


HERITAGE

A newsletter for friends of The Catholic Cemeteries



Phil Jungwirth stops by Calvary Cemetery to visit the grave of his uncle, Rev. Charles Jungwirth, who died in 1918. Inscriptions on the grave of Jungwirth and other priests have worn away over time.

Help us complete this historic renovation project

For a donation of \$350, parishes, individuals and organizations can “adopt-a-marker” of a deceased priest. Send your check made out to The Catholic Cemeteries (with a notation for the Priests’ Section Fund) and mail to: The Catholic Cemeteries, 2105 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights, MN 55120. In addition, donations of any size are welcome. To learn more... Please call 651-228-9991 or go to our web site at catholic-cemeteries.org. Click on Donate. 

Parishes “adopt-a-marker” in the historic Priests’ Sections

Thank you to the following parishes that have adopted a Priests’ Section marker for restoration!

- Church of St. Peter Claver – St. Paul, MN
- Church of St. Patrick – St. Paul, MN
- Church of St. Hedwig – Minneapolis, MN
- Church of St. Casimir – St. Paul, MN
- Church of The Holy Family – St. Louis Park, MN
- Church of St. Joseph – West St. Paul, MN
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church – Hastings, MN
- Church of St. Stephen’s – Anoka, MN
- Church of St. Joseph – Taylors Falls, MN
- Church of St. Alphonsus – Brooklyn Center, MN
- Church of The Assumption – St. Paul, MN
- Church of St. Victoria – Victoria, MN
- Basilica of St. Mary – Minneapolis, MN
- Church of St. Stanislaus – St. Paul, MN
- Church of St. Dominic – Northfield, MN
- Church of St. John the Baptist – Excelsior, MN
- Church of St. John the Baptist – Savage, MN
- Pax Christi Catholic Community – Eden Prairie, MN
- Church of St. Bartholomew – Wayzata, MN
- Church of St. Ambrose of Woodbury – Woodbury, MN
- Church of St. Anne – Hamel, MN
- Church of St. Adalbert – St. Paul, MN
- Church of St. Louis, King of France – St. Paul, MN
- Church of The Annunciation – Minneapolis, MN
- Church of St. John the Baptist – New Brighton, MN
- St. Mary’s Church – Hampton, MN

Honoring pioneering priests

Many have stepped forward — and more are needed — to help restore the historic gravestones of priests who served the Archdiocese from its earliest days.

While serving as an assistant pastor in Sleepy Eye, MN, Rev. Charles Jungwirth died suddenly. Just 30 years old, he was a victim of the 1918 influenza epidemic that killed millions around the world.

The young priest was buried in the Priests’ Section at Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul, not far from the Frogtown home where Jungwirth had grown up in a close-knit Catholic family of eight children.

“My uncle’s death came as a terrible shock to the family. He was a wonderful person and everyone was so proud of him,” said Phil Jungwirth of St. Paul. “It’s said that my grandmother visited his grave every week for years. By the time I was growing up in the 1950s, it had become a family tradition to visit his grave on anniversaries and special occasions.”

In adulthood, Phil Jungwirth continued visiting his late uncle’s grave at least annually. But over the years, he found it increasingly difficult to locate it because the inscriptions on the priests’ markers, made in those days of sandstone and limestone, had worn away.

“It got to the point where I had to go to the cemetery office to get its exact location,” he said.

Last year, Jungwirth discussed the problem with Fr. Kevin McDonough, pastor of St. Peter Claver in St. Paul and long-time friend of Calvary Cemetery.

McDonough consulted with The Catholic Cemeteries and discovered that 64 gravestones of the Archdiocese’s earliest priests — 44 at Calvary and 22 at St. Mary’s Cemetery — were no longer legible and needed restoration.

“I realized we were losing something very important,” said Fr. McDonough. “These men are a vital link in the passing on of our faith from one generation to the next and it is important that we never forget their service.”

