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 something to be discarded, but always the cherished someone who will be resurrected in Christ on the last day.

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!

Did you know…

Catholic Cemeteries offers exceptional payment terms when purchasing pre-need with 10% down, no interest for two full years on burial lots and three years on crypts and niches.

Memorials to Enslaved Catholics

Since 2018, parish cemeteries have prayerfully installed memorial markers honoring the unknown enslaved and formerly enslaved men and women buried in Catholic cemeteries. The markers remind cemetery visitors of the notable presence and sacred destiny of the deceased, allowing parishioners to reflect on the contributions enslaved persons made to their community and nation despite their great suffering. “May this stone be a sign of comfort to the living descendants of those buried here, and a sign of their hope for unending life for their ancestors,” — Cardinal Wilton Gregory prayed at St. Peter Claver parish cemetery, Inigoes, MD, in November 2022.

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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.

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 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

New Sections at Catholic Cemeteries

Responding to the future needs of the families of the Archdiocese, Catholic Cemeteries is developing new sections at four major properties. In 2023, Gate of Heaven began opening new sections for inground burial, a Cremation Garden, and an area for the burial of infants. All Souls Cemetery will begin developing a large new section for cremation and full body burial. Mount Olivet expects to add niches for cremated remains. Planning is underway for Resurrection to expand its garden mausoleum, adding crypts for full body entombment and niches for cremated remains.

For more answers to your questions, visit the Catholic Cemeteries website, ccaw.org/ask-the-managers

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.

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.