

Amnesty for Cremated Remains

“Bringing Them Home”

In 1963, when Church law permitted cremation as an option for Catholics, it was never specified what should be done with the cremated remains. Cremated remains are still the human body. As Catholic Christians, we respect the human body, even after death. We bury our dead out of reverence for God our Creator, and as a sign that we look forward to the resurrection on the last day.

However, Minnesota law recognizes cremation as the final disposition of the body and does not require that anything specific be done with the cremated remains. Often, people are not given much instruction for “what to do” with the cremated remains. Many keep the cremated remains of loved ones in vases or vials at home, or scatter the remains, which the Catholic faith discourages.

Sometimes, urns that contain cremated remains are found in garages, attics, closets, or even resale stores. Initially, the cremated remains belonged to a family member who wanted to keep that person close. However, there usually is no long-term plan as to who will care for the remains in the future, and often they get left behind or abandoned.

The Catholic Cemeteries can provide a dignified burial option. Beginning in 2020, we will offer *Continued on page 2*

Remembering Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, 1933-2019

By Sister Fran Donnelly, B.V.M.

Prior to my being hired by John Cherek, the former director of The Catholic Cemeteries, I was a member of Archbishop Harry Flynn’s senior staff for over 13 years. So, it was bittersweet to witness his burial here at Resurrection Cemetery on September 30, after his warm, humorous, and faith-filled funeral Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

There is a sense of full circle about the experience. Archbishop’s first assignment as a newly ordained priest was at my grandmother’s parish in Troy, New York, and he taught English to two of my cousins and knew several of my aunts and uncles. I did not know him, only *of* him. However, all that changed when he was named the Coadjutor to Archbishop Roach in 1994. The privilege of working for him and with him taught me many lessons about respecting, welcoming, and serving all people, regardless of their background or status. He lived the Gospel message in all that he did. He could balance the challenges and tough times with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face and a little Irish bedevilment behind it all.

It was indeed a privilege for us here at Resurrection Cemetery to provide and prepare his final resting place near several of his predecessors. You are welcome to come and to pay your respects on your next visit to the cemetery.



Photo: Dave Hrbacek, The Catholic Spirit

Archbishop Flynn was laid to rest at Resurrection Cemetery near several of his predecessors

In the spring, we will install the ledger on the grave and again bless the space. We will put that information on the webpage for those who wish to attend.

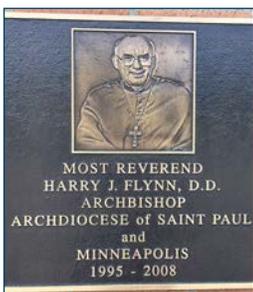


Archbishop Harry Flynn presided over the Memorial Day Mass at Resurrection Cemetery even after he retired.

As many of you know, Archbishop Flynn thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to preside at the annual Memorial Day Mass at Resurrection. He started that tradition *Continued on page 2*

Remembering Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, *continued from page 1*

while he was Archbishop and continued in his retirement. He had a special relationship with the thousand-plus people who attended each year. It also meant a great deal to him to lead the prayers for the women and men who have served our country over the years. And he loved visiting with families and individuals over the coffee and cookies.



Two other connections between The Catholic Cemeteries and Archbishop Flynn come to mind. The corporate office

building, located at Resurrection, was named after him. He personified warm hospitality and that is something we would like people to experience when they walk into the building. The next time you visit the office, notice the plaques on either side of the front door.

And lastly, there is the “Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Compassionate Assistance Fund” that aids us in providing burial services for those who are

financially challenged. It also provides for the quarterly fetal-burial services that are held in partnership with Fairview Health Services, HealthEast Care System, and Gill Brothers Funeral Directors. It is a ministry that the Archbishop felt strongly about. He was enthusiastic about lending his name and support to those mourning a loss due to a miscarriage.

If you wish to contribute in memory of the Archbishop, you may do so at www.catholic-cemeteries.org/donate or call 651-228-9991 for further information.



Archbishop Harry Flynn and Sister Fran Donnelly.

