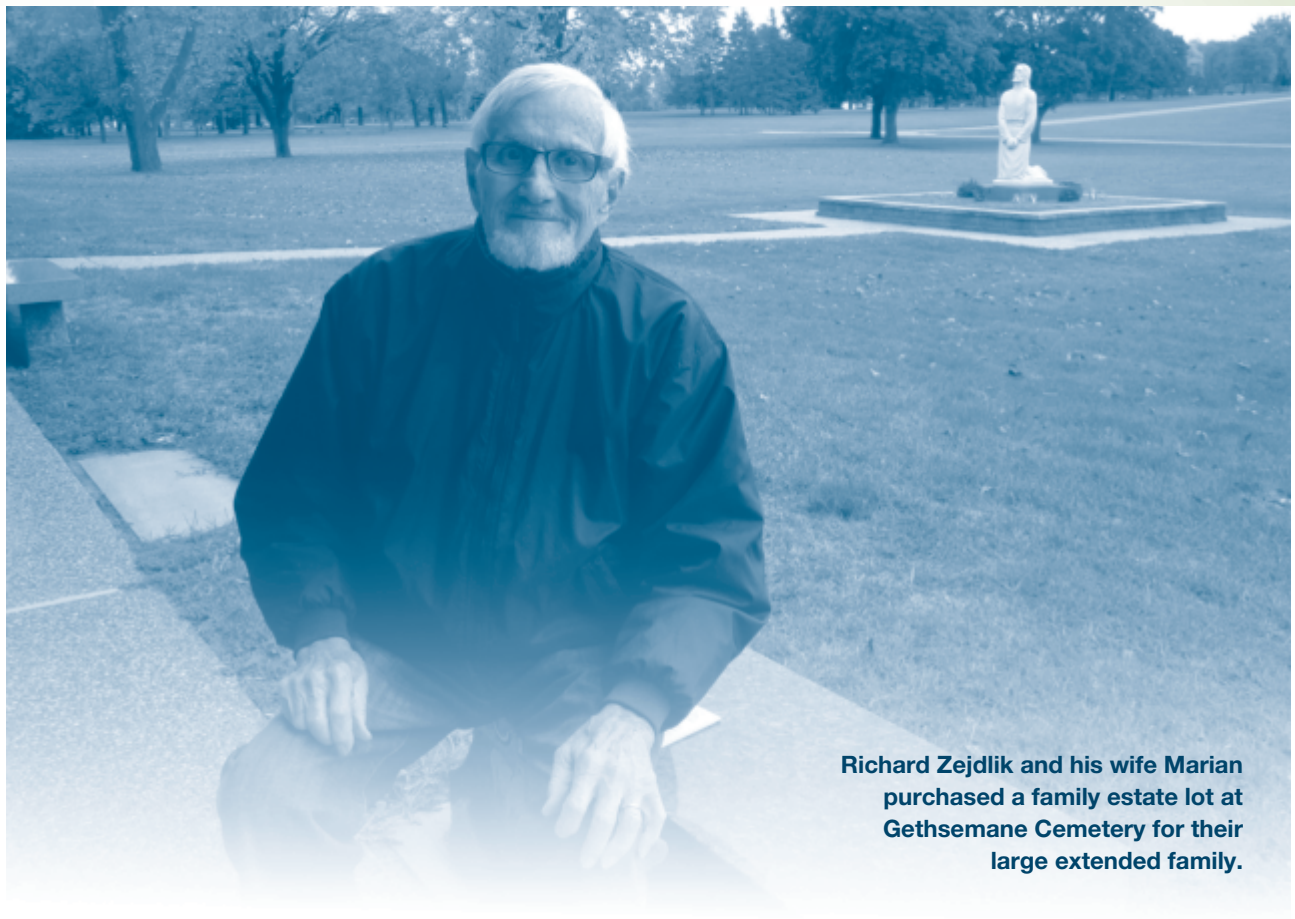
THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

FALL/WINTER 2013

HERITAGE

A newsletter for friends of The Catholic Cemeteries



Richard Zejdlik and his wife Marian purchased a family estate lot at Gethsemane Cemetery for their large extended family.

