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Catholic Cemeteries

Serving Northeast Kansas • Fall/Winter 2011

This has been a very busy and productive year for Catholic Cemeteries in our ongoing efforts to serve the people of northeast Kansas.

From the executive director



We expanded our reach and extended our many services to the Topeka Pastoral Region by assuming management of Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Topeka. We continued enhancement of all

eight of our Catholic cemeteries with the addition of new monuments and maintenance of grounds and properties. At the same time, we sustained our commitment to high levels of customer service by responding to needs at the time of families' personal losses and by helping people pre-plan burial arrangements.

Our ministry is one that we take very seriously. Whether it's our field crew straightening cemetery markers or preparing gravesites for burials, or our family service counselors meeting with individuals following the death of a loved one, our team earns high marks for understanding, compassion and concern.

As we visit parishes throughout the year, I am heartened to hear people commend Catholic Cemeteries for our services—from memorial Masses to beautification of the cemeteries to guiding them through difficult times. Likewise, when Archbishop Naumann and priests acknowledge the value of our role in serving the archdiocesan Church, we take pride in carrying out this important responsibility.

As we celebrate the mystery of Emmanuel come to dwell among us, we pledge renewed commitment to our ministry. We extend greetings of this holy season to you and yours and wishes for a new year filled with many blessings.

Robert W. Chenoweth
Executive Director

New monuments blessed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery



During a ceremony on Oct. 3, Archbishop Naumann incensed the new Guardian Angel Shrine at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Pictured with him, from the left, Bill Riley and Bob Chenoweth, Catholic Cemeteries, and an unidentified Knight of Columbus.

Describing the importance of two new monuments he dedicated Oct. 3 at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Kansas City, Kan., Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann said they will bring consolation to families while representing the Church's respect for the dignity of life.

Archbishop Naumann celebrated Mass and blessed both the Memorial to Victims of Abortion on the west side of the cemetery and the nearby Guardian Angel Shrine. Gate of Heaven Cemetery is located at 126th and Parallel Parkway, western Wyandotte County.

During his homily, Archbishop Naumann called the loss of a child a "great sorrow" for parents and praised Catholic Cemeteries for placement of the Guardian Angel Shrine in the infant burial section

of the cemetery. "As parents come to this site to mourn the loss of their child," he said, "the shrine will comfort them in their grief."

Regarding the Memorial to the Victims of Abortion, the archbishop said, "In a culture that sanctions taking lives before birth, this memorial stands as a symbol and sign of our conviction as Catholics who join with others in recognizing the dignity of life." He encouraged persons who have had abortions to visit the monument with prayers for healing. The archbishop acknowledged the William T. Fitzsimons Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, who sponsored the memorial. Individuals, families, parishes and organizations can express their support of the culture of life on memorial bricks at the monument by making a contribution.

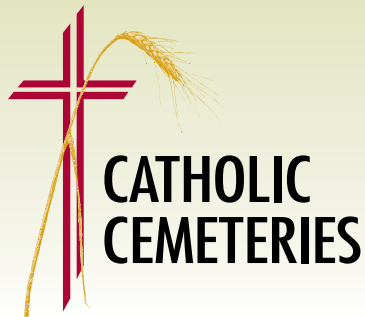
At Catholic Cemeteries, we celebrate life.

Year-round and especially during this Advent and Christmas season, we thank God for the gift of life, the seasons of life and the promise of eternal life.

We pray blessings on you and your loved ones and extend wishes for a joy-filled Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Photo of stained glass in Holy Family Mausoleum, Resurrection Cemetery, Lenexa, Kan.



Office and more information

913-371-4040 (Kansas City area)
785-272-0820 (Topeka area)
information@cathcemks.org
www.cathcemks.org

St. John Cemetery
36th and State Ave.
Kansas City, Kan.

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
38th and State Ave.
Kansas City, Kan.

Gate of Heaven Cemetery
126th and Parallel
Kansas City, Kan.

The Church and cremation

As a Catholic, may I be cremated?

Yes. Since 1963, cremation has been permitted, and since 1997, cremated remains may be present at the funeral Mass.

When should cremation take place?

The Church strongly prefers that cremation take place after the full funeral liturgy with the body.

Must cremated remains be buried/entombed?

Yes. Respectful and final disposition of cremated remains involves interment or entombment.

