



The Tweens from St. John Neumann gathered in the Chapel Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery.



FAR LEFT Gathered around the bier in the Chapel Mausoleum, Tweens shared in a blessing of the tokens of remembrance brought by the young people.



LEFT In an act of service, the young people cleaned and polished the crypt markers in the Chapel Mausoleum at Resurrection.

Grief support group serves children and teens

When a death, divorce or other significant loss in a family occurs, parents are often overwhelmed or in such pain that the impact of the loss on children is overlooked or not understood.

“Like adults, children need an opportunity to process significant losses. When they don’t have that, they often repress their grief, which can manifest itself in behavioral issues, physical illness or depression,” said Bonnie Serio, coordinator of P.A.L.S. (Partners Around Loss through Support), a grief support group for children and teens and their parents and caregivers.

For those reasons, it is important for children, like adults, to be given opportunities to process life’s painful losses and experiences in an environment of love, support and understanding.

P.A.L.S. offers that opportunity for children and teens, kindergarten through high school, who have experienced or are experiencing grief and loss because of divorce, incarceration, chronic illness, deployment, death and other life transitions.

P.A.L.S. is free and open to any child regardless of religious affiliation. It is sponsored by St. John Neumann, in collaboration with St. Thomas Becket and Faithful Shepherd Catholic School, where the weekly evening sessions are held.

To learn more, contact Bonnie Serio at 651.209.8892 or by email at bonnies@sjn.org.

A day at the cemetery ‘Tweens’ learn about life and death

For more than a few of the middle-schoolers who visited Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights on July 1, it was the first time they had been in a cemetery.

The busload of sixth-graders, enrolled in the Tweens summer day camp program of St. John Neumann parish in Eagan, saw all the sights that day — from the rolling acres of graves to the Children’s Memorial to the impressive family estates, from the section reserved for the burial of infants to the “back to nature” cremation boulders and the cemetery’s two mausoleums.

But the bus tour, led by Sister Fran Donnelly of The Catholic Cemeteries, was just part of a daylong experience designed to give middle school-age children a better understanding of death and the importance of remembrance.

Developed by St. John Neumann faith formation specialist Bonnie Serio, the Tweens program offers five days of service and learning for area children entering sixth grade. Each day has a theme, such as caring for creation or caring for the poor, and includes service experiences such as conducting a food drive or hosting a party for families affected by domestic violence.

“Every Person is Sacred” was the theme of the day at Resurrection, offering the Tweens an opportunity to honor and celebrate those who have gone before them.

“Death can be scary to children, and rarely do we give them a chance to talk about it,” said Serio, who also

facilitates a grief support group for youth and parents offered by St. John Neumann (see sidebar). “We designed this day to give them a chance to learn about death and burial and also to be sensitive to how grief and loss affects their lives.”

“We went to the cemetery and learned many new things.”



“At the graveyard, we washed the front of the tombs in the mausoleum.”



“It was cool at the cemetery.”

Comments from youth who visited Resurrection Cemetery in July.

Before the tour of the grounds, the group gathered inside Resurrection’s Chapel Mausoleum, where Sister Fran explained the different types of burials in plain language and fielded questions from the curious kids. Then it was time for sharing personal stories of loss and remembrance.

In advance, participants had been asked to bring two items: a memento of their own babyhood or childhood and a token of an important person in their lives who had passed away.

The young people sat in rapt, polite attention as their fellow day-campers walked to the front and



Bonnie Serio



The Children's Memorial at Gethsemane



The McLeod family estate at Resurrection



The Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum



The Peaceable Kingdom Garden at Resurrection

The Catholic Cemeteries and Coldspring An enduring partnership

Take a ride through the four largest archdiocesan cemeteries and you will see abundant evidence of an enduring creative partnership.

The Chapel Mausoleum at Resurrection, the Children's Memorial at Gethsemane, the Garden Mausoleums and new columbarium at Calvary, and the Garden Mausoleum at St. Mary's — these are just a few examples of how The Catholic Cemeteries and Coldspring, one of the country's largest natural stone and bronze manufacturers, have collaborated to create lasting places of beauty and remembrance.

Headquartered in Cold Spring, Minn., Coldspring has been serving the memorial, architectural, residential and industrial markets for more than 116 years. It has multiple facilities across the country, including 30 quarries, five fabrication locations and a bronze foundry.

