It’s been another year of tremendous progress for Catholic Cemeteries serving persons in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties.

In early September, we dedicated the new Holy Family Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery, Lenexa, Kan. We were very pleased and honored to have Archbishop Naumann bless the new facility and offer the first Mass at that location.

Plans are underway to memorialize the unborn victims of abortion with a monument at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Kansas City, Kan., in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus William T. Fitzsimmons Assembly. Also at Gate of Heaven, we continue to work on plans for a Veterans Memorial.

We are very excited about the Pilgrimage at Resurrection prayer opportunity we have developed (see article, page 3). We hope there will be some seasonal autumn days remaining this year for persons to walk and pray the pilgrimage. This is a great opportunity for youth groups to learn about key elements of our faith, for members of parish organizations to pray together, for individuals to take time for spiritual reflection, and for us to pray for persons buried in our Catholic cemeteries.

We will promote this opportunity more extensively next spring, but the offer is open now to anyone interested in making the pilgrimage at Resurrection Cemetery. Prayer booklets are available weekdays in the office located in the Holy Family Mausoleum.

Planning and coordination of these monuments and special prayer services are over and above our primary focus on helping people make pre-arrangements and at-need arrangements for burial or entombment. We continue to visit parishes throughout the year and encourage individuals of all ages to plan ahead for peace of mind and to ease the burden on their loved ones.

We all know too well that we are mortal, and we believe that our time on earth is preparatory – a pilgrimage, if you will – for greater and lasting glory with God in eternity. We consider it our privilege and our responsibility to help people think about and plan toward this reality and to comfort families as their loved ones make the transition to eternal life.

We hope as you read the articles in this newsletter that you will learn more about Catholic Cemeteries, recognize the extent of our services and contact us for more information. Thank you.

Robert W. Chenoweth
Executive Director
It’s not too difficult to visualize a painter at her easel with palette and brush in hand bringing the blank canvas alive with color. Or a sculptor walking around a piece of wood with hammer and chisel, pondering where the next cut will be.

But what goes into the design of stained glass windows? What are the steps of this creative process and who’s involved in transforming pieces of beautiful glass into incredible works of art?

Catholic Cemeteries has learned answers to those questions well through its experiences with C. Pickel Studio, Inc., Vero Beach, Fla. This 65-year old company designed, created and installed the stained glass windows for the new Holy Family Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery, Lenexa, Kan.

The work drew praise from glass windows for the new Holy Family designed, created and installed the stained glass in incredible works of art?

Archbishop Naumann greeted Matt Hartung, general contractor for the project.

Holy Family Mausoleum CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The archbishop prayed that the new mausoleum would be a place of consolation and comfort for families. He acknowledged the work of Catholic Cemeteries’ staff in their upkeep and ongoing improvements to the seven cemeteries they manage and maintain in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties.

Robert W. Chenoweth, Catholic Cemeteries’ executive director, explained that space limitations in two other mausoleums at Resurrection Cemetery prompted construction of the new facility. He said that this enhancement to the cemetery was part of Catholic Cemeteries’ commitment to perpetual maintenance and beautification of the properties it manages.

Artisans every step of the project
C. Pickel Studio, Inc., Vero Beach, Fla., designed and crafted the stained glass in the new mausoleum. On entering the mausoleum, a visitor faces the east wall and a panoramic view of the “Family of God” stained glass window. The mausoleum has three large stained glass windows with scenes from the life of the Holy Family (see photos top of page) and a rose window of the “Lamb of God” over the entryway.

For each of the windows, Lyn first created a scale watercolor paper drawing. Her next step was to do a full-size pencil drawing of each window. This step involved making sure all elements were proportional and took into consideration the flow of where the lead would be.

The archbishop prayed that the new mausoleum would be a place of consolation and comfort for families. He acknowledged the work of Catholic Cemeteries’ staff in their upkeep and ongoing improvements to the seven cemeteries they manage and maintain in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties.

Robert W. Chenoweth, Catholic Cemeteries’ executive director, explained that space limitations in two other mausoleums at Resurrection Cemetery prompted construction of the new facility. He said that this enhancement to the cemetery was part of Catholic Cemeteries’ commitment to perpetual maintenance and beautification of the properties it manages.

Artisans every step of the project
C. Pickel Studio, Inc., Vero Beach, Fla., designed and crafted the stained glass in the new mausoleum. On entering the mausoleum, a visitor faces the east wall and a panoramic view of the “Family of God” stained glass window. The mausoleum has three large stained glass windows with scenes from the life of the Holy Family (see photos top of page) and a rose window of the “Lamb of God” over the entryway.

For each of the windows, Lyn first created a scale watercolor paper drawing. Her next step was to do a full-size pencil drawing of each window. This step involved making sure all elements were proportional and took into consideration the flow of where the lead would be.

The delicate glass - ranging only from one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch in thickness – was then fitted into the strips of lead. Artisans applied reinforcement methods to ensure stability of the glass within the lead.

Labor of love
A team from the Vero Beach studio carefully packed the panels of the stained glass windows, transported them and installed the windows in the Holy Family Mausoleum.

It was a labor of love with artistry in every step. “Everybody here [at the studio] is an expert,” Lyn explained. “These are all wonderful people, and we work well together.”
HERNANDEZ now holds. The last time she had been provides prayers for each pilgrimage site and a description Our Lady of Lourdes and others. The prayer booklet the Queen of Heaven Garden, the Ascension Memorial, Cemeteries’ office to apply for the job CARMELA RANK in the office was with her husband to plan his burial children and two grandchildren. She also enjoys going to one of the top revenue-producing booths!

a member of the Archdiocesan Choir. She is a member of the parish. Carmela sings in the choir and in the past was the Cathedral Parish. She’s been a very active volunteer in Resurrection. In her role at the 38th and State Avenue Lenexa, Kan., during weekday business hours. Groups are asked to contact Catholic Cemeteries in advance to arrange the pilgrimage by calling 913-371-4040 or emailing information@catholiccemeterieskc.org.