Gethsemane Cemetery

Couple creates a place of remembering for the entire family

Family has always been at the heart of the lives of Richard Zejdlik and his wife Marian. Now, with their decision to purchase a family estate lot at Gethsemane Cemetery in New Hope, it will remain so long after their deaths.

Married 61 years, the Zejdliks have eight children — seven of whom live no more than a few miles from them — along with 19 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Their retirement is filled with family gatherings, celebrations and worship at the historic church of Saint Joseph's parish, New Hope. Their children stop by their house frequently for visits — "sometimes we even get a little help," said Zejdlik with a smile.

Gethsemane is right in the Zjedliks' neighborhood. "I go by it all the time on my way shopping, to the bank and drug store," he said. "In recent years I found myself driving through the cemetery without purpose except that I was growing fond of the place."

Making burial preparations had been in the back of Zejdlik's mind for some time, so one day last spring, he stopped at the office at Gethsemane Cemetery.

After Gethsemane family service counselor Jules Bobst showed him the range of possibilities, the idea of a family estate lot immediately appealed to him. Not only did it provide space for multiple graves, but it also offered the opportunity to create a memorial feature that reflected the family's values.

But the first step was to gauge the interest of family members.

"We got all our children together to find out what they thought of creating a place for family burial at Gethsemane Cemetery," said Zejdlik. "There was complete agreement."

With that, the Zejdliks purchased a 1,000-square-foot corner lot designated for a Family Estate section at Gethsemane. When completed, it will provide for both traditional in-ground burial and cremation burial options. "When all is said and done, it will take care of all those living today — about 40 people," Zejdlik said.

As for the estate lot's memorial feature, he has met with designers from Coldspring, a granite company which creates memorials for The Catholic Cemeteries, and has toured Resurrection Cemetery to see what other families have done. For now the retired architect is letting ideas percolate. "All I know at this point is that we want it to be simple, straight-forward and dignified," Zejdlik said.

A native of East Grand Forks, MN, Zejdlik said he never fails to visit the graves of his parents when he is in the town of his upbringing. "It's a tradition that's very important to me. With this memorial, I hope it will be for my children as well."

Memorial Day 2013

Gravestones of "Adopt-a-Marker" program dedicated

Some 42 newly restored gravestones of priests who served the Archdiocese from its earliest days were dedicated on Memorial Day 2013 at Calvary and St. Mary's cemeteries. Thanks go to the many parishes and other donors who "adopted" a marker to be restored in one of the two cemeteries' Priest Sections.

Phil Jungwirth, who helped spearhead The Catholic Cemeteries' "Adopt-a-Marker" program, stood next to the restored gravestone of his uncle, the Rev. Charles Jungwirth, who was buried at Calvary after succumbing to influenza in 1918.

Participating in the dedication of the new markers at St. Mary's Cemetery were members of the Knights of Columbus.

Resurrection Cemetery

Ministers of hospitality offer a pastoral presence

As part of its mission to comfort those who mourn, The Catholic Cemeteries is providing a pastoral presence at Resurrection Cemetery gravesites at the time of burial.

"We are pleased to have complemented our staff with individuals we call ministers of hospitality or greeters. Their role is to be present and to be of service to mourners during graveside ceremonies," said Sr. Fran Donnelly, B.V.M., Director of Life Transition Ministries for The Catholic Cemeteries. "We want to do everything possible to offer comfort to families burying a loved one."

Sr. Donnelly said the effort is being piloted at Resurrection Cemetery and may be expanded to the other cemeteries in the future.

In this article, greeters involved in this expanded ministry shared some reflections on their experiences in this work.

Tom Keane, a retired software engineer, said becoming a cemetery greeter appealed to his long interests in genealogy and liturgy.

Tom Keane

"I've always felt very comfortable in cemeteries and appreciate the many ways liturgy is used in burial services," said Keane, who serves as a lector at St. Mary's of the Lake in White Bear Lake.