"Coldspring not only supplies the granite we use in most of our large projects, much of it is quarried in our state, but also provides considerable expertise and experience in design and construction of memorial buildings and structures both large and small," said John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries.

"Their team brings a great deal of sensitivity and talent in developing concepts that reflect our mission and meet our needs," Cherek said.

Deb Bell, Coldspring regional sales manager for Minnesota, says the company's collaborative partnership with The Catholic Cemeteries has deep roots.

"Our two organizations have worked together for many years on large construction projects such as chapel mausoleums and columbariums as well as smaller scale projects," she said.

"We value our long-standing working relationship with The Catholic Cemeteries immensely."

On projects commissioned by individuals, such as family estates or private mausoleums, Coldspring staff meet with family members and the family service counselors of The Catholic Cemeteries to plan the project and desired features. As the manufacturing process progresses, families are invited to visit the Coldspring plant to see the work firsthand.



Deb Bell

The Coldspring team also handled a number of special projects for The Catholic Cemeteries, including: the development of the Gethsemane Cremation Garden; Gethsemane's Children's Memorial and Prayer Garden, and the Peaceable Kingdom Garden at Resurrection.

"It is so nice to work on creating beautiful places where families can come to reflect and remember loved ones for generations to come," said Bell, who brought her own family members to the dedication of the Gethsemane Children's Memorial several years ago. "It's a very rewarding partnership for all of us at Coldspring who work with The Catholic Cemeteries."

In another effort, Coldspring underwrites a portion of the expenses of The Catholic Cemeteries' annual parish cemetery seminar.

"We appreciate this generous support by Coldspring," said Cherek. "It's yet another way the company partners with The Catholic Cemeteries." 🌳



ABOVE **Bob and Molly Zimmer with sons Max and Ben on Memorial Day 2014**

BELOW **Three-year-old Max Zimmer hands a program to guests arriving for the Memorial Day Mass at St. Anthony Cemetery.**



Memorial Day 2014 A family affair for many Catholic Cemeteries employees

Each Memorial Day, the Zimmer family arrives at St. Anthony Cemetery in Minneapolis around 6 a.m. and doesn't leave until late in the afternoon.

Bob Zimmer, a Catholic Cemeteries field worker, is in charge of making sure everything is ready for the 10 a.m. Mass, as well as for the visitors who visit graves throughout the day.

At his side is his wife Molly, who is one of many family members of Catholic Cemeteries employees who take part every Memorial Day.

Even the Zimmer's sons Max, 3, and one-year-old Ben are beginning to get into the act, handing out programs to guests at the Mass.

Molly Zimmer says volunteering at St. Anthony each Memorial Day has become a tradition for the family, one she hopes to continue for a long time.

"We want our sons to grow up knowing the importance of remembering those who have passed way," she said.

At the other cemeteries, family members

of a number of employees participate as well.

For example, at Resurrection, the sister and brother-in-law of office manager Z Joslyn manage the flower sales while her daughter helps out in the office. At Gethsemane, office manager Lisa Dehnel's father and daughter handle flower sales.

At St. Mary's, the sons of field worker Balta Cardoso and operations manager Jon Louris lend a hand, while at Calvary the father of office manager Linda Radtke handles many duties.

In addition, many local parishioners volunteer at the five Masses and help in offering hospitality at each of the cemeteries.

"None of the special events and services on Memorial Day weekend would be possible without the generous time and support of our many dedicated family members and volunteers," said Sister Fran Donnelly of The Catholic Cemeteries. 🌳

Tweens Learn, continued from page 1

shared their stories, which ranged from the loss of a pet to the death of a parent. The mementos were carefully placed on the bier (a granite stand for caskets) — stuffed animals, a toy truck, a baby blanket, a piece of embroidery, photos. After the last person spoke, the entire group encircled the bier for a blessing, thanking God for life and for those who have passed on.

"In that beautiful, solemn setting of the mausoleum, I believe these young people understood the magnitude of the topics of the day," Serio said.

Next, it was out of their seats for an act of service. The youth grabbed cloths and cleaned the granite fronts of the Chapel's crypts and niches.

Before the group headed back to the parish, they gathered on the lawn outside of

the mausoleum and joined hands for a time of prayer and reflection about the day.