What is a columbarium?

A columbarium is an arrangement of niches, either in a mausoleum, a room, a wall or a monument into which urns or other worthy vessels containing cremated remains are placed for permanent memorial.

May I scatter the cremated remains?

No. The practice of scattering cremated remains or keeping them in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased is not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. Scattering is never permitted.

Source: "The Church and Cremation" brochure revised by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, 2000.

Two cemeteries to add new columbaria

In response to the increasing popularity of cremation as a burial option, Catholic Cemeteries of Northeast Kansas has announced plans to add new columbaria at cemeteries in Shawnee and Topeka.

The artist's rendering depicts the new Holy Family Columbarium, Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Topeka.



Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Topeka, Kan., will offer the new outdoor Holy Family Columbarium with 96 niches for cremated remains in the northwest section of the cemetery. Names of deceased persons will be engraved on exterior panels. Each end panel of the columbarium will feature a bas relief carving of the Holy Family. Cremation benches, each of which will hold two sets of cremated remains, will also be available surrounding the columbarium.

Projected completion date for the Holy Family Columbarium is early 2012 with family service counselors currently making space arrangements. Based on continued demand, Catholic Cemeteries has plans for expansion with additional columbaria in the same location.

...



To accommodate needs in Shawnee, a new columbarium is being developed for St. Joseph Cemetery, 61st and Quivira Road.

With space in the current columbarium completely committed, Catholic Cemeteries will add a new monument for cremated remains at **St. Joseph Cemetery, 61st and Quivira Road, Shawnee, Kan.** Construction is underway for the St. Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family, Columbarium. The new columbarium will be located in the northeast section of the cemetery and will offer 96 niches with additional niches available in benches surrounding the monument. Projected completion date for the St. Joseph Columbarium is by spring 2012.

Catholic Cemeteries' family service counselors are currently making space arrangements for both new columbaria. Appropriate storage will be provided for cremated remains of persons who die before space is available.

Call **785-272-0820** (Topeka) or **913-371-4040** (Kansas City area)
or email **information@cathcemks.org**.

Father Volz named to Catholic Cemeteries Board

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann has appointed Father Jerry Volz to the Board of Trustees of Catholic Cemeteries. Father Volz is pastor of St. Matthew Parish, Topeka, Kan., and the regional pastoral leader.

Of his association with Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Topeka, and now with Catholic Cemeteries of Northeast Kansas, Father Volz said, "Since both of my parents are buried at Mt. Calvary, Topeka, the cemetery holds a special place in my heart to know that they are in this blessed space where Mass is celebrated and special prayers are said."

Originally from Topeka, Father Volz attended Assumption Grade School and Hayden High School. He was ordained in 1992 following studies at Conception Seminary College, Conception, Mo., and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Ill. Prior to his pastoral assignment at St. Matthew Parish, Father Volz served at St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center, Lawrence, Kan.; Prince of Peace Parish, Olathe, Kan.; St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Overland Park, Kan.; and Didde Catholic Campus Center, Emporia, Kan.

Anticipating his work on the Catholic Cemeteries Board of Trustees, Father Volz said, "It is important for Catholics to consider burial in Catholic cemeteries because the space is blessed, and the deceased are in the company of fellow Catholics. This serves as a reminder of the communion of souls that we participate in as baptized Catholics, as we transition from the place where our mortal bodies find rest to eternal life."



Father Volz preaching at the Nov. 5 Mass at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Topeka.

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
158th and S. Hwy. 169
Olathe, Kan.

Resurrection Cemetery
83rd and Quivira
Lenexa, Kan.

St. John Cemetery
89th and Pflumm
Lenexa, Kan.

St. Joseph Cemetery
61st and Quivira
Shawnee, Kan.

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
801 S.W. Westchester Rd.
Topeka, Kan.

Rounding out the staff in Topeka

Larry Krische joins Catholic Cemeteries’ team



LARRY KRISCHE has joined Catholic Cemeteries as a family service counselor, working out of the Topeka office. Larry was chair of the Mt. Calvary Cemetery Advisory Board, Topeka, Kan., since its formation in October 2010.