Invitation to “adopt-a-marker”

Working with The Catholic Cemeteries, Fr. McDonough invited parishes, Catholic organizations and others interested to adopt a marker of one of the priests or to donate to the fundraising effort.

As of April 30, nearly three-quarters of the amount needed for the project had been raised, according to John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries.

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Honoring pioneering priests

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“We hope to complete it by the end of summer this year if the rest of the funds can be raised,” said Cherek. “We are grateful to our granite vendor, Monumental Sales Inc. of St. Cloud, for undertaking this project at a discounted rate.”

The majority of adopted markers have been by parishes — 26 so far including four parishes that adopted more than one.

One such parish sponsor is the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, which adopted the marker of Rev. Albertus Thissen.

“In reviewing the list of the names of the priests sent to us by The Catholic Cemeteries, our archivist discovered that Rev. Thissen had been an associate at the Basilica for 10 years before dying suddenly in 1941,” said Fr. John Bauer, rector of the Basilica.

(After the marker adoption was mentioned in the Basilica bulletin, a parishioner stopped Fr. Bauer and thanked him. “It turns out Rev. Thissen was his mother’s cousin,” he said.)

Fr. Bauer supports the project because, as he says, “I believe we should not let those who have served the Church be forgotten. It is easy for that to happen because sometimes priests have little or no immediate family.”

In addition to parishes, the University of Saint Thomas adopted two markers in honor of past university presidents. Donations have also been received from Knights of Columbus Councils in Minneapolis and Burnsville, and through a free-will offering by attendees at last year’s Memorial Day observances.



At left are deteriorated grave markers at Calvary Cemetery that need replacement. Above, a newer, undamaged marker.

A family honors a beloved descendant

One family has stepped forward to adopt the marker of their ancestor, Fr. Joseph Goiffon.

Fr. Goiffon was born in France in 1824, met John Ireland in seminary and arrived in St. Paul in 1857. He served in the St. Paul Diocese for 53 years and was a central figure in the parishes of Little Canada, Centerville, White Bear Lake and Lino Lakes.

Duane Thein of White Bear Lake, a great-great-great nephew of Fr. Goiffon, has published a book based on the priest’s autobiography and has visited his relative’s grave many times over the years.

“The stone was getting harder and harder to read and I remarked several times to family members that I’d like to replace it,” said Thein. “After calling The Catholic Cemeteries and learning about this project, I alerted relatives.

Within a few weeks, we received enough donations to adopt his marker and to contribute towards others.”

Thein added: “Fr. Goiffon was an important figure in the early history of the Archdiocese, and

certainly the most famous person in our family. Everyone in our family is very excited about the marker restoration.”

For Phil Jungwirth, the response to the project he helped launch has been gratifying.

“These men played a central role in so many people’s lives and left an important legacy,” he said. “I’m so glad my uncle and all of these priests will be remembered with new markers that will last for generations.” 🌳



Fr. Joseph Goiffon

Staff Profile

LaBelle serves families at Calvary and St. Mary’s cemeteries

Michael LaBelle has had a varied career, from barber to a quality assurance technician to apartment manager. Today, as a Catholic Cemeteries family service counselor at Calvary and St. Mary’s cemeteries, he is helping families with burial arrangements both at the time of death and in advance through pre-planning.



Michael LaBelle is the family service counselor for Calvary and St. Mary’s cemeteries.

“I’ve had many jobs in my life but there’s a common thread through them all. It comes down to treating people with dignity and putting them at ease,” said LaBelle, a lifelong St. Paul resident. “As a family service counselor, I get a lot of satisfaction from helping people feel comfortable as they make these very important decisions, often at a very trying time.”

Before becoming a family service counselor, LaBelle worked for several years at Resurrection Cemetery as a seasonal field worker and as a graveside attendant at burials.

“It was a privilege to represent The Catholic Cemeteries at burials and to assist families in that situation,” he said. “That experience has helped me better understand what people are going through when they need our services and how we can best serve them.”

