THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

SPRING / SUMMER 2013

HERITAGE

A newsletter for friends of The Catholic Cemeteries

The Act of Remembering

By Sister Fran Donnelly, B.V.M., Director, Life Transition Ministries
The Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Sister Fran at the Children's Memorial at Resurrection Cemetery.

As we age, most of us are challenged by instances of forgetfulness, and many people worry about memory loss or dementia. To help us remember, we surround ourselves with reminders — some might be electronic while others are great Minnesota inventions like the Post-it note. Although it can be frustrating, most everyone needs help remembering — it's normal.

The act of remembering, however, is much more than recalling where we left the car keys.

Throughout history, all civilizations and cultures have created means of remembering, especially remembering those who have died. Some even worshipped their ancestors, not only out of respect, but also as a way of keeping them present. In our contemporary society, we observe special times and days that provide us with reminders of great people and significant events throughout our history. These observances make the collective statement — "we must never forget."

In April, the world recognized the annual Jewish day of remembrance, Yom HaShoah. It is the Holocaust Remembrance Day. Around the world and in Israel itself, it is commemorated with a 60-second blare of sirens, followed by a period of silence. Wherever Israelis are, they stop what they are doing; if they are driving, they pull over and get out of their cars. Everyone just stops where they are. This simple act is a unifying moment; it cuts across religious barriers, generation gaps, and economic inequalities.

Our own President said that day: "We must accept the full responsibility of remembrance." And in the aftermath of tragedies such as the Newtown shootings and the Boston Marathon bombings, we must recognize that collective remembering is not an option but a necessity.

Each Memorial Day, we Americans are invited to stop and remember. We call to mind all those men and women who risked their lives for our freedoms. As Catholics, we also celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day. It is a time to reflect on the meaning of the Communion of the Saints — that we are all connected, the living and those who have preceded us.

Most of us have many items that are reminders of our own loved ones: photo albums, CDs and DVDs, audio recordings and mementos. In addition, genealogy, Ancestry.com, and Ellis Island records have become vital means of remaining connected with our ancestors. By learning more about them we realize our oneness; it helps us remember who we are.

In addition to occasions and artifacts, there are special places of remembrance — houses and neighborhoods we once lived in, schools we attended, locations we visited, ballparks, museums, shrines, our ancestors' home towns, and of course, cemeteries.

Cemeteries are sacred, special places. They serve as the primary place of remembrance of those we loved. Often we visit when we need to sense the presence of our loved ones. We want to remember all that we can.

The specific act of remembering that a cemetery calls forth is both personal and communal. We gather on Memorial Day and on other occasions for special services and Masses. We come as a family for anniversaries or birthdays. Grandparents bring grandchildren and tell stories. We bring symbols of remembrance — flowers, wreaths, trinkets.

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"Adopt-a-Marker" project concludes

Dedication of historic Priests' Section markers set for Memorial Day 2013

Thanks to a number of generous individuals, families and parishes, the "Adopt-a-Marker" project has successfully concluded. A total of 64 restored markers of graves of deceased priests at Calvary and St. Mary's cemeteries have been manufactured and will be dedicated on Memorial Day, May 27.

At Calvary, Fr. Kevin McDonough, pastor of St. Peter Claver in St. Paul and an initiator of the project, will preside at a 10 a.m. Mass, followed by the dedication. At St. Mary's, Father Joseph Gillespie, pastor of St. Albert the Great in Minneapolis, will preside at the 10 a.m. Mass, with the marker dedication to follow.

"We are very grateful to everyone who took part in this important effort to restore these markers, honoring the lives of some of the earliest priests who have served this Archdiocese," said John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries.

Staff Profile

Emily Gorman lives out her calling at The Catholic Cemeteries

Emily Gorman first felt a calling to work in the Church on a college class trip to the Archdiocesan Chancery in St. Paul.

"When I walked in, I just had this sense that this is where I should be," she said. "By working in the Church, I felt I could make a difference in a faith-based environment."

Emily Gorman is administrative assistant at The Catholic Cemeteries.

A West St. Paul resident who graduated from the University of Saint Thomas in 2003, Gorman double-majored in English and Theology with a minor in Catholic Studies, subjects that she found complementary.

"They explore the big questions in life, which is what really interests me. English is all about the human experience and why people do what they do," she said. "Theology is about God and how we connect with Him and why we believe what we believe."

After college, Gorman found employment at the Archdiocese, first in Youth and Young Adult Ministries and later in Marriage and Family Life. She spent the majority of her time there serving on the Parish Services staff. One of their focuses was rolling out the Archdiocese's long-range plan in 2010.

In October 2012, she joined the staff of The Catholic Cemeteries as administrative assistant. "I was excited to work for The Catholic Cemeteries because it gave me a chance to learn something new while remaining in ministry and service to people in a time of need," she said.

