

# CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

## ALL SOULS DAY FIELD MASS

### NOVEMBER 2, 2015



*Lord,  
make me an instrument of thy peace.  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master  
grant that I may not so much  
seek to be consoled, as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying, that we are born  
to eternal life.*

*Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*

What a wonderful blessing it was having Pope Francis visit our area in late September! His visit energized, challenged and inspired us, and his message of hope touched us in a very special way.

On September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C., Pope Francis canonized the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Franciscan missionary Blessed Junipero Serra who helped found nine missions in what is now California. While the missionary is somewhat controversial due to the colonization activities of the time, his efforts to defend that native population are what helped to make him a saint. It was the first ever canonization on American soil.

The following morning, Pope Francis became the first pope ever to address a joint session of Congress. He stated that "All political activity must serve and promote the good of the human person and be based on his or her dignity". Our Holy Father chose his papal name in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, well known as the patron saint of animals. But St. Francis of Assisi is also the patron saint of ecology, so it should be no surprise that he also raised our awareness on protecting our environment.

Visiting New York on Friday September 25<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis addressed the United Nations General Assembly, stating that the UN is called to help humanity "dispel the darkness of disorder caused by unrestrained ambitions and collective forms of selfishness". Later that day, Pope Francis visited the 9/11 Memorial, offering a prayer for the victims and their families.

We were truly blessed by the visit of our Holy Father who reminds us "Always know in your heart that God is by your side; He never abandons you! Let us never lose hope!"

His parting words before departing on September 27<sup>th</sup>:

*"Dear friends, I embrace all of you in the Lord and I entrust you to the maternal care of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States. I will pray for you and your families, and I ask you, please, to pray for me.  
May God bless you all, God bless America!"*

*But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice,  
and no one will take your joy from you. John 15:22*



### PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Loving and gracious God, with faith in the Resurrection, I pray for all the faithful departed, especially those I have known and loved in this life.

With joy, I thank you for what we shared in this life.

With hope, I entrust them to your mercy.

Welcome them to your Kingdom where they will see you face to face. In loving hope and trust in your goodness, I look forward to the day when I shall see you and be united with them again in paradise.

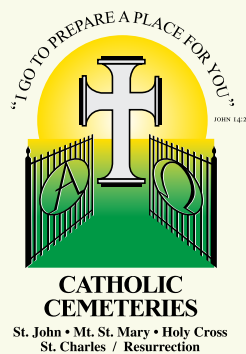
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let the perpetual light shine on them.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## Why A Catholic Cemetery?

Because it is an extension of the Parish – two sacred places are set aside in Canon Law – those for divine worship and those for burial of the faithful.

A Catholic Cemetery is a sign to all that here is a religious place, unique, sacred, and cared for - set aside for those who will have eternal life.



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