THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
# HERITAGE
SPRING / SUMMER 2017
*A newsletter for friends of The Catholic Cemeteries*

## Resurrection Cemetery
# Making Memorial Day a family tradition

Each year as he was growing up in North St. Paul, Tom Halden and his family would celebrate Memorial Day at St. Mary's Cemetery, the parish cemetery of the Church of St. Peter.

Despite the fact that no Halden relatives are buried at their parish cemetery, the Memorial Day Mass was a never-missed family outing. Halden even played taps at the service his senior year in high school.

"For my father, who was an English and social studies teacher, observing Memorial Day at a Catholic cemetery was both a civics lesson and a faith lesson," said Halden, director of communications for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and former morning anchor for the Fox affiliate, KMSP-TV.

"Memorial Day is all about sacrifice — the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in service to their country and the sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us," he said. "I learned at a young age the importance of honoring those sacrifices each year."

> The Haldens observe Memorial Day by being together, honoring sacrifices and celebrating their faith.

It's a tradition Halden and his wife Sarah have continued with their own children — Matthew, 16, Caroline, 14, Andrew, 10, and Greta, 8.

It started when the Haldens moved back to the Twin Cities in 2003 after Tom was hired at the Twin Cities station following a six-year stint as anchor in South Bend, IN.

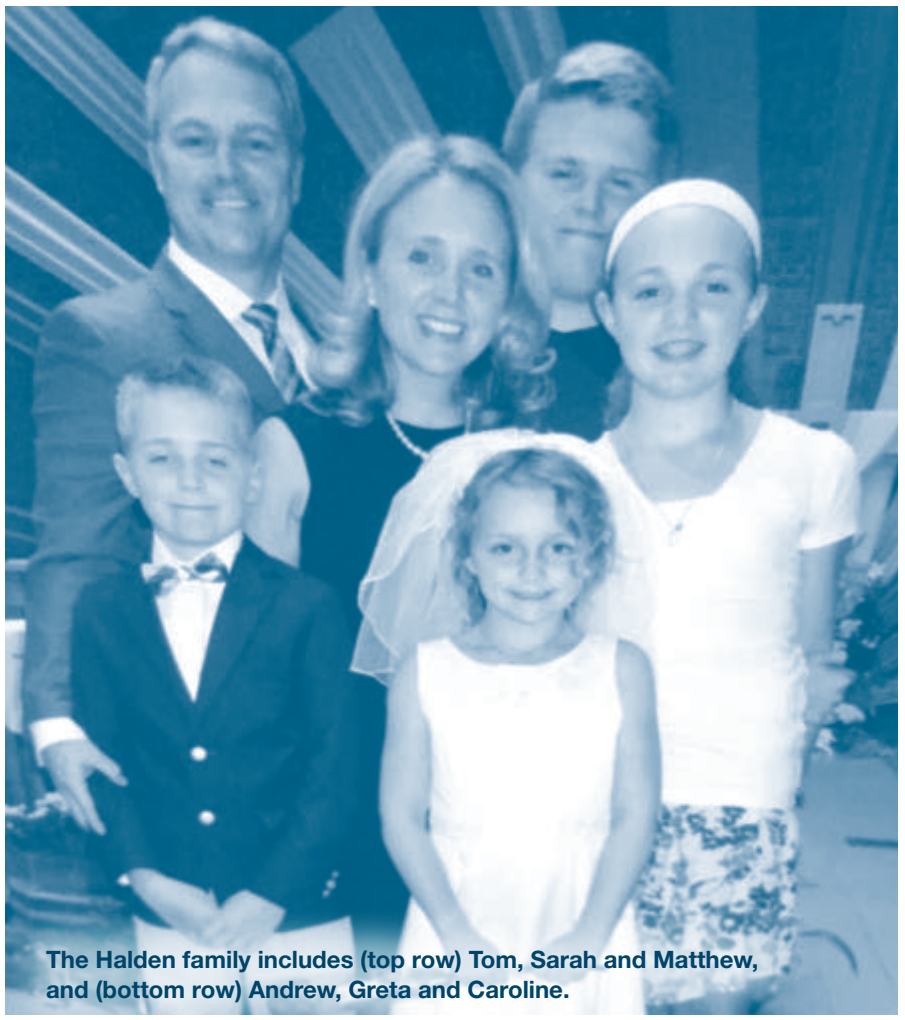
"We heard about the Mass at Resurrection Cemetery, which is close by, and decided to go," said Sarah, who heads the senior wellness program at the Southdale YMCA. "Back then we had a six-month-old and a two-year-old."