The lifelong Topeka resident attended St. Joseph Grade School and Hayden High School, then earned his degree in business administration from Washburn University. Larry worked for A T & S F Railway (currently BNSF) for 32 years in purchases and materials management, and process management. During that time, he was also a Dale Carnegie instructor for 17 years teaching in Topeka and the surrounding area.

For the past 11 years, Larry was involved in development and fund raising. He was on the staff of the St. Lawrence Catholic Student Center at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, and a consultant with Petrus Development. The past five years, he was development director at Hayden High School.

Larry and his wife Sue are members of Christ the King Parish, Topeka. They have three sons and five grandchildren.

“Mt. Calvary Cemetery is very important to the Catholic community in Topeka. So many of us have family buried there,” Larry said. “I look forward to working with and helping the people of the Topeka region and am proud to join the Catholic Cemeteries’ staff, who are dedicated to caring about the individuals and families they serve.”

New field crew manager lifelong Topeka resident



As the field crew manager at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Topeka, **GREGORIO TORREZ** feels well suited for his job of keeping the property well maintained; he enjoys anything related to grounds keeping. He also appreciates the opportunity to meet and talk with people to let them know that he will help tend the gravesites and burial places of their family and loved ones.

Several members of Gregorio’s own family are buried at Mt. Calvary. A native of Topeka, he graduated from Topeka High School and earned his welding certificate from Kaw Area Vocational School. He worked for Pepsi-Cola, the Kansas Department of Transportation, the State of Kansas and Frito-Lay.

A staff sergeant in the Army Reserves, Gregorio has served three tours of duty—two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. During these deployments, he was a heavy equipment operator and mechanic, and transported essential supplies and equipment.

Gregorio and his wife Molly are active members of Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish where she is the parish receptionist. The Torrezes have three adult children and three grandchildren.

Veterans Day observed at Resurrection Cemetery



The American Legion Band provided a patriotic prelude and music during the program.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7397 formed the color guard at the ceremony.



Bob Chenoweth with Father Jerry Spencer at the podium.

Noting that he has seen the United States at war several times during his lifetime, Father Jerry Spencer said that the nation owes a debt of gratitude to those who serve in the military, those who have died in service of their country, and those who are Veterans today. Father Spencer made guest remarks during the annual Nov. 11 Veterans Day observance at the Veterans Memorial, Resurrection Cemetery, Lenexa, Kan. He also said that two of his personal heroes are priests who died while serving as military chaplains: Father Vincent Capodanno and Father Emil Kapaun, both of whom are candidates for sainthood.

The American Legion Band and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7397 participated in the program with Father Spencer. A pastor, hospital chaplain and archdiocesan priest, Father Spencer also serves as vice chairman of the Catholic Cemeteries Board of Trustees.

More a ministry than a job

Working at Catholic Cemeteries was always more of a ministry than a job for **BILL RILEY**, who recently retired after almost 20 years with the organization. “The crux of this work is to help people get through the difficult experience of loss and grief,” he said.

Bill began employment at Catholic Cemeteries as a family service counselor. After a very brief retirement, he rejoined the organization part-time in the late 1990s as sales and marketing manager. Bill managed the Catholic Cemeteries’ team responsible for at-need and pre-need arrangements.

What he valued most about his experience is the feeling that he may have benefited people through his work with Catholic Cemeteries. “I’ve always felt good about having the opportunity to do this type of work,” Bill said. “I became friends with many of our clients, after the fact of assisting them,” he said.

In retirement, Bill anticipates playing more golf, traveling and remaining active in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, La Cygne, Kan., where he and his wife Anne are members.



Bill Riley accepts a plaque from Father Ken Kelly, chairman of the Catholic Cemeteries Board of Trustees.

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It was a crisp autumn morning, as a good crowd gathered for the outdoor Mass at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Topeka. Father Jerry Volz celebrated Mass and preached the homily. In his sermon, he described purgatory as a stage of transition and a state of purification. Bob Broxterman and Jeff Lummis provided musical accompaniment.

**Learn more about Catholic Cemeteries;
free DVDs available; videos on website**

Learn more about Catholic Cemeteries of Northeast Kansas through a series of brief videos that describe our ministry, preparations for burial, monuments and sacred shrines, and other topics.

For a free DVD, call **913-371-4040** (Kansas City) or **785-272-0820** (Topeka), or email **information@cathcemks.org**.

You can also view the videos on our website, **www.cathcemks.org**.

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