We have lost a friend, a leader, and a strong supporter of the work of The Catholic Cemeteries. But we are blessed by his continuing presence at Resurrection, and we are assured that he is praying for us as we continue to pray for him. 🌳

Amnesty for cremated remains – “Bringing Them Home,” *continued from page 1*

an option for those who have cremated remains at home. That option is to have the remains interred in a community crypt at the Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum. Families can have their loved one's name memorialized. With this



ministry, we are trying to accompany people through the grieving process to bring them some genuine closure, allowing for burial in a place where the whole family can come and memorialize a person. The deceased need not be Catholic to be interred here. We will care for someone's loved one forever.

We will hold a communal committal service and maintain a permanent record of the presence of the deceased. Families will have a permanent place to visit. It is our mission to honor, respect, and bury the dead. Every person is a child of God and deserves a resting place – and to be remembered. 🌳

Cemetery Updates

CALVARY

- New fuel tank installed near the garage
- Storm drains repaired
- Trees trimmed
- Cemetery maps made available near old office
- Cemetery tour occurred in June

GETHSEMANE

- Cremation garden spruced up with new sod
- Benches will be installed around the new mausoleum
- Children's Memorial Garden re-mulched

RESURRECTION

- The first natural burial occurred in June. We've had two natural burials, and with the high interest in purchasing these graves, we will be opening two more sections.
- Benches installed around the gazebo area where people can pray or rest. One bench has been memorialized in gratitude for all first responders. It is possible for families to purchase memorialization options for the other benches.
- Roof replacement completed for first mausoleum
- New columbarium on east side of Chapel Mausoleum
- New storage area being erected to hold machinery, salt, and dirt
- Trees trimmed and dead trees removed
- Part-time gardener hired for summer

ST. ANTHONY'S

- Storm drains and irrigation system repaired

ST. MARY'S

- Hosted first cemetery tour in August
- A road was removed and converted to 112 new cremation graves and also 112 full-body graves, shown below



A road was removed at St. Mary's Cemetery to make space for more grave sites.

From the Executive Director



Joan Gecik, Executive Director

Growing up in a family of 10 children, we learned many lessons. One I clearly remember was hearing my mom's voice saying, "Now what do you say?" after one of us received a gift. Of course, the magic words were, "Thank you!"

These magic words still work during autumn in our 21st century when we mark the Thanksgiving season. So, who and what are we at The Catholic Cemeteries thankful for? There are several things I'd like to note.

A number of individuals contribute to special funds that we use to improve our cemeteries. These funds include the John Ireland Memorial Fund for trees and landscaping, our Children's Memorial and Prayer Garden, and our Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Compassionate Assistance Fund to assist those who cannot afford the full cost of a burial in one of our cemeteries and to support the fetal burial program. There are others who have directly donated graves for such use. We thank you!

In October, eighth graders from St. Agnes School in St. Paul assisted us in cleaning the graves of religious Sisters along with some graves in our children's section at Calvary Cemetery as part of a service project. We thank you!

Our thoroughly wet summer meant that we constantly battled weeds and grass that never seemed to stop growing. Our field workers, gardener, and temp staff took this on despite some very hot weather – not to mention setting markers, digging and dressing graves, and doing general cemetery maintenance. We thank you!

We are grateful to Ms. Mary E. Johnson and Mrs. Carolyn Gottsacker who donated the lovely Madonna and Child for the columbarium on the west side of our Chapel Mausoleum. We thank you!



We would love to have an individual or group donate a statue for our new columbarium on the east side of the Chapel Mausoleum. We are considering a statue of St. Joseph.

Of course, we want to offer you the chance to participate in some other projects that we wish to take on in the coming year.

We are beginning a redesign of the Children's Memorial Garden, which is the area near the pond as you enter Resurrection Cemetery. Our first step is to do a redesign of what I refer to as the Greek temple. We are looking at

removing some of the pillars and putting a statue of a Guardian Angel with Children within the temple. A flower garden will be planted around it. This is stage one of the redesign project. Eventually we want to dredge the pond, clear the overgrowth, redesign the flower areas, and install a fountain and some additional seating.