Since that day, going to Mass on Memorial Day at Resurrection has been a given.

Resisting the temptation to sleep in, the Haldens are up early rain or shine. On the drive to the cemetery, Sarah plays a patriotic playlist including favorites like Kate Smith singing *God Bless America*. "Our kids have heard these songs year after year and know most of them by heart," she said.

Afterwards, they often wander around the cemetery, looking at markers and monuments. Later, they head home for a picnic lunch in the back yard, and later in the day, head to an annual neighborhood celebration.

The tradition holds many memories. "When the kids were little, we'd always sit in the back so they could be up and around — it's a very family friendly event and there are always lots of children. On a particularly hot Memorial Day, I was pregnant and so uncomfortable, and of course there were days it rained," she said. "One time, one of our little guys kept talking and waving to Archbishop Flynn as he was leading the mass. It was sweet and funny."



**The Halden family includes (top row) Tom, Sarah and Matthew, and (bottom row) Andrew, Greta and Caroline.**

For the Haldens, the observance also provides an opportunity to remember relatives who have passed away. "My family is spread out far and wide," Sarah said. "During the mass, I feel in communion with the people who have been in my life and hold them in my heart."

Tom and Sarah believe their Memorial Day tradition teaches their children important lessons.

"We want our children to have a sense of life's finiteness, that we are only here on earth for a short time, and yet that it is not the end of the story," Tom said. "We also want them to realize that life is not all about them and that so many have sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Memorial Day is a great way to pass on these values."

From one generation to the next, the Haldens observe Memorial Day by being together, remembering family, honoring sacrifices and celebrating their faith.

"I think Memorial Day has become just as special for our children as it was for me when I was a kid," Tom said.

*The Haldens are members of Mary, Mother of the Church in Burnsville, where Tom serves as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. While at FOX 9, Tom initiated and produced the weekend segment "Faith Talking," which aired from 2006 to 2009. He joined the Archdiocesan staff in 2015.*

## Staff Profile

# Family service counselor Patricia Marcou: *“I feel I’ve found my calling here.”*

**Patricia Marcou**

Patricia Marcou had been looking for a new job for a while when she saw a notice last fall about an opening at The Catholic Cemeteries for a family service counselor.

“I had been losing heart about finding something right for me, and there it was, a job that I didn’t even know existed,” said Marcou. “I was drawn to it immediately, and after the first interview, I knew this was it. I felt I’d found my calling here.”

A licensed social worker, Marcou joined The Catholic Cemeteries in January and assists families who have lost a loved one to make burial arrangements at Resurrection, Calvary or St. Mary’s cemeteries. She brings a range of experiences helping people through difficult times and challenges, including caring for at-risk children, supporting parents, and offering grief counseling. She also has a background in accounting and catering.

“All my life, I’ve enjoyed comforting and supporting people. I’m a good listener and I really enjoy hearing people’s stories. I feel like I’ve found the right place to be at this stage in my life because this position utilizes all of my skills,” she said.

A native of LaCrosse, WI, Marcou moved to the Twin Cities several years ago to be close to her son and daughter-in-law and her granddaughter, ten-year-old Liliana. She attends Risen Savior in Burnsville.

Marcou said there’s definitely been a learning curve to mastering the family service position because it requires understanding the range of cemetery properties, pricing and other important information in the sales process.

But now, with several months under her belt, Marcou says the rewards couldn’t be greater. “It’s the perfect environment for me. I am so pleased to be able to be part of The Catholic Cemeteries team.”

## Seminarians at St. Mary’s and Calvary

# Remembering and honoring those who have passed on

In his second year of study at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, Thomas Rausch led a group of his fellow seminarians doing service at St. Mary’s Cemetery one day last November.