"Some might think a day spent at a cemetery would be a downer for kids but our time at Resurrection was anything but that," said Serio. "It was an uplifting faith-filled experience and an affirmation that talking and sharing about death and loss can be very healing."

For The Catholic Cemeteries, the day was an opportunity to share the beauty, meaning and power of cemeteries with a new generation.

"These young people were inquisitive, respectful and attentive as we talked about life and death," said Sister Fran. "It was our privilege to partner with St. John Neumann on this creative day of learning for middle-school children." 🌳

Sister Fran celebrates her jubilee



This year, Sister Fran Donnelly, B.V.M., director of Life Transition Ministries for The Catholic Cemeteries, is celebrating 50 years of religious life.

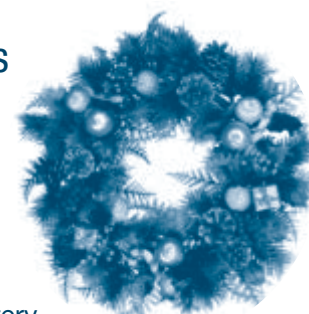
She and nine other members of the order who entered the BVM congregation in 1964 observed a liturgy of thanksgiving at the order's Motherhouse Chapel at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, IA on July 13, followed by a celebratory dinner. She was also honored at a family reunion in July and at a celebration at St. Peter Claver Church in St. Paul in September.

Sister Fran started her career as a high school religion teacher and later moved into religious education and parish life ministries for several parishes in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. In 1994, she joined the staff at the central offices of the Archdiocese, where she held a number of management positions. Prior to her appointment at The Catholic Cemeteries, she served as the director of the Division of Parish Life and Personnel and as a member of Archbishop Flynn's cabinet.

"Since joining The Catholic Cemeteries in 2008, Sister Fran has contributed so much to our organization," said John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries.

"Her lively presence, thoughtfulness, intelligence and humor have enhanced our work, and under her leadership, we have developed stronger outreach to parishes and in programs such as the Communal Fetal Remains services for families who have experienced miscarriage," he said. "We are pleased to honor her on this important landmark in her religious life." 🌳

Special Masses to be held in December



Masses of Remembrance will be celebrated at Gethsemane Cemetery and Resurrection Cemetery in the chapel mausoleums on **Saturday, December 6, 2014.**

Invitations are being sent out to the newly bereaved.

For more information, contact the respective cemetery office at Gethsemane or Resurrection, or visit our web site's upcoming events page.

HERITAGE

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CEMETERY HOURS

Every day of the year, cemetery grounds are open from 8 a.m. to dusk (generally 5 p.m. in the winter). All cemetery offices are normally open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon at Resurrection and Gethsemane.

CALVARY CEMETERY

753 Front Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-488-8866

GETHSEMANE CEMETERY

8151 42nd Avenue N.
New Hope, MN 55427
763-537-4184

RESURRECTION CEMETERY

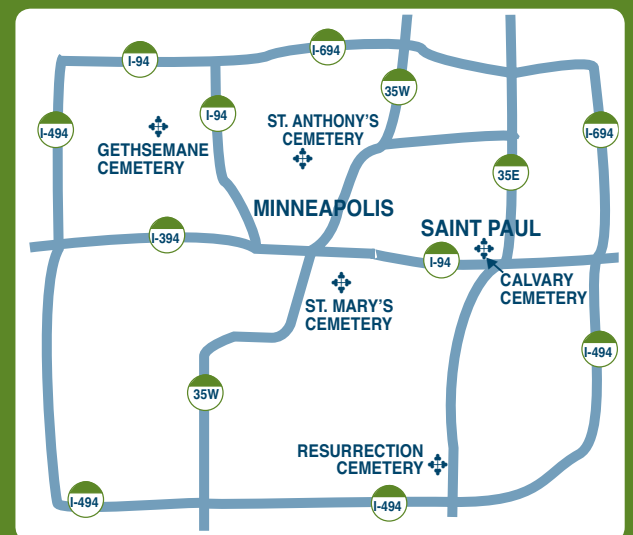
2101 Lexington Ave. S.
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
651-454-5072

ST. ANTHONY'S CEMETERY

2729 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
763-537-4184

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- Clip and complete this form and mail with your check to:
The Catholic Cemeteries, 2105 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights, MN 55120 —OR—
- Give online by going to catholic-cemeteries.org and click on Donate.

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