If you would like to donate to the Guardian Angel with Children statue or participate with any other part of the redesign process, please contact either myself or Paul Letourneau, chief financial officer, at our office at Resurrection Cemetery by calling (651) 228-9991. We thank you in advance!

We have also begun a five-year plan for each of our cemeteries. Some of the projects will be practical ones, i.e., road repairs, signage, etc. However, some will be beautification projects or expansions. There are many working pieces for any project and we are in the process of identifying what can be done in the coming budget year.

No matter your relationship with us, we are grateful for your support, your care, and for the times that you visit. Let our cemeteries be a quiet and lovely place for you to pray, remember, share stories, and contemplate your place in God's plan. 🌳



A partnership of ministry for early-pregnancy loss

When Sister Fran Donnelly, B.V.M., talks about The Catholic Cemeteries fetal-burial ministry, she says, “It’s definitely the biggest blessing” she has in her position; it is the “most significant thing” she does. Sister Fran said that while directing the quarterly burial and committal service differs from her previous work at the Archdiocese or in a parish because she doesn’t know the people with whom she interacts, that doesn’t diminish how meaningful the ministry is. In fact, she said, “Our mission is to bury the dead, and we are definitely fulfilling our mission.”

Sister Fran said that another significant factor about the fetal-burial ministry is, “There is such a firm partnership among Gill Brothers, HealthEast Care System, Fairview Health Services, and nearby St. Peter’s Catholic Church in Mendota. It’s solid.” She never thinks twice about the systems and logistics working, which means The Catholic Cemeteries can do the ministry side of each service because all the other systems are functioning well.



A service for grieving families takes place in the Chapel Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery, followed by a communal burial.

Collaboration since 2006

The Catholic Cemeteries in 2006 formalized their relationships with HealthEast Care System and Fairview Health Services to receive the remains of pre-term infants. A service that is open to all grieving families takes place in the Chapel Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery four times a year and is followed by a communal burial in

a specially designated area of the cemetery. Sister Fran said, “Too often, early pregnancy losses go unacknowledged and parents feel isolated in their grief.



The burial takes place in a special section of Resurrection Cemetery.

This ministry was started to provide a funeral service and a burial place specifically tailored for these families, to help them in their grieving journey.”

When Sister Fran started at The Catholic Cemeteries 12 years ago as Director of Life Transition Ministries, responsibility for the service was turned over to her. For a couple of years, she organized and officiated at the special service. Then she began to call on colleagues to get involved. A semi-retired deacon from the Archdiocese was very dedicated until he retired. So Sister Fran asked people to be guest presiders, and they did “a super job.” One of those people who revered the role said to Fran, “I would do this each quarter” – and that person was Joan Gecik! Sister Fran said that even when Joan was interviewed for the executive director’s position, Joan offered, “If I am selected for the position, I would like to continue presiding at the fetal-burial ceremony.”

Partnerships

As for the partnerships that make the fetal-burial program possible, Sister Fran said the hospitals are essential in their willingness to connect families with the service, keep records, and coordinate with her and Gill Brothers. Gill Brothers provides small white caskets along with transportation – all

at no charge. The fourth-generation, family-owned business has been facilitating burial of fetal remains since the 1940s. Dan McGraw, great-grandson of founder Michael Gill, explained that his grandmother’s connection with the Sisters of St. Joseph, who operated St. Mary’s Hospital (that merged with the Fairview system) arranged to bury the hospital’s fetal remains in free graves at St. Mary’s Cemetery in south Minneapolis. McGraw said, “The burial of fetal remains is important in a very fundamental way. Following Catholic



The burial takes place in a special section of Resurrection Cemetery.

teaching, our family believes that there is an essential dignity in how the body should be treated at death, no matter what the age.”

The volunteers from St. Peter’s in Mendota direct guests to parking places, hand out programs, usher people to seats, distribute flowers, and make people feel welcome. This ministry by members of St. Peter’s Community Caring for Life committee indicates their dedication to compassion and community, and the need for both.

