

Parish Cemetery Seminar

Prepared for Parish Cemeterians of the Madison Diocese

September 19, 2023

Memorial of St. Januarius, Martyr



Agenda

- Mission and Spirituality – Bishop Donald Hying
- Responses to submitted questions
- Software – Brandon Finley, CIMS by Ramaker
- Monuments – Erich Pechmann, Pechmann Memorials
- Into the Deep
- Open Forum



Parish Cemetery Seminar 2023

2023 Q&A

1. How is a sexton chosen? Volunteer, nominated, voted on by parishioners, appointed by the priest?
2. In addition to the cemetery, does the sexton also have responsibility for the church and other buildings in the parish?

What is a sexton? See job description at www.madisondiocese.org/parish-cemeteries



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2023 Q&A

What is the diocesan position on LGBT Catholics being buried in our cemeteries?

Can. 1184 §1. Unless they gave some signs of repentance before death, the following must be deprived of ecclesiastical funerals:

- 1/ notorious apostates, heretics, and schismatics;
- 2/ those who chose the cremation of their bodies for reasons contrary to Christian faith;
- 3/ other manifest sinners who cannot be granted ecclesiastical funerals without public scandal of the faithful.

§2. If any doubt occurs, the local ordinary is to be consulted, and his judgment must be followed.

Can. 1185 Any funeral Mass must also be denied a person who is excluded from ecclesiastical funerals.

Nothing about *burial*, just *funerals*.

Before selling a grave to someone publicly known to be in a same-sex relationship, inform him or her that no acknowledgment of that relationship will be allowed on any memorial on church property.



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2023 Q&A

What is the Catholic church's, and Diocese of Madison's, position on 'green' burials?

What is it?

No embalming, no casket, no vault, natural marker, no power tools.

Is it Catholic?

Yes, or at least it can be.

Is it Legal?

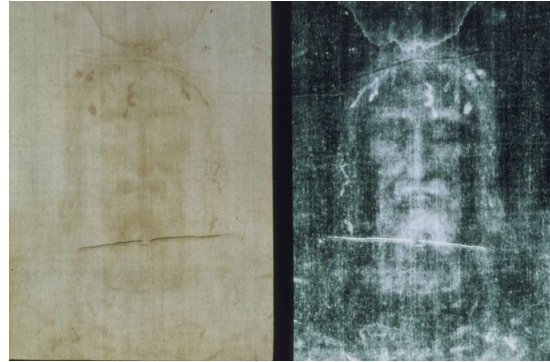
Yes.

Is it Permitted?

Depends on the pastor, who makes the rules for parish cemeteries.

Is certification by the Green Burial Council required?

No.



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2023 Q&A

Into the Deep – to be discussed **after our two presentations**

- Software requirements
- Cemetery accounting
- Perpetual care funds
- Operations
- Rogue sextons



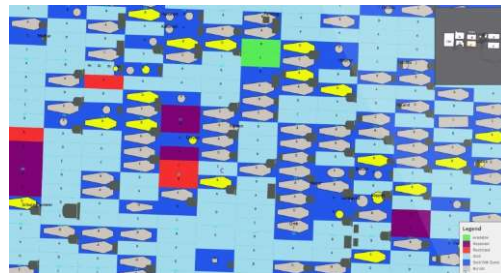
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Software

Why have cemetery software?

1. Perpetual record keeping
2. Ease sales process
3. Assist cemetery planning process

Brandon Finley | Service Group Leader
CIMS Cemetery Software
A product of Ramaker
Sauk City, WI



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Monuments



Erich Pechmann
President, Pechmann Memorials, Madison



THREE GENERATIONS OF EXCELLENCE



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Into the Deep

1. Keep doing what you're doing. Thank you!
2. Let the Pastorate Administrator know if you need something.
3. Look for opportunities to collaborate with other cemeteries in your pastorate.
4. Eventually there will be one cemetery operating account, and one perpetual care fund
5. New: annual report to the diocese.



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Into the Deep: Do Now, Do Later

Right now , <i>each cemetery</i> should have one operating account, one perpetual care fund.	This has always been best practice, and it will assist the later stages. Do now.	Be sure to put perpetual care funds in an account that can out-earn inflation.
Right now , locate deed to cemetery.	Send a copy to Damian: Damian@madisondiocese.org .	Done
Once the parishes are merged canonically and civilly , the cemeteries of the parish should have one operating acct and one PCF.	Do not do this now!	Do it later.



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