Keane says he arrives at the site early to make sure all preparations have been made. Then he greets the funeral procession as it arrives at the place of burial as a representative of the cemetery.

"I let the priest and funeral director know I'm here and available if any one has questions or needs anything," Keane said.

For example, if the weather is hot, Keane may distribute bottled water to those who'd like it. "But in general, our role is to remain in the background and just be a caring presence."

Keane says he finds it personally inspiring to be present at burial services. "Each burial service is unique and different, but what's common is the care, concern and love for one another among the bereaved," said Keane.

"I hope my presence adds a touch of security for the family, that they know we care and are here for them at one of the most serious moments in their lives," Keane said.

Gene White, a retired pipefitter, has been leading in funerals at Resurrection for ten years. White not only meets the funeral procession at the gate in his car and guides them to the burial site, but depending on the day and the funeral schedule, he may also remain at the gravesite to respond to questions or concerns.

Gene White

"My goal is to make everyone feel welcome and to help the bereaved find comfort," he said. On rare occasions, he added, that might mean stretching the rules a bit.

For example, while pets are not allowed in the cemetery, White recalls a service for an elderly woman whose closest companion was her small dog. "The family had brought the dog in the car and asked if they could briefly bring it to the gravesite before the casket was lowered," he said. "I agreed because this was clearly very important to the family."

At another burial, the great-grandmother of the deceased was too frail to walk from the car to the gravesite. White showed the driver where he could pull off the roadway so she could be close enough to be part of the service.

After another service, after the mourners had left, White noticed the husband of the deceased had remained behind as the cemetery workers prepared to close the grave.

"I asked him if he would like to join in the closing. He immediately took off his jacket, took a shovel and helped cover the grave. It meant a lot to him to be able to do that."

For **Mary Ann and Ray Ogden**, becoming cemetery greeters was a chance to do something together in their retirement at a place they both love.

"Resurrection is such a peaceful place," said Mary Ann, a retired nurse. "Since buying lots for ourselves, we stopped by a few times and asked about volunteer opportunities."

That led to helping out at the annual Memorial Day mass, and then becoming greeters at burial services.

"We both feel very privileged to be present when a family is burying a loved one," said Ray, a former library administrator.

Mary Ann and Ray Ogden

Besides arriving early to check the site and staying until after all the mourners have left, the Ogdens handle other tasks that may come up. For example, if the deceased is a veteran, often a military honor guard is present. "We will meet the guard in advance and make sure they know where to go," said Ray.

Sometimes, it might be a need to engage with small children while parents are saying their farewells to the deceased. Or it might be a last-minute task that involves a quick trip back to the cemetery office — for example, the time a priest forgot to bring holy water. "Luckily, there was some on hand at the office," Ray said.