LaBelle’s father is American Indian (LaBelle is a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Sioux tribe) and his mother is of Mexican heritage. That background is an asset as The Catholic Cemeteries seeks to better serve families of color in the Archdiocese, said John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries.

“Mike is a great addition to our staff, and is helping us ensure that our services are friendly and welcoming to everyone in the Archdiocese,” said Cherek.

When he became a family service counselor in January, LaBelle knew that one of his grandfathers was buried at Resurrection Cemetery. But only recently he discovered that his grandmother is buried at Calvary.

“As I do this work with families,” he said. “it means a lot to have my own relatives buried at The Catholic Cemeteries.” 🌳

Peaceable Kingdom Garden

A tranquil place to remember a beloved son

Since their son Mark passed away in 2008, Betty Berg and her husband Bill have found solace in many acts of remembrance.

For example, the Hastings couple created a memorial garden in their backyard dedicated to their son. They have donated to their parish, St. Ambrose of Woodbury, for hymnals in his memory. They also take their two grandchildren to Memorial Day mass and other events at Resurrection Cemetery, where their son is interred in the Chapel Mausoleum.

Most recently, the couple chose to remember Mark, who died at the age of 37, with an inscribed paving brick in the Peaceable Kingdom Garden, currently under development just outside of the Chapel Mausoleum.

Each inscribed paving brick will be permanently placed in the patio area of the Garden, which is designed as a place of prayer and reflection for anyone who seeks comfort following a loss.

The Peaceable Kingdom Garden features a semi-circular raised flower bed surrounding a statue of an angel. Granite benches are planned for seating.




The idea for the Peaceable Kingdom Garden came from Antonio Pilla of St. Paul, inspired by his late wife Bonnie's love of nature and animals of all kinds.

Soon after his wife died in 2007 and was interred in the Chapel Mausoleum, Pilla commissioned a memorial bench outside the front door of the mausoleum, and also had two linden trees planted across the roadway. But he wanted to do more, something that would reflect his wife's great love of animals, her special connection to them and her enduring spirit.

The result of Pilla's generosity is the Peaceable Kingdom Garden, which will be visible from inside the mausoleum through the rear glass doors. A patio rimmed with the inscribed paving bricks will surround the semi-circular raised garden. The garden is expected to be completed for Memorial Day 2012.

When Berg read about the paving brick opportunity in last fall's *Heritage* newsletter, she knew right away it was something she and her husband would like to do — "both for us and for our son's two young children. This will be a wonderful place for all of us to visit for years to come."

The Bergs have also purchased niches for themselves in the mausoleum. "Resurrection is a beautiful cemetery and such a tranquil spot," she said. "We have been so impressed with it." 

To order a Peaceable Kingdom Garden paving brick...

For a tax-deductible donation of \$500, the name of the individual you select along with the year of birth and death will be inscribed on a permanent brick and set in the patio area. For an order form, call 651-228-9991 or email info@catholic-cemeteries.org.



Updates

Updated Children's Memorial kiosk guide now available

A new visitor's guide can be found in the kiosk at the entry to the Children's Memorial and Healing Garden at Resurrection Cemetery. The guide includes a memorial map and overview as well as the names on the Wall of Remembrance and donors to the Memorial.

Middle school students put their faith into action

In July, Resurrection Cemetery will again welcome middle school students from the Church of St. John Neumann in Eagan as part of a summer program that focuses on putting the Church's social teaching into action. Last summer, students weeded several gardens of the cemetery, cleaned the fronts of the mausoleum and columbarium niches and crypts, and did some rubbings of markers. They also learned about the work of the cemetery as well as what the Church teaches about burying the dead.

The staff is looking forward to having these wonderful young people and their counselors with them again on June 21, July 5, July 19 and July 26. Stop by one of those mornings and see their faith in action.



Youth from Church of St. John Neumann in Eagan did weeding and other tasks at Resurrection Cemetery last summer.