Funding for burying the fetal remains comes from the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Compassionate Assistance Fund that also provides burials for people who cannot afford to be buried. The Archbishop, who died at age 86 on September 22, 2019, was “very committed to those most in need,” explained Sister Fran, who served under Archbishop Flynn as director of ministry during most of his 13-year tenure. 🌿

First tour of historic St. Mary's Cemetery

If you didn't like the subject of history as a student, a tour of historic St. Mary's Cemetery might change your mind. What makes the difference is tour guide and historian Bobbie Scott's belief that "everyone has a story" – and Bobbie's stories are compelling and well researched.

On a sunny, breezy afternoon in late August and again the next morning, more than 30 people attended the first

tours at St. Mary's Cemetery in south Minneapolis. Bobbie carried several maps and a thick three-ring binder filled with copies of obituaries and enlarged photos as she related stories of just a few of the more than 65,000 people buried at the 60-acre cemetery.

Cemetery origins

Starting from conversations with operations manager, Jon Louris, supplemented by several walks around the

cemetery, Bobbie then dug into internet sources to learn about the "regular and notable" people buried at St. Mary's. During the tours, most guests chose to walk, although a van carried a few passengers to the first destination Bobbie selected—that of the Kelly mausoleum. Brothers John and Anthony came to Minnesota in the 1850s and owned and operated grocery stores that expanded to become a successful wholesale operation. A story *Continued on page 6*

Celebrating Memorial Day at St. Mary's Cemetery

If sunny skies and 100 degrees followed by 60 degrees with steady rain remind you of Memorial Day in Minnesota, your hunch is right. Those conditions describe Memorial Days in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The Catholic Cemeteries celebrates a special Memorial Day Mass at Calvary, Gethsemane, Resurrection, and St. Mary's cemeteries. Volunteers play an important role in setting up tents and chairs, welcoming guests, providing music, hosting refreshments, and more. Guests represent a range of ages, from infants to elders. Some guests who attend every year are joined by others who stop by to worship at a Mass for the first time.



Members of the First Regiment of Minnesota Volunteer Infantry fired muskets over the graves of Civil War veterans at St. Mary's.

At St. Mary's Cemetery in south Minneapolis, Father Joe Gillespie, O.P., pastor

at the Church of St. Albert the Great, has presided over the outdoor Memorial Day Mass for countless years. His mother and other family members are buried at St. Mary's and he knows many of the attendees by their first names. Members of the Hennepin-Minneapolis Council No. 435 of the Knights of Columbus are very involved in the Mass, and Baltazar Cardoso (senior field staff), his family, and field staff add significantly to the celebration by preparing for more than 100 guests, setting up refreshments, selling flowers, and more.

A historic military presence

In addition to the familiar "team" present at St. Mary's in 2019 was that of 11 members from the First Regiment of Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Their second sergeant lives across the street from the cemetery. When their scheduled performance for Memorial Day was canceled, the group offered to participate in the celebration at St. Mary's. ("The First Regiment of Minnesota Volunteer Infantry is a non-profit organization founded in 1973 to perpetuate the memory and teach the history of the unit, the state of Minnesota, and nation during the years of the American Civil War, 1861-1865.")

– Quoted from their website: firstminnesota.org/index.html

At the end of the Mass, fifes and a drum were heard by the 70 or so people gathered under the protection of a large tent. A group of infantry volunteers could be seen marching through steady rain on the cemetery road that runs parallel with 44th Street. They tucked into the maintenance building where guests were enjoying coffee and cookies while Tom Shaw, one of their members, presented information on the reasons for and history of Memorial Day – its origins, meaning, and many ways of being acknowledged.

The infantry volunteers reassembled, marching past the cemetery's main entrance toward 46th Street, accompanied once again by fifes and their drum. Unfortunately, the rain, wind, and cool temperature prevented all but several of the group's wives and a couple of guests from forming a parade to follow the group's solemn procession. When the soldiers turned north on the road between sections 2 and 39, they stopped to load and fire muskets over the section where Civil War veterans are buried. They loaded and fired their muskets twice more in the pouring rain before marching, past flags and flowers, toward the gate from which they had entered the cemetery an hour earlier. 🌳

First tour of historic St. Mary's Cemetery, continued from page 5

that may be “partly true” is that Anthony Kelly bought a 20-acre farm on Chicago Avenue in the 1870s. Because neighbors didn't want a cemetery near their property, a priest arranged for a trade that resulted in the current location of St. Mary's Cemetery, although Bobbie



Historian Bobbie Scott guided the first historic tours at St. Mary's Cemetery in August 2019.

acknowledged that the “early history of St. Mary's is a little bit murky.” She also learned that the original entrance was on Elliot Avenue and that the cemetery was enlarged in 1904, a fact she gleaned from letters in which Archbishop John Ireland described dedicating the addition.