The students groomed graves in the cemetery’s infant section — cutting back sod, trimming away grass and cleaning the flat markers.

“It hit us that most of these babies would have been our ages had they lived and that their parents are probably still alive,” he said. “It was gratifying to take care of these graves.”

Earlier in the year, Saint Paul Seminary rector Rev. Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan had challenged all the seminarians to put into action Pope Francis’s call to perform corporal acts of mercy in the community.

Some volunteered with the homeless and others helped feed the hungry. Rausch drew on his own life to organize the work group at St. Mary’s. He grew up in his family’s granite business in South Dakota and spent many summers in his youth in cemeteries tending to markers.

The young men were blessed with a beautiful day and set to work after a group prayer for the dead. “Praying in the cemetery took on new meaning when you think of all who need our prayers,” he said. “I think this work was very good for us.”

Another group of seminarians ventured to Calvary Cemetery to pray the rosary, led by Deacon Derek Wiechmann.

“We are called to pray for the dead but it seems to be neglected today. Also, some seminarians have little contact with cemeteries so we felt it was a good idea to spend some time in one,” he said.

The experience of praying in the cemetery amidst so many graves and chatting with cemetery visitors forged a stronger connection to those who have passed on, Wiechmann said.

“We thought we would only be praying for the dead but we soon realized, just by being there, we were a witness to the faith and to Jesus Christ.”

*Portions of this article are excerpted from the Winter 2017 issue of* Oracle*, the magazine of the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity.*

**A seminarian cleaned a gravestone at St. Mary’s Cemetery last fall.**

# VISIT *your cemetery!*

## Take in the beautiful bridal wreath at St. Mary's

Come May, bridal wreath puts on a dazzling show at St. Mary's Cemetery in south Minneapolis. Its huge fountain-like bushes drape to the ground covered in snowy clusters of tiny white blooms. "Bridal wreath blooms in late spring and it is truly something to behold at St. Mary's," said Sister Fran Donnelly, B.V.M., director of Life Transition Ministries for The Catholic Cemeteries.

Later in the summer, stop by the garden near the cemetery office. "Baltazar Cardoso, St. Mary's field worker, creates a beautiful garden each year, including his favorite peppers," Donnelly said. "Balta loves to chat with cemetery visitors and give them a quick tour of what's in bloom."

## Lord's Prayer plaque to be dedicated at Gethsemane

On Memorial Day 2017, a bronze marker engraved with the Lord's Prayer will be dedicated at the base of Gethsemane Cemetery's flagpole. It is the second in a series of such markers donated for the flagpole plaza by Dan Ojeda of Minneapolis, U.S. Army, Ret., a member of the Knights of Columbus. "Gethsemane is such a special place to me — my parents are buried here — and I hope to enhance the experience of other visitors with these markers," Ojeda said. "The Lord's Prayer is universal and one of the oldest known prayers, so it is something that all visitors will recognize."

The first marker, installed in 2015, was a tribute to those who served their country in the military written by Ojeda. Additional markers will be added in the coming years.

## New grave sites to be added at historic St. Anthony

Dating to its origins as a parish cemetery in 1857, St. Anthony's Cemetery in northeast Minneapolis has had nearly 14,000 burials since its earliest days. However, burial space has not been available for many years. Now, plans are underway to create new sites by removing some existing blacktop area near the cemetery shop. "We are pleased that we will be able to offer grave sites at this beautiful old cemetery later this year," said John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries. "Families that are interested in learning more about this opportunity should call the Gethsemane office at **763-537-4184**."

## Wall of Remembrance to be expanded at Resurrection

Since it was established in 2000, the Children's Memorial and Healing Garden at Resurrection Cemetery has served as a place of ministry to parents and families following the death of an infant or young child.

The focal point of the Memorial is a bronze statue of the biblical Rachel, surrounded by the Wall of Remembrance on which the names of deceased children may be engraved. Later this year, the Wall will be expanded so that additional names may be added, according to John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries.

The expansion of the Wall is expected to be completed by early fall of this year. To learn more, call **651-228-9991**.