At The Catholic Cemeteries' main office, Gorman is responsible for a wide range of administrative tasks and handles inquiries about cemetery-related matters from families, parishes and archdiocesan parish cemeteries.

"Our mission is at the core of everything we do here. That means being extremely responsive to the people we serve," she said. "I find it very gratifying work."

In her free time, Emily writes and sketches. She's currently working on her second novel, writes poetry and enjoys doing pencil drawings of people.

"Every experience I have influences my writing," she said. "I'm always looking for stories that haven't been told."

Remembering a Friend of Resurrection

We are sad to report the passing of Mark Green, genealogist, teacher and friend of Resurrection Cemetery. Green wrote a piece about his love for cemeteries in general, and Resurrection in particular, in the Fall 2011 issue of *Heritage*. He passed away on January 23, 2013, due to cancer.

"Mark really loved Resurrection. He had deep roots there," said Green's wife, Casey. "We spent many a Sunday touring the cemetery, with him showing me where his relatives were buried and other points of interest."

Green was a former president of the Minnesota Geneaological Society.

The Act of Remembering

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The practice of "memorialization" in the cemetery is probably the most significant way we can remember our loved ones. They are literally named in the cemetery. We put names on markers, on monuments, on the walls of columbaria and mausoleums; they indicate where the remains of our loved ones reside. We can find them, we can tell others how to find them, and we can show our children where their ancestors are buried or inurned.

Each year, approximately five hundred fetal remains of children whose mothers experienced miscarriages are buried at Resurrection Cemetery. Because it is impossible to name all those children/families, we memorialize them generally with a marker and an inscription and the date of burial. Families are invited to consider adding the baby's name to the Children's Memorial Garden Wall. At Gethsemane Cemetery's beautiful Children's Memorial and Prayer Garden, people may purchase an engraved paver in memory of a child/youngster/young adult. These are significant and permanent acts of remembering.

At Resurrection Cemetery, the Peaceable Kingdom Garden serves as a place of prayer, remembrance and of memorialization. There too, pavers are available to inscribe the names of loved ones, including those buried elsewhere. They remind us of our loved ones who are buried outside the area or in a different cemetery. The act of remembering, of naming, of memorializing can take place easily and anywhere. Those acts unite us with our loved ones; they assist in making them present to us.

The next time you visit a cemetery, consider all those people whose lives remain connected to us, whether we actually knew them or not. That belief in the Communion of Saints can provide us with both hope and comfort. Come, visit the cemetery and celebrate your loved ones and all who have gone before us, for we are one with each other and with our God, and that is well worth remembering!

Scouts beautify Gethsemane and Resurrection

For his Eagle Scout project, Joshua Reinke and supporters devoted a day to working on the infant section at Resurrection Cemetery.

Friends and family assisted Thomas Korman (center) on his Eagle Scout cemetery beautification project at Gethsemane Cemetery.

Grave donations help families in need

A lot owner who inherited four graves at Calvary Cemetery realized that no one in his family would use the graves. He recently contacted the cemetery office about re-selling them and learned about the option to donate. The Catholic Cemeteries uses donated graves to assist families unable to afford one through the Archbishop Harry Flynn Compassionate Assistance Program.

The lot owner quickly agreed — he received a tax benefit from the donation (a nontax charitable contribution for the current market value of the burial spaces) and, more importantly, the satisfaction of knowing that four other families in need could be assisted.

Donated graves are especially needed at historic cemeteries such as Calvary, where space is so limited, said Linda Radtke, office manager of Calvary and St. Mary's cemeteries.

"When someone donates a grave at Calvary, it means that we can assist a family in need that has a connection to the cemetery already," she said. "That can mean a lot to folks who have other relatives buried at the cemetery."

A family that had lost three children in infancy donated those graves after purchasing a family lot, where the infants were reinterred. "That gift enabled us to assist three other families who suffered the loss of a baby but didn't have the resources to purchase a grave," Radtke said.

As a matter of policy, the cemetery does not re-purchase graves, crypts or niches unless certain criteria are met, one of which is a determination if the cemetery can possibly re-sell those burial spaces. If the cemetery chooses not to repurchase, the owner can opt to advertise the burial spaces in a local newspaper or the *Catholic Spirit* and directly sell the burial spaces to a willing buyer in consultation with the cemetery office.

But instead, many people generously choose to donate the graves.

"It provides a mutual benefit to the owner, the cemetery, and those persons lacking financial resources for burial," said John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries. "It helps us fulfill our mission to provide Catholic burial to all who seek it."

Updates

Stolen vases replaced at Gethsemane Cemetery

Sometime around Memorial Day last year, approximately 75 vases were stolen from Gethsemane Cemetery. Thieves also stole bronze items from a number of other nearby cemeteries in the immediate area, apparently with the intention of selling the copper-made vases for a quick profit.