On a map from the 1890s, St. Mary's was then identified as Immaculate Conception Cemetery. Bobbie explained that the first Catholic Church in Minneapolis was called Shed Church, which was renamed as Church of the Immaculate Conception in 1868. When it became apparent that the city needed a larger church, Lawrence Donaldson of the Donaldson's Department Store family donated land on which the Basilica of St. Mary was constructed. In the early 1870s, church leaders also recognized that 13-acre St. Anthony's Cemetery, established in 1857 on Central Avenue by St. Anthony's Parish, “was clearly not big enough.” This decision resulted in the development of St. Mary's Cemetery in 1873 that also established the connection between the Basilica and St. Mary's Cemetery.

Stories of regular and notable people

Near the Kelly mausoleum, Bobbie pointed out the grave sites of Elizabeth

Quinlan and Dr. James Dunn. Although *Fortune* magazine described Quinlan in 1936 as “the most distinguished businesswoman in the United States,” her roots were as the daughter of Irish immigrants. She clerked in department stores before starting her own store with her colleague and friend, Fred Young – the Young-Quinlan department store. Theirs was the first in Minneapolis to offer, in 1894, “ready-to-wear” women's garments that immediately sold out.

In Bobbie's words, Dr. James Dunn was “a really interesting guy.” He grew up in Shakopee where he graduated from school at age 16. After graduating from Winona Normal School, now Winona State University, he became an apprentice to a doctor in southern Minnesota. He moved on to study medicine at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and New York Medical Institute as well as in Austria and Germany. By the mid 1880s, Dunn held the position in Minneapolis of “city doctor.” In 1904, after delivering a professional presentation in St. Louis, he died the next day. The autopsy indicated that he suffered from heart disease.

Heritage and heartache

Dunn and Quinlan represent themes for the stories Bobbie presented – that of immigration, poverty, hard work, initiative, and lives ended by epidemics of flu, fevers, famine, tuberculosis, and unknown afflictions. Bobbie directed our attention to the nationality of the names on the grave markers. The countries of Poland, Ireland, and Germany were well represented, with more recent burials representing people from Spanish-speaking countries.

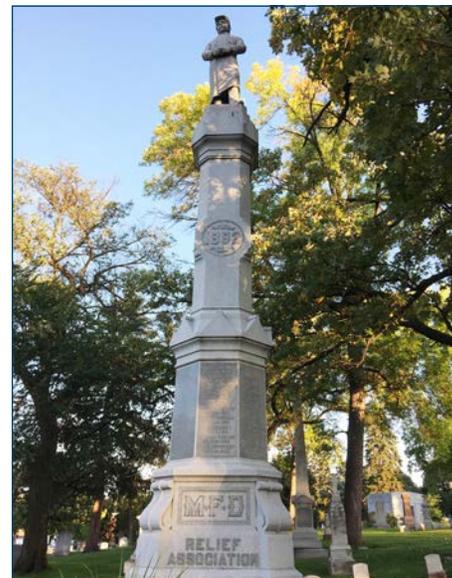
On the top of the cemetery's highest hill is a monument to firefighters that was built in 1892. Another just like it was erected in Lakewood Cemetery. The monuments are 29 feet tall and cost \$3,000 each when they were erected by

the Minneapolis Fire Department Relief Association. Lists of firefighters' names are incised on a six-sided portion of the obelisk, beginning with Cornelius Fredricks, who was killed in a mill explosion in 1881. The last name listed is that of Emmett Kaufmann who died in 2015.