## Grave of unsung World War II hero located at Calvary

"You have a World War II hero in your midst [whose body] was delivered to your cemetery with little fanfare postwar I suspect." So wrote military researcher Scott Muselin to Calvary Cemetery last fall, with a request to locate the hero-in-question's grave.

Captain John McErlane, the son of John and Katherine McErlane of St. Paul, was a pilot who was shot down over Germany on January 21, 1945. Muselin's research revealed that McErlane's actions saved not only his crew members, who were able to parachute from the plane, but also civilians in the path of the plunging aircraft. "By avoiding the disastrous consequences of a B-17 crashing into a small village, McErlane sacrificed his own life for others to survive," Muselin said.

At Muselin's request, Calvary office manager Linda Radtke located the grave of McErlane. His remains had been returned home in 1949 and buried at Calvary, close to the graves of his parents and brother. With a photo of the grave marker provided by Radtke, Muselin has created a tribute page on the Find A Grave web site to honor the young soldier who died in service to his country. To read more about McErlane's heroic actions, go to **findagrave.com**.

# 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.

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

## The Catholic Cemeteries

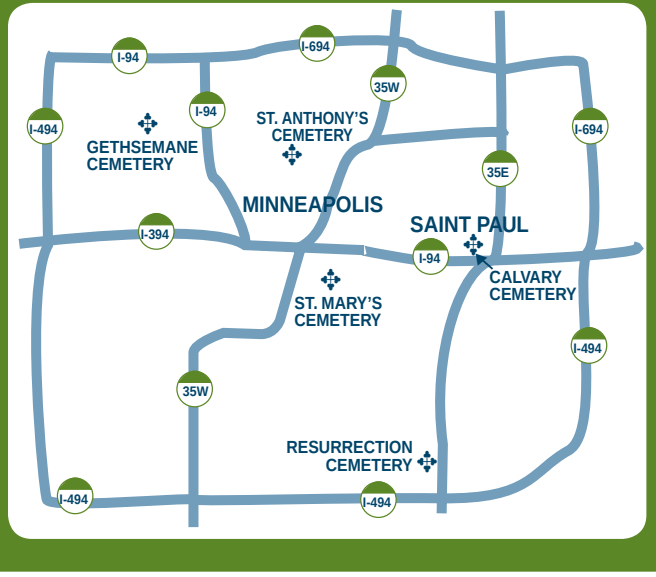
**CALVARY CEMETERY**
753 Front Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-488-8866

**GETHSEMANE CEMETERY**
8151 42nd Avenue N
New Hope, MN 55427
763-537-4184

**RESURRECTION CEMETERY**
2101 Lexington Avenue S
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
651-454-5072

**ST. ANTHONY'S CEMETERY**
2730 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
763-537-4184

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



Mass will be held at 10 a.m. RAIN OR SHINE at **Gethsemane Cemetery, St. Anthony's Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery, Calvary Cemetery** and **Resurrection 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 and other ornaments are allowed. These types of decorations can be placed on graves beginning at noon on **Thursday, May 25**, and remain there until **Sunday, June 4**. Decorations should be removed by this date; otherwise, the cemetery staff will begin pickup on **Monday, June 5**. 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 will be available for purchase at Calvary, Gethsemane, Resurrection and St. Mary's cemeteries, and at St Anthony's on Memorial Day only. Sales booths will be located near the entrances of each cemetery while supplies last.

## Recognizing veterans over Memorial Day weekend

Traditionally, before Memorial Day, a local Boy Scout troop and a veteran's group place American flags on the gravesites of veterans marked by those gravestones **provided by the Veterans Administration (VA**), at Resurrection and Gethsemane cemeteries, respectively. 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.

## Commemorating veterans, living and deceased

At each of the Memorial Day Masses, at all the cemeteries, The Catholic Cemeteries will offer a special recognition of and prayer for all veterans. Cards will be available to write the names of living and deceased veterans. The cards will be brought forward at the offertory and all will be remembered in the Mass intentions. Look for the tables and cards in or near the tents that are set up for Mass. There will be someone there to assist you. These cards will also be available in the cemetery offices the week before and during the Memorial Day weekend prior to Mass time on Memorial Day.