Hospice conference explores ethical issues

In April, The Catholic Cemeteries hosted the 19th annual Hospice Foundation of America conference at St. Peter's in Mendota, on the topic, "End of Life Ethics." A DVD format is available for parish use. For more information, call The Catholic Cemeteries at 651-228-9991.

Third columbarium planned at Gethsemane Cemetery

This summer, a third columbarium will be added to Gethsemane Cemetery's Cremation Garden. It will be located on the east side of the Garden near a new sidewalk entrance. For more information, contact Jules Bobst at 763-537-4184.

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*The Archdiocese of
Saint Paul and Minneapolis*

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John Cherek, Director

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.

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

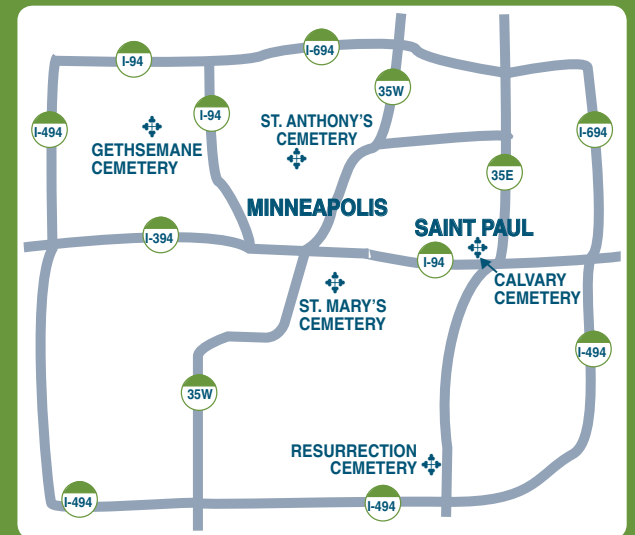
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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
www.catholic-cemeteries.org



Join us on
Memorial Day
May 28, 2012

Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated at each cemetery at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 28. Please plan to stay for refreshments at the conclusion of Mass.

Mass will be held at 10 a.m. RAIN OR SHINE at **Gethsemane Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery, Resurrection Cemetery** and **Calvary Cemetery**.

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, Mass for **St. Anthony's Cemetery** will be at 10 a.m. at the church below:

Church of St. Clement
911 24th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND HOURS

Each Cemetery office has extended hours as follows:
Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Monday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Grave decorations for Memorial Day

During the days before and after Memorial Day, artificial flowers, potted plants, decorations or other ornaments are allowed. These types of decorations can be placed on graves beginning at noon on **Thursday, May 24**, and remain there until **Sunday, June 3**. Decorations should be removed by this date; otherwise, the cemetery staff will begin pickup on **Monday, June 4**. After that time, we request fresh-cut flowers only during the growing season.

Memorial Day flowers available for purchase

Over the Memorial Day weekend, a variety of floral bouquets are available for purchase at Resurrection, Gethsemane, St. Mary's, and Calvary Cemeteries. Flower stands are located near the entrances of each cemetery.

If you are unable to visit a cemetery on Memorial Day weekend but would like to have flowers placed on a grave, please call the cemetery office to order. Cemetery staff will place a beautiful arrangement at the gravesite of your loved one a few days before the beginning of the weekend.

Recognizing veterans over Memorial Day weekend

For a number of years before Memorial Day, a local Boy Scout troop has placed American flags on those gravesites of veterans at Resurrection Cemetery marked by a special gravestone provided by the Veterans Administration (VA). This also occurs at Gethsemane Cemetery, where a veterans' group places flags on graves marked with VA-provided gravestones. Only grave markers that clearly indicate military service receive a flag.

For families visiting the graves of veterans not marked with a VA-provided gravestone, flags can be purchased for a minimal charge at the outdoor flower stands in both cemeteries. In addition, a limited supply will be available in the cemetery offices one week prior to Memorial Day.