Job a ‘right fit’

It was an emotional experience entering the Catholic Cemeteries’ office to apply for the job CARMELA RANK HERNANDEZ now holds. The last time she had been in the office was with her husband to plan his burial arrangements. He died from cancer in 2000.

The minute she completed the interview, however, Carmela said that she knew the Catholic Cemeteries’ office assistant job was the right fit for her. “I’ve experienced losing someone,” she said, “and I know what it’s like to go through the process.”

Carmela also was impressed that Catholic Cemeteries is a much larger organization than she realized – seven cemeteries total – and that the organization is “growing and moving.” One of her first extra assignments was to help welcome guests to the dedication and blessing of the new Holy Family Mausoleum. He assembled and did electrical work for the glass front cremation niches. He also did finish work on the Ascension and Assumption Memorials. At Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Kansas City, Kan., Tom laid the footings for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Memorial.

Eventually, Carmela will work in the new office at Resurrection. In her role at the 58th and State Avenue office in Kansas City, Kan., Carmela orders monuments and is currently helping computerize records for pre-need arrangements.

Carmela is a lifelong resident of Kansas City, Kan., and the Cathedral Parish. She’s been a very active volunteer in the parish. Carmela sings in the choir and in the past was a member of the Archdiocesan Choir. She is a member of the parish Altar Society. Carmela and her family prepare the Mexican food at the Cathedral annual ice cream social – one of the top revenue-producing booths.

Family is very important to Carmela who has three children and two grandchildren. She also enjoys going to the lake, gardening and remodeling.

With a number of beautiful outdoor and indoor monuments and memorials, Resurrection Cemetery presents an ideal setting for a pilgrimage, said Robert W. Chenoweth, executive director of Catholic Cemeteries. “We’ve created a pilgrimage route and an accompanying prayer booklet,” Bob explained, “that can be followed and used by individuals or groups.

The pilgrimage starts outdoors at the Infant of Prague Memorial and progresses to nine additional stops including the Queen of Heaven Garden, the Ascension Memorial, Our Lady of Lourdes and others. The prayer booklet provides prayers for each pilgrimage site and a description of the meaning of each memorial. “We suggest that persons making the pilgrimage,” Bob added, “pray the rosary between stops along the way and pray for the deceased buried in our Catholic cemeteries.”

Bob estimated that making the pilgrimage would take approximately one to one and a half hours – depending on each individual’s pace. Seven of the memorials are outdoors; three, indoors. The pilgrimage concludes inside the new Holy Family Mausoleum.

To make the pilgrimage, individuals can stop by the Catholic Cemeteries’ office in the Holy Family Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery, 83rd and Quivira Road, Lenexa, Kan., during weekday business hours. Groups are asked to contact Catholic Cemeteries in advance to arrange the pilgrimage by calling 913-371-4040 or emailing information@catholiccemeterieskc.org.

Pride of ownership

TOM WALICZEK ranks his work on the Infant of Prague Memorial at Resurrection Cemetery, Lenexa, Kan., as one of the most meaningful things he’s ever done as a craftsman. Doing the stone and concrete work for this memorial for children who have died was both sad and uplifting, Tom said. He and his crew members would stop their work when a funeral was in progress nearby. Other times, Tom recalled a feeling of comfort that the kids buried in this section of the cemetery were keeping him company on the job.

Pride of ownership has accompanied Tom’s other work for Catholic Cemeteries – primarily at Resurrection. The self-employed contractor set the footings and foundation for the Memorial to the Unborn. With the exception of the actual granite monuments (designed by Johnson Granite), Tom completed all other work for the Veterans Memorial – including installing outdoor lighting and planting bushes! He also did finish work on the Ascension and Assumption Memorials. At Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Kansas City, Kan., Tom laid the footings for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Memorial.

Most recently, Tom worked on the new Holy Family Mausoleum at Resurrection. He assembled and did electrical work for the glass front cremation niches. He also did finish work to the walls around the carvings on the face of the building.

Tom has been a self-employed contractor since 1980. Early in this career, he began doing projects for the archdiocese. Over the course of time, Tom also served six years on the Catholic Cemeteries Board of Trustees – his first formal introduction to the operations of the organization. His second term expired in 2003.

A few years later, Tom “received a call out of the blue” from Bob Chenoweth, Catholic Cemeteries’ executive director, asking him to spec a job. Since then, Tom has remained part of the Catholic Cemeteries’ team of independent contractors who support the organization’s Mission.

Except for his two-year stint in the U.S. Army, Tom and his wife of 46 years have lived in the Strawberry Hill area of Kansas City, Kan. They are members of All Saints Parish.
At Gate of Heaven

Plans are progressing to develop a memorial to unborn victims of abortion at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 126th and Parallel, Kansas City, Kan. Catholic Cemeteries is working with the Knights of Columbus William T. Fitzsimmons Assembly on this project. The memorial will be located in the southwest sector of the cemetery.

At Resurrection

The painting of the outdoor Assumption Memorial has been replaced with colorful mosaic artwork. The surrounding granite has been repaired to update the memorial.

Remember a Veteran with a wall engraving

Remember a Veteran – living or deceased – by having his/her name engraved on the walls between the monuments or on a paver stone of the Veterans Memorial at Resurrection Cemetery. Several panels have names engraved as tokens of appreciation by family and friends. Room remains for additional names. Call 913-371-4040 or email information@catholiccemeterieskc.org for more information and donor opportunities.