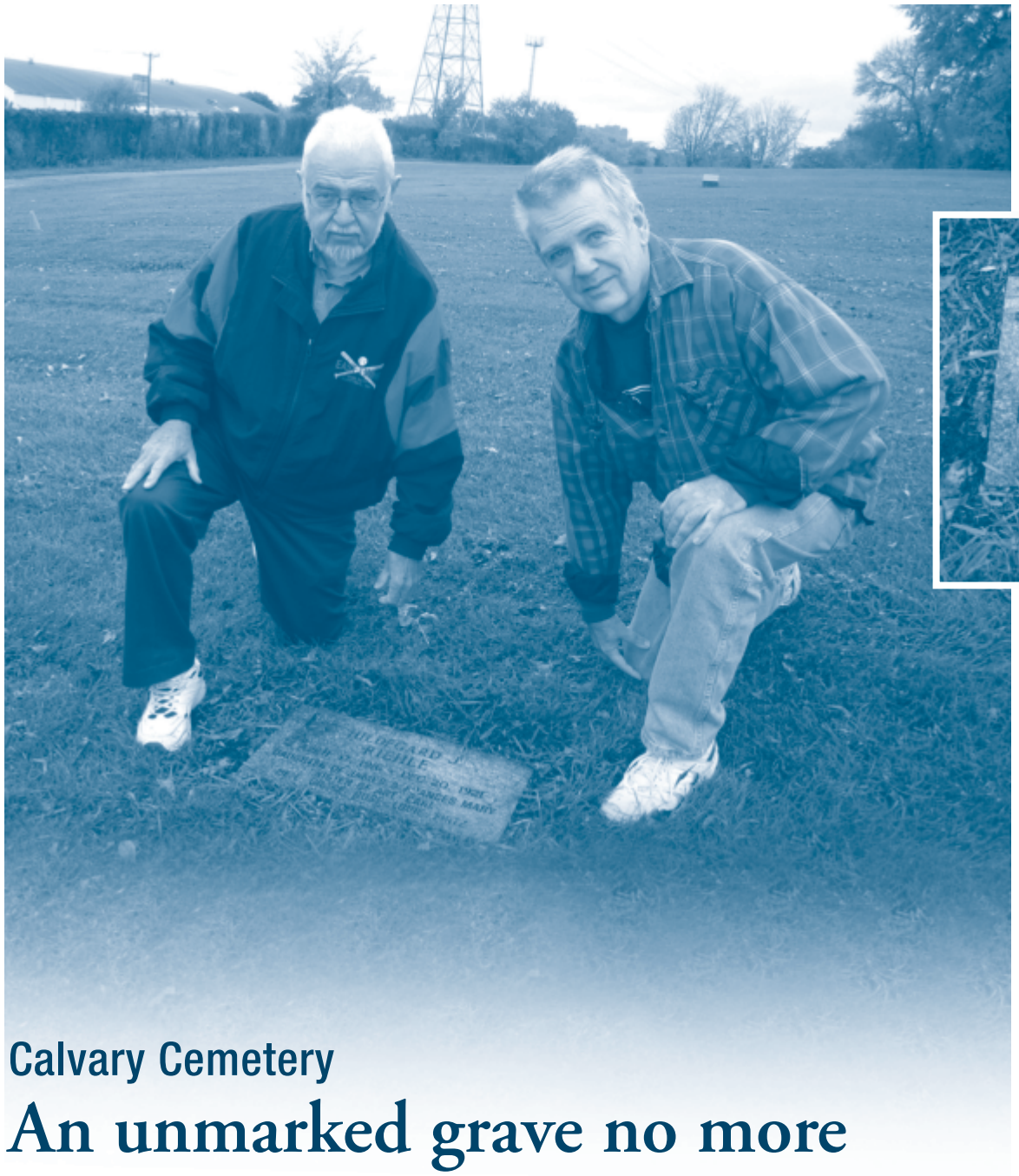
The Ogdens have been impressed with the variety of cultural rituals woven into graveside services at Resurrection, such as smoke, incense and drumming at a Native American burial and a Mexican musical group at a Hispanic burial.

"This is their time and their place, and we try to be as accommodating as we can to make their rituals possible," Ray said.

The couple has also experienced the powerful emotional healing that can accompany saying goodbye to a loved one.

"At one very small service for an elderly mother, it was apparent the group of half a dozen siblings hadn't spoken to each other in a long time, and there was no priest present. One person turned to me and said, 'we'd like to do something but we don't know what.' So I suggested a prayer and a couple other ideas, and by the end, they were all hugging each other," Ray said.

Contrary to what people might believe, the Ogdens say their work at Resurrection is not depressing. "The opportunity to be of service to people at this time in their lives is very uplifting and rewarding to both of us," said Mary Ann.



First cousins John and Dave Riehle paused at the grave of their aunt at Calvary Cemetery, recently marked with a granite monument.

Calvary Cemetery

An unmarked grave no more

Nephews and nieces honor the aunt they never knew

Growing up, John Riehle often heard relatives tell the sad story of his Aunt Hildegard, who died tragically at age five.

Just days before Christmas in 1921, Frances Riehle, John's grandmother, was taking the two youngest of her eight children shopping. As the trio stepped off a streetcar on University Avenue in St. Paul, the little girl was struck and killed by a passing car. Frances and John's father, who was only two years old at the time, were unhurt.

