



CATHOLIC
CEMETERIES
St. John • Mt. St. Mary • Holy Cross
St. Charles / Resurrection

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

MEMORIAL DAY FIELD MASS

MAY 26, 2014

BEREAVEMENT CONFERENCE

Journey to Healing:

We Remember; We Celebrate; We Believe



Each of us experience the loss of a loved one in our own personal way, but professionals tell us that the grief process does progress over a number of stages. Beginning with Shock and Denial, with time, support and understanding, we do come to the stage of Acceptance and Hope. Our Catholic Faith gives us reason to Hope, and as the Gospel of John tells us: *"But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."* (John 16:22).

To help cope with the grieving process, the Diocese of Brooklyn conducted its second annual Bereavement Conference last November entitled: *"Journey to Healing: We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe"*. This event was brought about by the collaboration of our Catholic Cemeteries, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, and the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at St. John's University. The afternoon Conference was held at the D'Angelo Center on the grounds of St. John's University in Queens, NY, and well over 200 participants attended this supportive and worthwhile event.

The program was developed with two goals in mind: to provide those who have experienced a loss with valuable how-to information to help them through the grieving process, and for those who assist and minister to the bereaved, to strengthen their understanding of how they can best help others along the journey to healing. Participants had the opportunity to attend two of 10 different workshops which included topics such as parental loss, spousal loss, loss of a child, grief from a male perspective, spirituality, and other issues helping to provide inspiration and hope. At the conclusion of the Conference, attendees were provided with the spiritual uplift of Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Paul R. Sanchez, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, concelebrated by Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Reid, Spiritual Moderator for Catholic Cemeteries.

The planning committee is in the process of putting together all that is necessary to once again offer this helpful event which is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2014. Please check our website or contact one of our offices later this year for registration and other information as it becomes available.

MEMORIAL DAY...

Let us remember the men and women
who fought so bravely so that we might live in freedom.



"...we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."
– Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address



ETERNAL GOD,
in whom mercy
is endless and the
treasury of compassion
inexhaustible,
look kindly upon us,
that in difficult moments
we might not despair
nor become despondent,
but with great confidence
submit ourselves
to Your holy will
which is love
and mercy itself.



*TREATING
THE
CREMATED BODY
WITH
REVERENCE AND RESPECT*



As we know, cremation is being chosen more often not only by non-Catholics, but by Catholics as well. Though not the preference of the Church, cremation is permitted for Catholics as long as it is not chosen in denial of Christian teaching on the Resurrection and the sacredness of the human body. The same respect and reverence should be given the cremated body, including the full Order of Christian Funerals: the Vigil (wake) Service, the Funeral Liturgy (Mass), and the Rite of Committal (burial or entombment).

Being separated from a loved one who has passed is understandably one of life's most difficult challenges, and one can see how keeping the cremated remains in the home might bring comfort, at least initially. However, keeping the cremated remains in the home can be a constant reminder of

the sadness of our loss, making it very difficult to continue on with life as our loved one would have wished. Further, as the years and generations pass, others may move the cremated remains out of sight, to a closet or worse yet, possibly even dispose of the remains. Certainly, this is not the reverence and respect a loved one deserves.

A permanent resting place in a Catholic Cemetery allows us to draw strength from the visible signs of our Faith and the Resurrection, reminding us that *life has changed, not ended*. Keeping cremated remains in the home or scattering does not reflect the sacredness of the body, and denies us the ability to permanently memorialize and remember our loved one. If you have chosen or may chose cremation, please speak with your parish priest or one of our Family Service Counselors to better understand all the facts and options available to you and your family.

ST. JOHN CLOISTER located at St. John Cemetery
now offers newly designed
GLASS FRONT CREMATION NICHES



Sites are located in a private room, dedicated for the entombment of the cremated body and graciously appointed with the reverence of a majestic stained-glass window. Each glass front niche is an elegant piece of workmanship which enhances the beauty of the urn it displays.

St. John Cloister—St. John Cemetery, Middle Village — 718-894-4888

Glass front cremation sites also available at:

Mary Gate of Heaven Mausoleum—Mt. St. Mary Cemetery, Flushing - 718-353-1560
Holy Family Mausoleum—St. Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale - 631-249-8700

For families who choose cremation, Catholic Cemeteries provides a variety of choices for the permanent placement of the cremated body at all cemetery locations.

CALL FOR DETAILS

Visit our website - ccboklyn.org