemetery office to make an appointment for burial arrangements.

Let us look upwards, because we are on a journey toward the Height, whereas the things from down here will not go up there: the best careers, the greatest achievements, the most prestigious titles and awards, accumulated wealth, earthly earnings — all will vanish in an instant, everything. And every expectation placed in those things will be disappointed. And yet, how much time, how much effort and energy do we spend worrying and feeling sad because of these things, letting the tension towards home fade, losing sight of the meaning of the way, of the goal of the journey, the infinite towards which we go, the joy for which we breathe! Let us ask ourselves: do I live out what I say in the Creed, ‘I look forward’ — that is — ‘to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come?’
— Pope Francis, Nov. 2, 2022

Let’s stay in touch
To receive Flocknote updates on cemetery visiting hours, inclement weather closings, monthly Masses and annual events via text message or email:

Text CCAW to 84576 on your cell phone, or sign up on the ccaw.org homepage.

Employment Opportunities
Join us in this important ministry of the Church. Kindly visit ccaw.org for employment opportunities on sacred ground. Second careers welcome.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington is to perform the Corporal Work of Mercy of burying the dead of the Archdiocese and to witness our faith and hope in the Resurrection of the body in Christ.