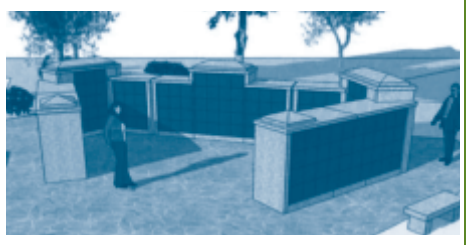
After the thefts became public, about 100 stolen vases were recovered in a Minneapolis park. After a lengthy investigation, police invited a representative from The Catholic Cemeteries to view the vases that were recovered. Unfortunately, none were of the group stolen from Gethsemane Cemetery.

After Gethsemane staff compiled a list of the graves whose vases were stolen, we worked with our supplier and are happy to report that any stolen vase purchased through The Catholic Cemeteries at Gethsemane Cemetery has been replaced.

If you have any questions, please contact the Gethsemane Cemetery office at 763-537-4184.

New columbarium available at Calvary Cemetery

As of the writing of this issue of *Heritage,* construction by Cold Spring Granite of a beautiful columbarium unit near the five garden mausoleums at the Victoria Street Entrance to the cemetery is underway, with completion expected around Memorial Day.



The free-standing columbarium unit will provide nearly 400 niche spaces with a variety of options for single and companion inurnment. There will be an interior patio area with a granite pedestal available for urn placement at committal services.

A continuous concrete walkway will permit access to niches on the exterior sides of the facility. Because the columbarium height is approximately six feet, views of the adjoining garden mausoleum buildings can be enjoyed from any vantage point in the area.

Since the need for additional cremation burial spaces is critical at historic Calvary Cemetery, interested family members may want to inquire early about purchasing as the inventory of niches is limited.

For more information and pricing about this columbarium and other burial sites at Calvary Cemetery, contact Michael LaBelle, family service counselor, at 651-488-8866.

Needed: Memorial bench for infant section

Since its inception in the early 1960s, Gethsemane Cemetery has provided a section dedicated to the burial of infants. It has become a very special place of prayer, remembrance and solace for many families over many years.

The Catholic Cemeteries is seeking a donor to underwrite the costs of a bench for the section, where parents could sit and pray while visiting their infant's grave. For the donor, this could be an opportunity to memorialize the life of a loved one while providing a welcoming spot for grieving families. We invite anyone interested in this opportunity to contact The Catholic Cemeteries at 651.228.9991.

A "green" way to receive *Heritage*

Would you prefer to receive *Heritage* electronically rather than in your mailbox? Simply go to **www.catholic-cemeteries.org/contactus** to fill out the "contact us" request form and check the "electronic newsletter" option. Then watch your email for the next issue of *Heritage*.

HERITAGE

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2105 Lexington Ave. S.
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
651-228-9991
FAX 651-228-9995
info@catholic-cemeteries.org
John Cherek, Director

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

2105 Lexington Ave. S.
Mendota Heights, MN 55120

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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

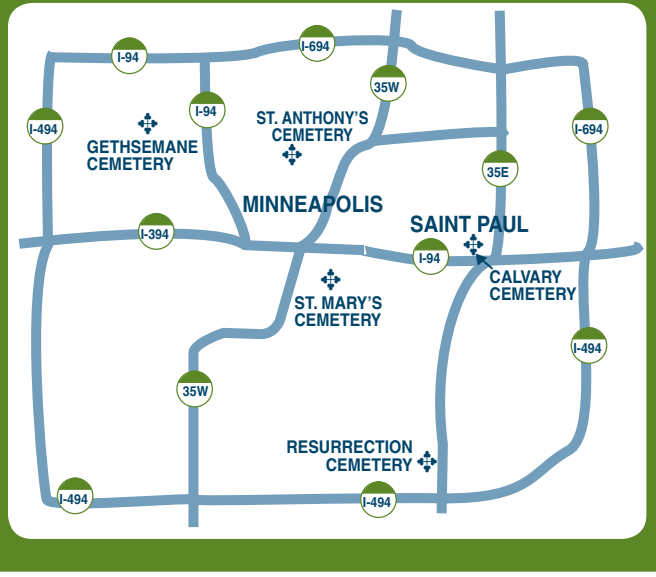
CALVARY CEMETERY
753 Front Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-488-8866

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

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY
4403 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407
651-488-8866



- Special recognition of veterans at all cemeteries
- Refreshments at all cemeteries
- Dedication of Priests' Section markers at Calvary and St. Mary's cemeteries

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

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 23**, and remain there until **Sunday, June 2**. Decorations should be removed by this date; otherwise, the cemetery staff will begin pickup on **Monday, June 3**. 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

This Memorial Day, The Catholic Cemeteries will offer a special salute to all veterans as part of the observance beginning at 10 a.m. at each of the five Catholic cemeteries. In addition, 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.