At the time, John's grandparents couldn't afford the cost of a gravestone, and as time passed, so did any memory of the burial place.

"Over the years, we were always curious about our Aunt Hildy, and wondered where she was buried," said John, one of 28 first-cousins of the close-knit Riehle family.

Earlier this year, as John's cousin Dave Riehle was delving into the family history, the trail led to Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul. There, in the cemetery records, he found the burial site of his aunt — in an unmarked grave in the children's section.

He sent an email to the Riehle cousins — "I found our aunt…" — and the group quickly decided to purchase a marker for the grave. "None of us had ever met her but she was part of our family and we wanted to do this in her memory," said John.

On a beautiful summer day a few months later, John, Dave and other family members gathered at Calvary at their aunt's grave to place a granite gravestone etched with her name, the names of her parents and siblings, and a cross with flowers. John led the group in prayer and they sang "Amazing Grace" — "I once was lost, but now am found…"

"I'm so glad we did this," said John. "In some ways it closes a chapter. She was laid to rest 92 years ago, but now we know there's a place where we can come to honor her life, and that place is ours as well."

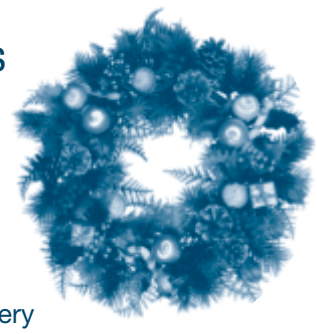
To learn more, log on to **www.catholic-cemeteries.org** to view a news story aired on WCCO-TV about this family's experience.

Updates

Calvary Columbarium now available

Recently dedicated, Calvary Cemetery's new columbarium provides a variety of options for families selecting a final resting place. The staff is available to show you this new addition for cremation burials at historic Calvary. Call the office for more information at 651-488-8866.

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 7, 2013**.

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.

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

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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.

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

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

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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

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY
4403 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407
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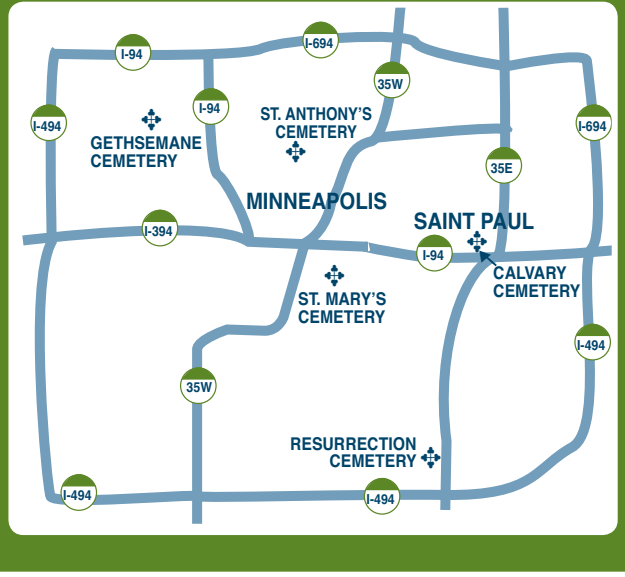

An opportunity to give…

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:

- 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.

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

○ $1000 ○ $500 ○ $250 ○ $100 ○ Other $_____

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 for trees to:*
○ Calvary ○ Gethsemane ○ Resurrection ○ St. Anthony's ○ St. Mary's ○ Where most needed

○ 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

Payment Options

○ **I have enclosed a check payable to The Catholic Cemeteries.**

○ **Please charge my credit card:** ○ Visa ○ Mastercard ○ Discover

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ /_____

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Signature _____

Your Name (Mr., Mrs. Miss, Ms.) *please print* _____

Address _____

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If this contribution is given in memory of an individual, please print their name:

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In Appreciation

Our thanks go to those listed below for gifts given to the donor funds of The Catholic Cemeteries between October 1, 2012, and September 30, 2013.

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