



ST. ANTHONY CEMETERY & CEMETERY BOARD HISTORY

Saint Anthony Catholic Cemetery was established in 1866 near Saint Anthony Catholic Church on what is now the property for Edison Elementary School. Some years later, the cemetery was moved to its current location on Berlin Street. Our cemetery is a neighbor to Milan Cemetery, not a part of it. The Roberts-Taylor-Fries Mausoleum sits in the middle of our property but is a part of the Milan Cemetery.

For many years, the Cemetery was managed by the Pastor and various committees. Parish adults and youths volunteered to tend to the mowing and upkeep as well as digging the graves. Eventually, the maintenance and opening/closing of graves was contracted out to our neighbor, the Milan Cemetery Association.

Upon direction from the bishop, Pastor James Walsh organized the current board in late 1989. He chose two female parishioners and two male parishioners to be on the board for equal representation. The volunteers appointed at that time were Virginia Landoll, Craig Finnen, Larry Smith, and Christine Mollison. Craig and Christine continue to serve on the board. In 1999, Paul Woronecki joined the board and functioned as our cemetery sexton until 2018. Dave Moyer joined the board in 2010 after Virginia's departure and Angie Vogus joined us in 2021 after Larry's passing. The board is always open to new volunteer members. The board meets once or twice a year depending on the Pastor's discretion.

In the 1990s, the map of the cemetery required a major update. The map consisted of four very large panels with the sections of the cemetery plotted. The panels had to be placed on the floor to see the whole map at once. These were burdensome to use and somewhat out-of-date. In 1996, Paul and Margo Woronecki volunteered to update the map and research the deeds with church and library records. Eventually, they physically probed and proofed the cemetery plots that were in question. They utilized cemetery software and mapped out St. Anthony Cemetery on an Excel spreadsheet.

The board was asked years ago to share our burial information with Thomas Ayres for a genealogy compilation that he uploads to the internet on the site for Milan Cemetery.

The board instituted a special collection each May prior to Memorial Day and eventually added another special collection in the fall. The board's goal was to build an endowment fund to support the costs of running the cemetery. The endowment fund was established in 2015 through the Diocese of Toledo.

The board has agreed to install a columbarium at the cemetery. It will have forty-eight niches for cremains. Each niche can hold up to two cremains. We are anticipating the niches to be available for sale early next year (2026).