Several of the grave sites on the tour were marked with a simple small, pink landscape flag. They indicated a grave for which there was no money for a marker. One such site was for Nora Sexton whose best friend was the matron at the central police station, and who made sure Nora had a burial after her death in 1896. They became acquainted during Nora's incarcerations for vagrancy and other offenses that appeared in several newspaper articles, and that once described Nora in this manner: “Whiskey and prostitution have made her a wreck.”

Looking forward to the next tour

Due to the enthusiasm and appreciation with which the first tours of St. Mary's Cemetery were received, The Catholic Cemeteries plans to host another tour in 2020. Historian Bobbie Scott will captivate attendees with stories focused



This distinctive memorial, erected in 1892, honors Minneapolis firefighters.

Continued on page 7

First tour of historic St. Mary's Cemetery, con't. from page 6

on women, to honor the 100-year anniversary of Women's Suffrage that marks women's constitutional right to vote due to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. 🌳

An opportunity to give

Please join us in supporting the ongoing ministries and beautification of The Catholic Cemeteries. Your tax-deductible contribution can be used to provide for burial of the poor, ministry to bereaved parents and families, and to beautify the cemeteries.

TO MAKE A GIFT

- **By check.** Clip and complete this form and mail with your check to: The Catholic Cemeteries, 2105 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights, MN 55120
- **Online.** Go to catholic-cemeteries.org and click on "Donate."

I want to support the ongoing ministries and beautification of The Catholic Cemeteries:

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I would like my gift to be used in the following way(s):

- John Ireland Memorial Fund (Trees, landscaping, and gardens). Please direct my gift to:
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- Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Compassionate Assistance Fund
- Children's Memorials and Healing Gardens
 Please direct my gift to: ___ Resurrection ___ Gethsemane
- Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum Peaceable Kingdom Garden Fund
- Statue of St. Joseph for the new columbarium
- A Guardian Angel & Children statue

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- I have enclosed a check payable to The Catholic Cemeteries.
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If this contribution is given in memory/in honor of an individual, please print his/her name. Thank you:

In memory In honor _____

In Appreciation

We thank those listed below for gifts given to the donor funds of The Catholic Cemeteries between October 1, 2018, and September 30, 2019.

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Holiday Wreaths

The providers of our Christmas wreaths have retired. They treated all wreaths with Greenzit, a preservative that is no longer used by any vendors. The wreaths we receive in early November will not be treated. We will make every attempt to place all wreaths prior to December 1. We will begin to pick up wreaths starting February 1, weather permitting. If you wish to order a wreath, please call the appropriate cemetery office.



HERITAGE

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A newsletter for friends of The Catholic Cemeteries + FALL/WINTER 2019

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Masses of Remembrance

Saturday, December 7

Join us for Mass at 10 a.m. at Gethsemane and Resurrection cemeteries, in their Chapel Mausoleums. The names of loved ones are read for those who wish to have them honored in this manner.

For information, or to call in the name of your loved one, contact the Gethsemane Cemetery office at 763-537-4184.

At Resurrection Cemetery, call 651-228-9991 or visit our website's "Upcoming events": www.catholic-cemeteries.org/upcoming_events.aspx

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Saturday, December 7

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2105 Lexington Ave S
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651-228-9991

info@catholic-cemeteries.org

Joan Gecik, Executive Director

To receive *Heritage* by email, go to www.catholic-cemeteries.org fill out the "Contact Us" form, and check the "electronic newsletter" option. Thank you.



CEMETERY HOURS

Every day of the year, cemetery grounds are open from 8 a.m. to dusk (generally 5 p.m. in the winter). You can reach all cemetery offices by phone or email Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon at Resurrection and Gethsemane.

Visit our website: www.catholic-cemeteries.org

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GETHSEMANE CEMETERY

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New Hope, MN 55427
763-537-4184

ST. ANTHONY'S CEMETERY

2730 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
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ST. MARY'S CEMETERY

4403 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407
651-488-8866

CALVARY CEMETERY

753 Front Avenue
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651-488-8866

RESURRECTION CEMETERY

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Mendota Heights, MN 55120
651-454-5072